

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DISCOVER PURPOSE

**“THE HUMAN BODY HAS MANY PARTS,
BUT THE MANY PARTS MAKE UP ONE
WHOLE BODY. SO IT IS WITH THE BODY
OF CHRIST.” - 1 COR 12:12**

You were created on purpose, for a purpose. God has lavishly poured out his grace (undeserved favor that empowers you) for you by giving you spiritual gifts to live a life of purpose. We are called to discover spiritual gifts in community with others, as we mature in expressing these gifts in love. Jesus gave both the gift of APEST and the Holy Spirit to the Church. You, as the church, are a gift as you function within APEST and allow the Holy Spirit to express His presence & grace through you.

The gifts of God are written about in several places in Scripture. Here are a few references you can look up as you begin to learn more about APEST:

**1 Corinthians 12 & 14, Romans 12:4-8,
Ephesians 4:11-13.**

HOW DO I DISCOVER THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Learning how the Holy Spirit expresses His presence & grace through you is often not easily explainable or immediately understood. It is best thought of as a process of discovery through partnership with both the Holy Spirit and the local Church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit can best be seen and recognized by others that you are in community with. These people may be able to help you identify and affirm how God has spiritually gifted you. The purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to build the Church (local + global), and are best discovered when you serve alongside other followers of Jesus.

**Use this guide as a resource
in discovering God's unique
purposes that the Holy Spirit
has given you.**

**FOR WE ARE
GOD'S _____
MASTERPIECE.
HE _____ HAS
CREATED _____ US
ANew _____ IN
CHRIST JESUS,
SO WE CAN DO
THE _____ GOOD
THINGS _____ HE
PLANNED _____ FOR
US LONG AGO.**

EPHESIANS 2:10

“HE MAKES THE WHOLE BODY FIT TOGETHER PERFECTLY. AS EACH PART DOES ITS OWN SPECIAL WORK, IT HELPS THE OTHER PARTS GROW, SO THAT THE WHOLE BODY IS HEALTHY AND GROWING AND FULL OF LOVE.” - EPH 4:16

If I could do anything in the world that I wanted to for God + others, I would like to:

I'm currently serving God + others or I have a growing restless conviction from inside of me to serve God + others by:

I am really drawn to (name someone) and the way they serve God + others. I love how they (list their strengths you admire and why):

Administration organizational abilities

The gift of administration or guidance involves the capacity to manage details of service function so as to support and free those in leadership to prioritize their efforts.

You love organizing, streamlining, & clarifying steps. You imagine ways to help others achieve their goals. You want the good of the whole group when you're leading, but you may not be drawn to a leadership role. You find Heaven-given joy when you set others free to do their jobs as you endeavor to support the vision of the local church.

Giving sensitivity to God to channel His resources to others

The gift of giving refers to the capacity to give liberally to meet the needs of others and yet to do so with a purity of motive.

You regularly give over and above your tithe to God's work, often wonder of ways you can give more and maybe become sad when you cannot. You discover when being presented with a need it not only inspires you but makes you more aware of resources to use in giving. You may think "how much more can I give away?" with joy in Jesus' name. Do you find yourself holding possessions and resources lightly, always on the lookout for someone who might have greater need for what you have? Have you discovered that following Holy Spirit's prompts to give is part of an amazing process in which your own needs continue to be met?

Helps the attitude + ability to aid others in practical ways

The gift of helps refers to the capacity to unselfishly meet the needs of others in very practical ways. People with the gift of helps are the backbone of every single church. These people are the "foot washers" like Jesus, doing behind the scenes or undesirable tasks with joy, showing love in the most practical way. The gift of helps is instrumental in liberating and encouraging others to fully engage in their gifts.

You love to serve in small or large ways to see other people flourish, take on commonplace tasks cheerfully, regularly and even worshipfully! Do small things without expecting credit. The work is done simply for the joy of using a talent, skill or ability to help others within the church.

Mercy empathetic care for those who are hurting

The gift of mercy refers to the capacity to both feel sympathy for those in need (especially the suffering) and to express this sympathy in some practical way with a cheerful spirit so as to encourage and help those in need.

You are compassionate and live to show gracious favor to others. You see someone's needs when they may not see it themselves. Before you came to Christ, you may have been very unmerciful yourself. "Let those without sin cast the first stone" may be your mantra! You seek out those who believe they are unworthy of what you give them.

Love gifts are the key to the church working right; they are all about supporting, building up what God has and is establishing through the leadership of a local church.

WORD GIFTS

clarifying the nature, action
and purpose of God

Exhortation/Encouragement help others apply Biblical truth

Exhortation is the capacity to urge people to action in terms of applying Biblical truths or to comfort people through the application of Biblical truth to their needs. Encouragement involves the supernatural ability to come alongside another to help strengthen them with courage, consoling troubled minds/hearts and inspiring those who are feeling stuck or fearful to take a next step forward.

You're somewhat of a spiritual cheerleader, with the specific purpose to call other believers to begin or continue rightly applying what God has said in his Word. You call others' attention to scripture, urge fellow disciples to keep going in the faith, and come alongside the discouraged and defeated with direction from God's Word that will help them get moving again. You love to share truth from a passage of the Bible that means something to you. You may be drawn to writing cards, texts, and emails, to encourage the people! People like to be around you because you often cheer them up simply by your attitude or demeanor.

Leadership influencing others toward vision

Demonstrates the capacity to exercise influence over a group so as to lead towards a goal, purpose, or vision with a particular emphasis on the capacity to make decisions and keep the group together in harmony. Focuses more on the what and who and less on the how.

You have been given the ability by God to inspire and coordinate the actions of others, inspiring them to do God's work through the way they speak and the way they do their duties. You promote unity and love. Your objective is to guide people toward Godly goals and behaviors. You are "visionary" and less concerned with 'mundane' details than those with the spiritual gift of administration. You assume responsibilities if no specific leadership exists. You most likely have the ability to inspire and encourage workers by cheerfulness, approval, praise and challenges.

Teaching clarifies truth

God-empowered communication that has the ability to instruct, explain, or expose biblical truth in such a way as to cause believers to understand the biblical truth for Kingdom purposes.

You are an enthusiastic learner, seeking mentors with the same gift that have greater experience and knowledge. You know you must fill yourself with the scriptures in order to deliver to others what you yourself are learning. Alarm bells go off in your head when the scripture is misused, misunderstood, or misapplied. An effective spiritual teacher not only has people verbally confirm that they can understand scripture better as a result of the teaching, but also sees people put into practice the applications.

"WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU ARE MEANT FOR BETTER THINGS, THINGS THAT COME WITH SALVATION...OUR GREATEST DESIRE IS THAT YOU WILL KEEP ON LOVING OTHERS AS LONG AS LIFE LASTS." - HEB 6:9, 11

But desire the greater gifts. And I will show
you an even better way.
1 Corinthians 12:31

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M UNSURE ABOUT THE GIFTS I THINK I HAVE?

First, ask God. He will affirm truth to you. There's no reason He would give you a gift only to keep it hidden from you. Then surrender your dreams, ideas of what it might look like or feel like and any agendas for a gift you think you may have. Be honest about your motives, and allow God to keep you grounded in humility.

Second, get involved and serve in church. As you build community & serve, ask those around you to affirm the gifts you have. What you can't see in yourself is often obvious to others. Those around you will tend to see gifts before you do and can speak into your life.

Think: God will affirm my gift and the Christian community will confirm it. Then begin practicing that gift.

Regardless of whether it is true that you possess them,
write down three spiritual gifts you would like to have:

Ministries I am especially drawn to most demonstrate
the following spiritual gifts:

What steps I can take to learn more about my spiritual gifts?

1. Try out serving in different ministries and notice how others experience Christ through your service.
2. Meet with a friend or leader to help you identify + affirm the gifts already in you.
3. Plan to go on a service or mission trip.

demonstrate the power,
presence and reality of God

POWER GIFTS

Discernment of Spirits a sensitivity to truth and its source

A special God-given ability which enables you to know with assurance whether certain behavior is of God, human or satanic origin. To perceive issues in terms of spiritual truth, to know the fundamental source of the issues, including the recognition of the spiritual forces operating in the issue.

You have the supernatural capacity to recognize the source of what is in front of you. You see through the facade people put on to see the deeper meaning behind what's being said or done. You have a keen sense for recognizing inconsistencies and a good grasp of spiritual truth with ready and practical applications. You have a deep underlying conviction which will not allow you to rest when you know people are being given half-truth, misapplied truth, or false teaching. You may get a glimpse of the supernatural reality behind the scenes in a situation by seeing a mental picture or noticing physical symptoms that lead you to know something is truly wrong. You may see or sense demons in people, places, or situations.

Faith a trusting response to a challenge from God

Ability to see something that God wants done and to sustain unwavering confidence that God will do it regardless of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The gift of faith refers to the unusual capacity of a person to recognize in a given situation that God intends to do something and to trust God for it until He brings it to pass.

You have a strong belief that God is able to do the impossible. You often sense in certain moments the need for a deeper, greater 'prayer of faith'. You live with a future mindset, often dreaming of the things God can or will do. You're unmoved by circumstances, suffering or obstacles. Have a difficult time understanding "the system" and why it works as it does because it seems to slow down progress. You find yourself often reminding others of the promises of God! May be irritated by criticism from others because you're assured of God's will when they are not. You have an unusual desire to accept God's promises at face value and to apply them to given situations until God fulfills them. When you hear God-given vision, you resonate with it.

Healing releasing God's power to heal

The divine enablement to be God's means for restoring people to wholeness and to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

You experience a deep desire to see God alleviate physical problems in people and the willingness to be used by God to do so. You have an unusual ability to sense the power of God when it is present for healing, and the ability to trust God and believe that he wants to heal. You have a willingness to take risks for God. You may have felt or sensed heat or power in your hands after the healing leaves your body. In humility you deeply believe that Jesus is the healer and you are just a conduit.

Word of caution with exercising power gifts: be careful not to make empty promises, you have to be aware of what God is wanting to do. If you under-promise, you'll expect God to do nothing, and if you over promise, you can shipwreck someone's faith. God is powerful but also respects peoples boundaries. You can always reference the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Always ask God what He is wanting to do and then partner with Him to release that to others.

Interpretation of Tongues interpreting a message given in tongues

The gift of interpretation of tongues refers to the ability to spontaneously respond to an utterance of one using the gift of tongues by interpreting this word and clearly communicating the message given.

You have interpreted an utterance in tongues with the result that the Body of Christ was edified, exhorted, or comforted. You are sensitive to promptings from the Spirit. You've witnessed a message given in tongues and sensed an understanding of what God is saying. Maybe you've had the uncanny experience of hearing someone speak in a language unknown to you and you understood what was being said.

Miracles/Works of Power releasing of God's power to authenticate His reality

To serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature. The work of powers, refers to the releasing of God's supernatural power so that the miraculous intervention of God is perceived and He receives recognition for the supernatural intervention.

You find it relatively easy to exercise deep trust and faith in God. You are ready to deal with demons directly and when you pray, they leave people or strongholds they have held. Through these acts many come to faith in Jesus or are set free to walk in a deeper way in their relationship with Jesus himself. Others have noticed you have an ability and sensitivity to discern what God wants to do in a given situation. You are willing to risk your reputation and trust God in unusual circumstances.

Tongues speaking a message in an unknown language

A spontaneous utterance of a word from God in unknown words (to the individual giving the word) to a group of people to communicate an immediate message of God to his people through a divinely anointed utterance in a language they never learned.

You probably enjoy prayer and have a deep connection with Holy Spirit. You feel deeply for the lost. You pray for others, who you may not even know, in the Spirit when you don't have the words to say. You may find that when you pray in tongues the Spirit helps you find the words to speak in your known language. You've received a message from God for others in a language unknown to you and have desired to speak it out. You find that praying in tongues bolsters your faith and gives you boldness. When you've prayed over someone in tongues they report feeling comforted, empowered or encouraged without even understanding what you've said.

Prophecy provide God's perspective on a situation

Receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed word. The capacity to deliver truth either of a predictive nature or as a situational word from God in order to exhort, edifying or consoling believers and to convince non-believers of God's truth.

You occasionally and spontaneously receive from the Spirit of God a mental picture, scripture or a word that you strongly feel is for others. You delight in the truth of God's word and seek to hold strongly to it. You've received verbal confirmation when you've shared a prophetic word that it was received as a word from God to others that was edifying, convicting or comforting. You have a strong connection with Holy Spirit and are sensitive to promptings that you received from Him.

POWER GIFTS

demonstrate the power,
presence and reality of God

Words of Knowledge getting revelatory information

The word of knowledge gift refers to the capacity or sensitivity of a person to supernaturally perceive revealed knowledge from God which otherwise could not or would not be known and apply it to a situation.

You are able to see people's specific needs when others and themselves don't see them - same with situations. You have been able to speak by divine revelation the specific facts about a situation not knowing details of that situation. You're able to discern whether a word is from God or yourself. Words you've received have left you amazed, surprised or feeling urgency. When you've shared a divine revelation with someone, it brought supernatural healing, humility, comfort or conviction.

Words of Wisdom applying revelatory information

The capacity to know the mind of the Spirit in a given situation and to communicate clearly the situation, facts, truth or application of facts and truth to meet the need of the situation.

You have the ability to counsel others about their situation with supernatural insight. Are often able to distinguish good from evil with confidence. You've received understanding from the Lord about the best way to handle a situation or problem. Can often sense an awareness of how to pray or otherwise act to particular needs. You often know the mind of Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.

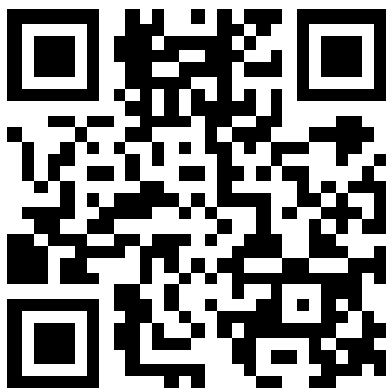
“WE NOW HAVE THIS LIGHT SHINING IN OUR HEARTS, BUT WE OURSELVES ARE LIKE FRAGILE CLAY JARS CONTAINING THIS GREAT TREASURE. THIS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR GREAT POWER IS FROM GOD, NOT FROM OURSELVES.” - 2 COR 4:7

Prayerfully read through the spiritual gifts again, this time circle anything that resonates with you and write any theme that emerges below:

I have some questions that came up as I was reading through the spiritual gifts and they are:

There is so much more to learn about spiritual gifts. This booklet is simply meant to help you begin to be aware of spiritual gifts and to begin to put language to them.

Check out the website for the gifts of the Holy Spirit & APEST. God has designed you for purpose!



WHAT IS APEST?

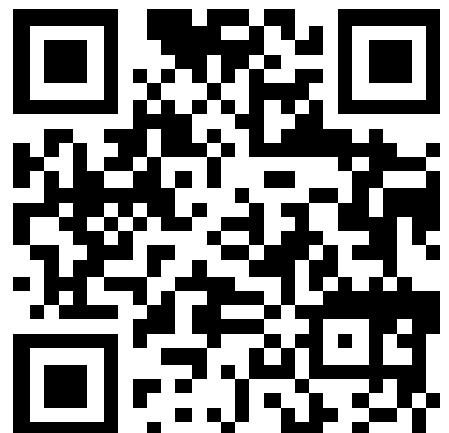
APEST is an acronym to explain the function of an apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher.

Jesus gives the Church collectively the gift of APEST so that together we can be built up and become the fullest expression of Jesus to our wingspan. Each of us has a primary function that expresses the gift of APEST. As you function in your primary APEST, you are a gift to the Church. You have individually received gifts of the Holy Spirit, and God's design is for you to use those gifts for the Body of Christ as you function within the gift of APEST.

For example, in your spiritual gift mix, you may have the gift of teaching, exhortation, healing, and your primary APEST function is shepherd. As a result you may be someone that is led by the Holy Spirit to lead a Bible study in your home. Your teaching gift comes through as you shepherd, and the other gifts bolster the way that you shepherd as well.

CHECK OUT MORE ON APEST!

Look at our website for a deeper dive on what APEST is and how it applies to your life as a follower of Jesus.



NR.CHURCH/APEST

WHAT IS NEXT?

We see 500 spiritual parents raised up over the next 5 years, empowered to live fully alive as mature Christ-followers, multiplying their influence by walking alongside others to become Christ-centered and whole.

We see people becoming followers of Jesus by being made new in Jesus, finding freedom that is rooted in their identity in Jesus, discovering their God-given purpose, and living fully to multiply other Jesus followers.

As children of God we are first found by the Father, then formed in a family. As a family we grow towards Christ-centeredness through mentoring relationships, celebrating milestones, and moving towards markers in becoming more like Jesus.

There is always a next step for you in Jesus!

TAKE A NEXT STEP

We believe that a person is never done growing and maturing spiritually. God always has a next step for you. To learn more, to grow with us, or to take the next step check out our next steps website/QR code.



NR.CHURCH/NEXTSTEPS