

About Spiritual Gifts

One of the ways we can connect with God is to participate with him as he grows and advances his kingdom (Romans 12:4-6). God made each of us with a unique set of talents, passions, *and* spiritual gifts. He wants us to use those gifts to benefit others because when we do so we reflect his love to the people around us.

What the Bible Says About Spiritual Gifts

Four passages in the New Testament talk about spiritual gifts:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Spiritual Gift Assessment

This video-based Spiritual Gift Assessment is designed to help you identify your own spiritual gifts. Here's how it works:

1. Watch the video at: groupleaders.org/spiritualgift. You'll see a series of 44 statements on the screen, one at a time.
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, determine how accurately each statement describes you. A "5" means the statement is very true of you.
3. Write your number in one of the eleven columns below (the video will tell you where to write your number).
4. Once you've seen all of the statements, tally up totals in the spaces below each column.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Spiritual Gift Assessment Results: to be completed after video

Write your numbers in the corresponding blanks below.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| ___ 1. Administration | ___ 7. Mercy |
| ___ 2. Evangelism | ___ 8. Pastoring |
| ___ 3. Exhortation | ___ 9. Serving |
| ___ 4. Giving | ___ 10. Teaching |
| ___ 5. Hospitality | ___ 11. Wisdom |
| ___ 6. Leadership | |

Sections of *Spiritual Gifts Survey* courtesy of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN.

Spiritual Gift Definitions

Here are general definitions of some of the gifts mentioned in the Bible, but there are varied opinions on these definitions.

1. **Administration:** advancing the work of God by planning, organizing, executing procedures, and supervising others
2. **Evangelism:** delivering the gospel to others in a way that consistently helps them trust Christ
3. **Exhortation:** ministering to others through encouraging, comforting, and using wise counsel to help them become more like Jesus
4. **Giving:** generously and cheerfully sharing money and resources without expecting anything in return
5. **Hospitality:** making other people—even strangers—feel welcome and cared for in your home or church
6. **Leadership:** helping shape the direction of a group in a way that motivates others to get involved and move in the same direction
7. **Mercy:** being sensitive to those who are suffering; feeling genuine sympathy and empathy, then caring for them with loving words and actions
8. **Pastoring:** spiritually caring for, protecting, and guiding a group of believers toward spiritual maturity
9. **Serving:** taking joy from performing any act of service motivated by genuine love for God and others.
10. **Teaching:** being able to understand biblical truths and then instructing others in a way that inspires learning, application, and growth
11. **Wisdom:** applying spiritual truths practically in decision-making and daily life
12. ***Discerning Spirits:** discerning with complete accuracy what is true and what is false
13. ***Faith:** living boldly and sometimes taking radical action as a result of deep trust in God (this is distinct from the trust in God and Christ that is true of all believers)
14. ***Healing:** supernaturally restoring a physical body back to health
15. ***Interpreting Tongues:** understanding a foreign language with no training, then communicating the message to others
16. ***Miracles:** performing an act that includes God's intervention into laws of nature
17. ***Prophecy:** receiving direct revelation from God and then communicating the message to others
18. ***Speaking in Tongues:** being able to speak in a foreign or unknown language with no training

**Some Christians believe these gifts were temporary, meaning they were only necessary to authenticate Jesus' work of during and immediately after his earthly ministry. For the sake of unity, this assessment only focuses on gifts the majority of believers would agree are active today.*

Discussion

1. Before this assessment, how aware were you of spiritual gifts?
2. What did you learn about your spiritual gifts from taking the assessment?
3. How accurate do you think your assessment results were? Explain.
4. To what extent are you currently using your spiritual gifts to benefit the church and other people?
5. What is one thing you can do to better utilize your spiritual gifts? How can this group support you?