

Discovering My Spiritual Gifts

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Romans 12:3.

Do you remember the parable Jesus taught about the talents? He used this parable to encourage us to use the gifts that God has given us. The saddest figure in the parable is the man who received one talent and buried it in the ground. He was not faithful to his master and did not make use of what was given to him.

Besides the gifts of faith, forgiveness, and eternal life, God has also given to each Christian special spiritual gifts. He invites us to make use of these gifts in our lives of service to Him and to our neighbor.

The following exercise is intended to help identify what some of your special spiritual gifts might be. Each statement in this Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool calls for a response from you on a scale of 3-0. Read each statement, giving it a moment of serious thought. Then decide to what extent the statement describes something that you think is true about you, or has been a satisfying experience in your life. Select the most appropriate answer by circling 3, 2, 1 or 0.

Scale: 3 = Statement is very true about you; you are passionate about this.
2 = Statement is somewhat true about you; you can do it and like it.
1 = Statement is slightly true about you; you can do it, but it is a struggle.
0 = Statement is Not true about you; you can barely do it, if at all and do not like it.

- Definitions of gift traits on pages:10 -11
- Opportunities to use your gifts on pages: 12-15

Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool

1. I like things to be organized and running smoothly.

3 2 1 0

2. I find pleasure in drawing, designing, painting, etc.

3 2 1 0

3. I find it relatively easy to speak about spiritual matters with other people.

3 2 1 0

4. I enjoy having someone share his or her personal problems with me so I can help.

3 2 1 0

5. I expect big things, even "impossible" things, to be done by God.

3 2 1 0

6. I am willing to maintain a lower standard of living in order to support the Lord's work very generously.

3 2 1 0

7. I would rather be one who helps than one who leads.

3 2 1 0

8. I find pleasure in the repair and maintenance of things.
3 2 1 0
9. I enjoy providing food and/or lodging to people who are in need.
3 2 1 0
10. I often pray intensely for other people and lose track of time while praying.
3 2 1 0
11. I am able to discover new biblical truths for myself.
3 2 1 0
12. Given the choice, I would rather be a group leader than simply a member of the group.
3 2 1 0
13. Others have told me how helpful I have been to them in a time of distress.
3 2 1 0
14. I enjoy singing praises to God either alone or with other people.
3 2 1 0
15. I am truly concerned when I see a fellow Christian begin to backslide.
3 2 1 0
16. I am able to formulate my thoughts and ideas into effective, written form.
3 2 1 0
17. I find it easy to clarify people's problems for them and to give them solutions.
3 2 1 0
18. I am accomplished at playing a musical instrument.
3 2 1 0
19. I am able to help others learn biblical facts and details that aid in the building up of their lives.
3 2 1 0
20. Basically I am a structured, disciplined person.
3 2 **1** 0
21. It is a joy for me to create craft items, banners, and other visual worship aids.
3 2 **1** 0
22. I have a real desire to see non-Christians be converted and become responsible disciples of Jesus.
3 2 1 0
23. I am able to empathize with those who are having problems.
3 2 1 0

24. I see difficulties as opportunities for God to display His glory.

3 2 1 0

25. It gives me joy to respond to financial appeals for special offerings.

3 2 1 0

26. When a job needs to be done, I am willing to do it if I am able and if I am asked.

3 2 1 0

27. Given a choice, I would rather work with my hands than my head.

3 2 1 0

28. I enjoy having guests in my home.

3 2 1 0

29. I find myself praying for others when I am in the process of doing other things.

3 2 1 0

30. People look to me for answers to questions about Bible truths.

3 2 1 0

31. I am effective in motivating and teaching others to set objectives and accomplish goals.

3 2 1 0

32. I enjoy helping those who seemingly are ignored by most others around them.

3 2 1 0

33. I am capable of leading others in singing songs of praise to God.

3 2 1 0

34. I am willing to suffer inconvenience or even hostility in attempting to bring a straying Christian back to the fold.

3 2 1 0

35. I feel secure in the fact that the words I write will be of benefit to those who read them.

3 2 1 0

36. I look at things in a more practical way than a theoretical way.

3 2 1 0

37. I would enjoy taking part in a church, school, or local instrumental music presentation.

3 2 1 0

38. I find it easy to explain things to people so that they understand.

3 2 1 0

39. I am able to set objectives and goals, and make plans to accomplish them.

3 2 1 0

40. I enjoy gardening, landscaping, and other such outdoor projects.

3 2 1 0

41. People respond favorably when I share my faith with them.

3 2 1 0

42. People seem to come to me for counsel and advice and I find that I am able to help them.

3 2 1 0

43. I am more likely to say, "It can be done," rather than, "It can't be done."

3 2 1 0

44. I find no satisfaction in keeping records of what I have given.

3 2 1 0

45. I get satisfaction out of working well under the leadership of another person.

3 2 1 0

46. I enjoy lawn care and other outside maintenance.

3 2 1 0

47. I am at ease with guests and/or visitors, and enjoy making them feel welcome and a part of things.

3 2 1 0

48. I am confident that through my prayers God works great things in my life and in the lives of other people.

3 2 1 0

49. I am able to remember well what I have learned.

3 2 1 0

50. I enjoy planning work programs and giving directions to others.

3 2 1 0

51. When I see that someone is hurting, I seek ways to do something to help.

3 2 1 0

52. I find joy in singing familiar Gospel songs alone or with groups of fellow Christians.

3 2 1 0

53. I have a deep desire to grow in the Lord and to meet regularly with others to help them grow from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity.

3 2 1 0

54. I am able to compose articles and layout newsletters in an efficient, meaningful style.

3 2 1 0

55. It seems that people look to me for solutions to problems.

3 2 1 0

56. I am interested in utilizing my instrumental musical talents for the appreciation of my friends and to the glory of God.

3 2 1 0

57. I am able to organize my thoughts in a logical, systematic way.

3 2 1 0

58. I am concerned about budgeting my time wisely.

3 2 1 0

59. I enjoy sewing, quilting, knitting, needlepoint, etc., especially when it is helpful and useful to others.

3 2 1 0

60. I have a desire to learn how to share my faith with others.

3 2 1 0

61. I am a patient listener.

3 2 1 0

62. I find it easy to trust God to provide all of my physical needs.

3 2 1 0

63. I enjoy giving, regardless of the response of the one to whom I give.

3 2 1 0

64. I find joy in serving in small, behind-the-scenes and sometimes routine matters.

3 2 1 0

65. I would rather work with a machine than manage people.

3 2 1 0

66. I am willing to open my home to guests or strangers and share with them what I have.

3 2 1 0

67. When I am asked to pray for others, I feel that my prayers will have tangible results.

3 2 1 0

68. I find it relatively easy to memorize and later to recall Bible verses.

3 2 1 0

69. I like the responsibility of making decisions.

3 2 1 0

70. Helping others in need gives me joy, even if they cannot possibly repay me.

3 2 1 0

71. I find much joy and pleasure in the seemingly simple routine of singing hymns and Gospel music.

3 2 1 0

72. Other Christians seem able to relate to me and follow my leading.

3 2 1 0

73. I find great pleasure in composing and writing stories and articles for the edification of others.

3 2 1 0

74. When a problem is being discussed at a meeting, etc., a clear resolution will come to my mind.

3 2 1 0

75. I find satisfaction in knowing that my ability to perform instrumental music helps others to praise God.

3 2 1 0

76. I would enjoy teaching a group of children or adults about the love of Jesus.

3 2 1 0

77. I have the ability to organize ideas, things, time, and people.

3 2 1 0

78. When I work with my hands at various arts and crafts, I derive much joy and satisfaction.

3 2 1 0

79. I enjoy getting acquainted and talking with people I've never met before.

3 2 1 0

80. I am able to deal with people in a non-judgmental way, yet without condoning godless behavior.

3 2 1 0

81. For the most part, I am more excited about the future and what it holds than the past.

3 2 1 0

82. When giving, I am not greatly concerned about whether I can afford it.

3 2 1 0

83. When someone else does well, partly because I helped him or her, this makes me happy.

3 2 1 0

84. I derive satisfaction from building or refurbishing objects for the benefit of others.

3 2 1 0

85. Strangers, visitors, or guests feel at home when they are with me.

3 2 1 0

86. I find great joy in praying for others.

3 2 1 0

87. Given a choice, I would just as soon spend an evening with a good book than with people.

3 2 1 0

88. I find that others tend to respect the decisions I make.

3 2 1 0

89. I would enjoy a regular ministry to the sick and shut-in.

3 2 1 0

90. Singing praises to the Lord is one of my favorite spiritual exercises.

3 2 1 0

91. I enjoy working with those who are new to Christianity and thrill to see little steps of spiritual progress in their lives.

3 2 1 0

92. I know that my literary skill would be of aid to other people and that they would be built up and informed because of it.

3 2 1 0

93. I find that others accept my suggestions as being wise and practical.

3 2 1 0

94. Playing a musical instrument, either alone or with other groups of people, gives me pleasure.

3 2 1 0

95. I like to study the Bible and share my findings with other Christians.

3 2 1 0

Tallying the results

Gift	#	Reply	#	Reply	#	Reply	#	Reply	#	Reply	Add up the total number of replies in each row
Administration	1		20		39		58		77		
Serving (Arts/Crafts)	2		21		40		59		78		
Evangelism	3		22		41		60		79		
Exhortation	4		23		42		61		80		
Faith	5		24		43		62		81		
Giving	6		25		44		63		82		
Serving (General)	7		26		45		64		83		
Serving (Manual Arts)	8		27		46		65		84		
Hospitality	9		28		47		66		85		
Intercession	10		29		48		67		86		
Knowledge	11		30		49		68		87		
Leadership	12		31		50		69		88		
Showing Mercy	13		32		51		70		89		
Music (vocal)	14		33		52		71		90		
Shepherding	15		34		53		72		91		
Writing	16		35		54		73		92		
Wisdom	17		36		55		74		93		
Music (Instrumental)	18		37		56		75		94		
Teaching	19		38		57		76		95		

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ANALYSIS KEY

Please note the five spiritual gifts that appear to be your strongest from the numerical score they received. This will give you a tentative evaluation of your gifts. It can serve as a guideline for you to follow as you experiment with various gifts as another means of finding what your specific gifts may be. Next, examine your results.

Discovering My Spiritual Gifts Results

Administration: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to organize, delegate, and motivate people in such a way that what needs to be done gets done.

Serving (Arts/Crafts): The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ who possess the artistic ability and creativity to enhance and build up the Kingdom within the church in this supportive role.

Evangelism: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to present the Gospel especially to those who are not a part of the Body of Christ.

Exhortation: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to bring words of comfort and consolation, encouragement and counsel to other members of the Body of Christ in such a way that they are helped and healed.

Faith: The divine endowment of vision given to certain members of the Body of Christ; the ability to see something that needs to be done and believe that God will do it even if it looks impossible.

Giving: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute with extraordinary generosity of their material resources to the work of the Lord.

Serving (General): The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to work within the church in any supportive role, and to make it possible for others to carry out the ministry of the Word.

Serving (Manual Arts): The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to use their hands in practical ways to make it possible for others to carry out the ministry of the Word.

Hospitality: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to willingly open their homes to others, and cheerfully offer lodging, food, and fellowship.

Intercession: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray earnestly and with persistence, knowing that there will be positive effects in building the Kingdom as a result.

Knowledge: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand correctly and to communicate clearly the great truths God has hidden in His Word.

Leadership: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to oversee various aspects of the work of the church in such a way that their vision and example serve as inspiration for others to follow.

Showing Mercy: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine compassion for suffering individuals and to translate that compassion into Christ like deeds that are cheerfully done to help alleviate the suffering.

Music (Vocal): The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to use skillfully their voices in raising praises to God, especially in the corporate worship service

Shepherding: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ that enables them to assume an ongoing personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of another Christian or group of Christians.

Writing: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to inform, encourage, instruct, or entertain readers clearly, effectively, and concisely with the written word.

Wisdom: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to relate and apply the truths of the Word to specific needs and problems of life.

Music (Instrumental): The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to play skillfully a musical instrument in praise of God, especially in the corporate worship service.

Teaching: The divine endowment given to certain members of the Body of Christ to explain clearly and apply effectively the truth of the Word of God so that others may learn and profit.

As you reflect on the spiritual gifts you have discovered through the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool, you will now want to find which ones truly are and which are not your gifts. Next, you might want to follow what has been called the...

"Five E's" of gift discovery ...

Explore the possibilities. This you can do by studying again for yourself the three key spiritual gift chapters in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:1-8, and Ephesians 4:1-16.

Experiment with as many as possible. If you do not try a particular gift you have tentatively discovered through the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool, you will have a hard time knowing whether you have it or not. Volunteer to serve in an area of congregational work that can put your tentative gift into practice. The key is to get involved, if possible, with each tentative gift area.

Examine your feelings. When you experiment with a gift and enjoy using it, that is a good sign. You should find a measure of fulfillment in your service. It is a joyous thing to serve the Lord with one's gifts.

Evaluate your effectiveness. Spiritual gifts are meant to be used for the benefit of others. As you use your gift(s) you should see positive, though not necessarily fabulous, results taking place. If you are not seeing any results, it may be a sign that you do not have that particular gift.

Expect confirmation from others. Fellow believers can be very helpful in the discovery and implementation of your spiritual gifts. They may perceive gifts in you that you don't know you have and may then encourage you to put these gifts to use. They may also help you on occasion to see that you don't have a particular gift you think you have, and then help to steer you into a different avenue of service.

Follow through each of these five steps with prayer that the Lord himself will be the guiding and directing as well as the motivating force in all your endeavors.

NOTE: *This spiritual Assessment was compiled from various academic sources (wagner, giftstest.org, biblegateway.com, etc).*