



# Gifted for Service

## I. Why Study Spiritual Gifts?

### A. They are taught in Scripture.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:1
2. 1 Corinthians 14:1a
3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. Key sections are: 1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 4:7-11

### B. Use of spiritual gifts is good stewardship!

1. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
2. Matthew 25:14-30

### C. It benefits you!

1. It provides a spiritual "job description."
2. It answers the question, "How do I fit in?"
3. Our relationship with Christ is the foundation of self-esteem. The use of gifts helps develop that basic self-esteem.
4. The use of gifts gives satisfaction and joy.

### D. It benefits the church and creates a healthy vitality.

1. *We have different gifts ... given to each one of the common good* (1 Cor. 12:4,7).
2. *The body ... grows and builds itself in love, as each part does its work* (Eph. 4:16).

### E. God is praised.

- 1 Peter 4:10-11

## II. What is a Spiritual Gift?

Definition: The special ability given by the Holy Spirit, to every believer in the Body of Christ, according to God's grace for use within the context of the body.

## III. How Many People Have Spiritual Gifts?

- A. 1 Peter 4:10

- B. 1 Corinthians 12:7

#### IV. How Do Spiritual Gifts Relate to the Church?

- A. The Church, as the Body of Christ, has the same purpose as Christ. The concern of Christ must be the concern of His church.
  - 1. Mark 10:45
  - 2. Luke 19:10
  - 3. John 3:17
- B. Christ's Great Commission is given to the Church. (Matt. 28:19-20)
- C. The obedience of the local church to this God-given mission affects its subsequent health, strength, and growth. (Matt. 16:25)

#### V. What Does the Bible Say?

Note: Paul always connects spiritual gifts with the Body of Christ (the church) and love.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:4-13
  - 1. There are different kinds of gifts and service, but one Spirit.
  - 2. The Spirit has been manifested (shown) to each person (believer) for the good of all.
  - 3. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each believer as He determines.
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:14, 13:3
  - 1. The Body of Christ is made up of many parts.
  - 2. God has arranged the parts of the Body as He wants them and each part is vital to the whole Body.
  - 3. There should not be division in the Body. The parts should have equal concern for one another.
  - 4. Apostles, prophets, and teachers were foundational to the early church.
  - 5. The way to exercise spiritual gifts is with love.  
(1 Cor. 14:1-5, 12)
- C. Romans 12:3-8
  - 1. We should think of ourselves with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given us.
  - 2. We who are many form one Body (unity).
  - 3. We have different gifts.
  - 4. The focus is on *using* the gifts given.
- D. Ephesians 4:7-16
  - 1. Christ gives gifts ... pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service.

2. As people serve, the Body of Christ is built up. The goal is unity in faith and maturing until we reach the whole measure of Christ: love (See Eph. 3:17b-19.)
  3. The whole Body grows and builds itself up in love as *each part* does *its* work. Christ, as Head, is both our Source and Direction for ministry.
- E. 1 Peter 4:10, 11
1. We are called to use the gift we have received to serve others.
  2. Using our gifts shares God's grace with people.
  3. God provides the strength for service.
  4. God is praised when we use our gifts.

## VI. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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|----|------------------------------|---|--|
| A. | Romans 13 identifies:        | Prophecy<br>Service<br>Teaching<br>Leadership   | Exhortation<br>Giving<br>Mercy   |
| B. | 1 Corinthians 12 identifies: | Wisdom<br>Faith<br>Knowledge<br>Miracles<br>Discernment<br>Administration               | Speaking in Tongues<br>Interpretation of Tongues<br>Apostle<br>Healing<br>Helps                                  |
| C. | Ephesians 4 identifies:      | Evangelism  | Pastor (Shepherd)  |
| D. | Other gifts identified:      | Celibacy<br>Martyrdom<br>Hospitality<br>Missionary<br>Voluntary Poverty<br>Intercession | 1 Corinthians 7:7-9<br>1 Corinthians 13:3<br>1 Peter 4:9<br>Ephesians 3:7<br>1 Corinthians 13:3<br>James 5:14-16 |
| E. | Not clearly identified:      | Craftsmanship<br>Writing  | Music<br>Exorcism  |

Note: God did not say this was an exclusive or closed list of spiritual gifts.

## VII. Seven Steps Toward Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

- A. **Pray.** Ask God for understanding, wisdom, and direction in discovering your gift(s). Be still, and listen for the needs to which God draws your heart. Ask: If I could do anything I want for God, what would it be?
- B. **Study.** Study the Scriptures; learn that everyone is gifted.
- C. **Examine.** Examine life experiences and abilities that may shape the use of your gift. Use a talent survey that may help determine what your gift(s) may be. (See Appendix for survey resources.)
- D. **Experiment.** You have the freedom to try new ministries until you find one that “fits.”
- E. **Question.** What degree of satisfaction and fulfillment do you find in what you are doing?
- F. **Evaluate.** Do others benefit from your gift? Gifts are given for practical use in the Body of Christ.
- G. **Verify.** Do other Christians affirm your own ideas of what your gifts are/aren't? (It is as important to ask: “Which gifts don't I have?” as well as “Which gifts do I have?”). Listen to what others say about you. So often others can see your strengths much better than you can.

## VIII. What Will Happen If Everyone in Our Church Decides to Discover, Develop, and Use Their Spiritual Gifts?

- A. Each member will know his or her spiritual job description.
- B. With God's help, all members will be able to work together in love, harmony, and effectiveness. This will help avoid pride, false humility and envy.
- C. The whole Body will mature in Christ.
- D. The Church will grow.
- E. ***And God will be glorified!***

## Appendix: Spiritual Gift Survey Resources

Three spiritual gifts inventories and studies are available for purchase from Concordia Publishing House by calling 1-800-325-3040 and asking for them by stock numbers. "Personal Gifts Inventory and Interpretation" (stock number S21792) is available for \$2.85 plus shipping per copy. "Personal Renewal Study" (stock number S11901) is available for \$1.70 each plus shipping with a minimum order of five. A Leader's Guide for "Personal Renewal Study" (stock number S11900) is available for \$2.55 per copy. A time and talent survey form entitled "God's Gifted People" is available in packages of 50 for \$9.40 plus shipping.

You can find more information about the above resources by going to [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) and clicking on "DCS Store" and then "Stewardship" and "Bible Studies" and "General." An online spiritual gifts inventory is available by going to [www.churchgrowth.org](http://www.churchgrowth.org).

Source: <http://www.lcms.org/ca/www/eneews/Messagetext.asp?MsgId=3820> (11/12/10)

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