

SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

JANUARY 20, 2018 • GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

This is what I KNOW
about Spiritual Gifts . . .

- 1.
- 2.

This is what I WANT to
know about Spiritual Gifts . .

- 1.
- 2.

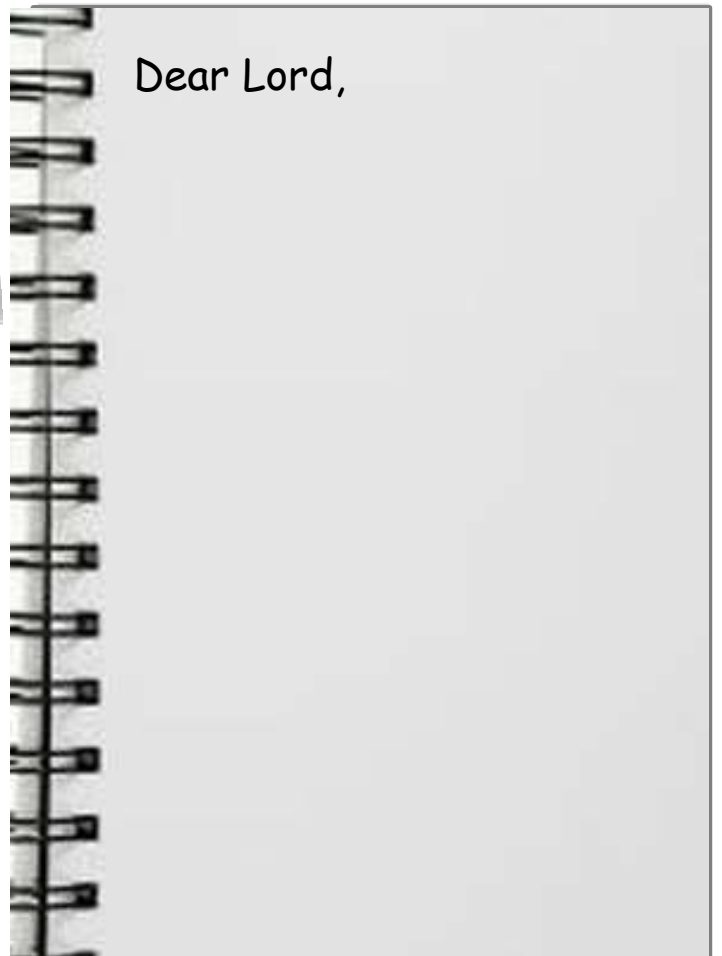
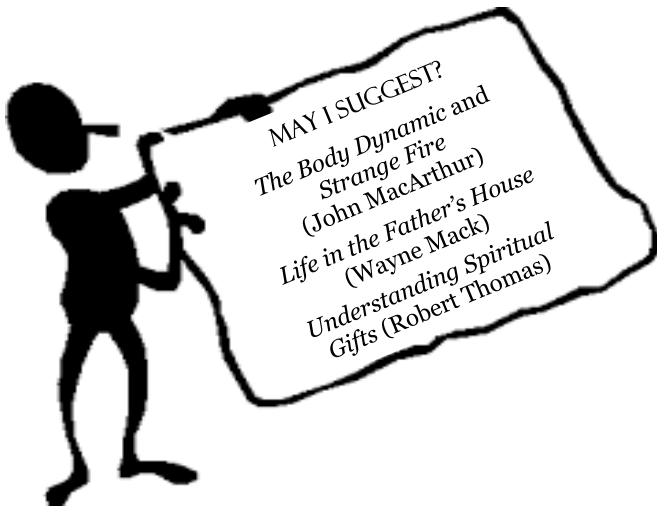
This is what I LEARNED
about Spiritual Gifts . . .

- 1.
- 2.

Dear Lord,

MAY I SUGGEST?

*The Body Dynamic and
Strange Fire
(John MacArthur)*
*Life in the Father's House
(Wayne Mack)*
*Understanding Spiritual
Gifts (Robert Thomas)*



What?

When?

Who?

Why?

How?



Spiritual Gifts Inventory

This Spiritual Gifts Inventory is a *preliminary* evaluation of how you may be spiritually gifted. This inventory is simply a tool to aid in the discovery of your personal spiritual gifts. It is a helpful source of insight, but it is not the final confirmation of your spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit will provide the necessary confirmation of your specific gifts through His Word and others in the body of Christ.

To begin, what do you think your spiritual gift/gifts might be? _____

In what ways are you *now* (formally or informally) serving?

If you had to select only one area in which to serve (from those listed above), which would you choose? _____ Why? _____

Directions to complete the Spiritual Gifts Inventory:

Start with prayer, asking the Lord to help you see yourself accurately and objectively. Circle the number which best describes your current attitudes and behaviors. Responses are ordered on a continuum ranging from “normally” to “rarely.” Evaluate each of the 120 statements in light of how you think at the present time, and mark only one answer for each statement.

Your choices should describe your own personal inclinations. Therefore, do not answer in terms of how you think you *should* respond or how you *want* to be. Instead, answer according to your *first* instinct of who you are. Don’t linger too long over the statements; your first impression is usually the best. You should avoid over-marking “sometimes” as it may skew the results.

		Normally			Sometimes			Rarely
1.	I am by nature a careful steward of my resources.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	When others are having discomfort, I suffer with them.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	When people say that something cannot be done or is impossible, I feel the burden to believe it and trust God for it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Other believers come to me for counsel about questionable matters, trusting in my judgment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	My main desire in communicating God's Word is to get people to humble themselves before God.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	I desire that the people I am teaching experience the truth to the extent that I have in my own personal study.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Advice and/or decisions I have given stand as the final decision of a group.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	I can see the positive results very quickly that may come from a negative situation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	I find that I enjoy attacking biblical problems and researching the issues.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	I have a good record of achieving my set goals.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	I enjoy managing programs more than people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	When I see a need, I feel an immediate obligation to meet it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	I believe God uses me as a channel of His resources.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	I identify with people and their problems to the degree that I am sometimes affected by them personally.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	I have discovered that I do not have to wait for clear evidence and confirmation before making a decision.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	I am able to easily distinguish between what is produced by God and what has its origin in Satan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	One result that I look for in presenting God's truth is true repentance.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	When I communicate the Word of God, I consistently look for ways to illustrate truth.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	I always feel compelled to prescribe a step-by-step plan of action for the solution of problems.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	I find it easy to reduce biblical truths down to principles for living.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	I especially enjoy reading scholarly works and debates on biblical issues.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	I enjoy associating with those who display a definite direction in their life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		Normally			Sometimes			Rarely
23.	I tend to enjoy the process more than the results in a plan of action.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	I concentrate more on doing practical things that need to be done rather than on why they should be done.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	I would rather provide the necessary materials needed, rather than perform some manual task.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	People regularly express their appreciation of my presence when they are undergoing extreme difficulty.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27.	I feel that I am able to trust God in difficult circumstances without hesitation or indecision.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	I have insight which I am cautious to share except as it benefits the ministry.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	I am gripped by the awesomeness of the message I am proclaiming.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	I find it relatively easy and enjoyable to spend much time in intense study and research of the Bible.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	I am able to motivate people to establish spiritual goals.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	I find it easy to clarify peoples' problems for them and to give them biblical solutions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	I enjoy defending my position on theological issues.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	I find myself setting goals and objectives for myself and my ministry as a believer.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35.	I like to see others organized.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36.	I usually have a great deal of joy in just "doing things" that need to be done no matter how small or trivial the task.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37.	When I hear of someone in need, I immediately think of offering material assistance.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38.	When sharing with people I have a special sensitivity as to what to say or what not to say.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
39.	I feel a burden to encourage people to trust God when I see them defeated and discouraged.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40.	I seem to have an understanding of people and their motivation that proves to be correct, even though I do not know them well.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41.	I am irritated about wrong practices or doctrinal error whenever I sense it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
42.	I love to prove and answer biblical issues and questions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43.	I would rather deal with someone having problems personally, instead of sending them to someone else for help.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
44.	I find it easy to illustrate truth which I want to communicate.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		Normally			Sometimes			Rarely
45.	I find that people will come to me with difficult questions from the Bible, seeking my understanding of the answers.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	When someone is not doing a job well, I am concerned about making him or her effective in what he or she is doing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47.	The successful operation of an activity gives me great satisfaction.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
48.	I would rather do a particular task than spend time counseling with people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
49.	I find myself responding immediately to financial needs by sharing my resources without a great deal of planning to do so.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50.	I like to help people personally regardless of their character or point of view.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
51.	I have an effective prayer ministry in my life with many wonderful answers to prayer that, from a human point of view, seem impossible or unlikely.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
52.	I feel a great responsibility toward God whenever I sense that something is not right which other believers do not seem to understand.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
53.	When I speak God's Word, I feel compelled to call for commitment from my audience.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
54.	When I hear a question or problem, I am eager to both find and give biblical truth.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55.	People express to me how much I have helped or encouraged them in time of need.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
56.	I find myself more concerned with how to apply God's Word than in simply trying to understand its message.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
57.	In my study of God's Word, I have observed that new insights and understanding of difficult subjects seem to come easy.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58.	I would rather show someone else how to do a task than do it myself.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
59.	I find that I see past the surface of an activity to the broader picture of details and results.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
60.	I find that it is not necessary for me to have a "job description" when I am asked to do a particular task	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
61.	When I give money to someone or something, I desire to avoid letting anyone know about it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62.	I think of creative ways to minister and help those who are suffering.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
63.	When I am confronted by an obstacle, I tend to see it in terms of God's resources instead of my own resources.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
64.	My evaluations of someone or something, not readily apparent, have proven to be correct.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
65.	Other believers share with me that I have the ability to communicate God's Word with great boldness and conviction.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		Normally			Sometimes			Rarely
66.	People often say to me that I have an ability to explain difficult passages to them using scriptural reasons.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67.	I sense a great deal of identification with people having personal and emotional problems, but I am not weighed down by these.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
68.	I find that I immediately know what to do in a situation where other believers are not clear as to what should be done.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
69.	I have found in studying God's Word that I seem to know what a passage is saying before other believers discover it, even though I am studying it at the same time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
70.	In a group situation when tension turns to stress, I am the one who is looked to for direction.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
71.	I easily spot weaknesses and strengths in organizational planning.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
72.	I feel a special burden to relieve others of their duties in order to free them to do their most important work.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
73.	I get really excited when I see a worthwhile project that I can underwrite, counting it a great honor and privilege.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
74.	I find that when visiting those who are suffering, it brings me joy rather than depressing me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
75.	When confronted with an opportunity to advance God's work, I feel compelled to seize it without hesitating.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
76.	I have clearly perceived the difference between truth and error.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
77.	When ministering to others, I find that I refer to the Word of God more than my own personal experience.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
78.	I would rather explain the meaning of a verse than simply share a verse by quoting it to someone.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
79.	I am able to give directions to others and make decisions for them, which involves persuading them to my way of thinking.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
80.	When I give advice to someone, I seem to emphasize more "how" it should be done, rather than "why" it should be done.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
81.	I have a great desire to share with other believers what the meaning of a difficult verse or passage is.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
82.	I have a desire to persuade others to move toward achieving group objectives.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
83.	I find myself wanting time to be budgeted properly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
84.	When I hear of someone who needs help, I immediately offer my services if it is possible.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
85.	I am so confident that God will meet my needs that I give to Him sacrificially and consistently.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
86.	I have a strong sense of compassion toward needy people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		Normally			Sometimes			Rarely
87.	I believe I have a pioneering spirit and am not easily discouraged.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
88.	I tend to investigate beneath the surface of a matter and probe for people's motives.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
89.	I have proclaimed God's truth in a way that goes against majority opinion.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
90.	When I discover biblical truth, I automatically begin to think of how it could be presented in an intelligible and interesting way.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
91.	When someone shares a problem with me, I am able to help them from the Word of God and motivate them to act on it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
92.	I have sensed a special ability in my life to know what to do when dealing with difficult problems and situations.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
93.	I desire to discover and master principles of biblical truths.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
94.	I enjoy management as it relates to working closely with people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
95.	I find myself constantly thinking of decisions that need to be made in giving overall direction to a group or organization.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
96.	I see myself more in a supportive role to others than in public ministry.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
97.	I have been willing to maintain a lower standard of living in order to benefit God's work.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
98.	I am eager to discover those who are suffering or bereaved.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
99.	I have the ability to visualize things that other believers cannot see.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
100.	I can see through a phony before his phoniness is clearly evident to most people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
101.	I have felt the urgency to communicate the message of God zealously.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
102.	I enjoy imparting scriptural principles to others.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
103.	I find it easy to move from a discussion of things in general to a discussion of spiritual things.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
104.	I have felt an unusual presence of God and personal confidence when important decisions needed to be made.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
105.	I view acquisition of biblical truth as the most effective way to help other believers.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
106.	People express confidence in goals that I have set.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
107.	People seem to depend upon me to decide the process by which group goals will be achieved.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
108.	I am more satisfied with how a person has been helped by what I did than by simply doing the job needed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		Normally			Sometimes			Rarely
109.	I find it easy to lend or give things away.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
110.	People with problems seem to beat a path to my doorstep.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
111.	Other people are often challenged by my ability to trust God.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
112.	I am able to detect subtle errors in someone's way of thinking.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
113.	I have felt compelled to warn people of the impending consequences of sin.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
114.	I find it easy to convey truth to others.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
115.	I enjoy talking to people about their spiritual development.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
116.	I get more excited about the application of biblical truth than truth itself.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
117.	I am able to distinguish pertinent principles from more insignificant observations.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
118.	I have influenced others to accomplish a particular task or biblical purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
119.	I enjoy organizing ideas, people, resources, and time for more effective ministry.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
120.	People often express to me that I minister to them through my helpful spirit.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Now that you have evaluated these statements, use the chart on the very back page to determine your areas of giftedness. Detach the chart, and then write the number you circled for each statement in the column to the right of the statement number in the chart. (Note: It is easiest to move from left to right in numerical order across the chart.) After that, add the numbers in each column and write the total in the box provided.

When you are finished, list the three *lowest* scoring gifts in the box provided at the bottom of the back page. These indicate your areas of giftedness. When you have completed this exercise, refer to the descriptions of each spiritual gift on the following pages as you prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit has gifted you to build up the Body of Christ.

For further study about spiritual gifts, please refer to the following passages: Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; and I Peter 4:7-11.

Those with the gift of GIVING (Romans 12:8)

- are careful stewards of resources
- believe they are used as a channel by God for His resources
- provide necessary material needs
- would rather give what is needed than do a manual task
- immediately think of offering material assistance when hearing of someone in need
- tend to respond immediately to financial needs by sharing resources without a great deal of planning
- avoid letting people know when money is given
- are excited about worthwhile projects to which they can contribute
- are confident that God will meet their needs and, therefore, they give sacrificially and consistently
- are willing to live on a lower standard in order to give more
- easily lend or give things away

Those with the gift of MERCY (Romans 12:8)

- suffer when others are in discomfort
- are easily affected personally by identifying with others' problems
- have others regularly express their appreciation to them for their presence when they are suffering
- have a special sensitivity when sharing with others as to what to say or what not to say
- like to help people regardless of their character or point of view
- think of creative ways to minister to suffering people
- find joy in visiting people who are suffering
- have a strong sense of compassion toward the needy
- are eager to know who is suffering or bereaved
- attract people with problems to their ministry

Those with the gift of FAITH (I Corinthians 12:9)

- trust God even when others say something is impossible or cannot be done
- do not need to wait for clear evidence and confirmation before making decisions
- are able to trust God in difficult circumstances without hesitation or indecision
- are burdened to encourage others to trust God when they are defeated and discouraged
- have an effective prayer ministry
- see many wonderful answers to prayer which seem humanly impossible or unlikely
- when confronted by an obstacle, see it in terms of God's resources instead of personal resources
- seize opportunities to advance God's work without hesitation
- have a pioneering spirit
- are not easily discouraged
- can visualize things other believers cannot see
- challenge others to trust in God because of their example of doing so

Those with the gift of DISCERNMENT (I Corinthians 12:10)

- have others trust their judgment and come to them for counsel regarding questionable matters
- easily distinguish between what is produced by God and what has its origin in Satan
- possess insights which you are cautious to share only when it benefits the ministry
- understand people and their motivation, even though you do not know them well
- feel a great responsibility toward God (which other believers do not understand) whenever sensing that something is not right
- correctly evaluate someone or something not readily apparent
- clearly perceive the difference between truth and error
- investigate beneath the surface of a matter and probe for people's motives
- see through a phony before a person's phoniness is clearly evident to most people
- detect subtle errors in someone's way of thinking

Those with the gift of PROPHECY (Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:10)

- desire to humble themselves before God when communicating God's Word
- desire true repentance as a result of presenting God's truth
- are gripped by the awesomeness of the message they are proclaiming
- are irritated by wrong practices or doctrinal error when they sense it
- are compelled to call for commitment when speaking God's Word
- have others tell them they have an ability to communicate God's Word with great boldness and conviction
- refer to the Word of God when ministering to others
- refer to the Word of God more than to personal experience when ministering to people
- sometimes proclaim God's truth in a way that goes against the majority opinion
- sometimes feel the urgency to communicate the message of God zealously
- warn people of the impending consequences of sin

Those with the gift of TEACHING (Romans 12:7; I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-12; I Peter 4:11)

- desire that those they are teaching experience the truth to the extent that they have in their own personal study
- consistently look for ways to illustrate truth when communicating the Word of God
- find it easy and enjoyable to spend large amounts of time in intense study and research of the Bible
- love to prove and answer biblical issues and questions
- eager to both find and give a biblical answer
- are often told that they have an ability to explain difficult biblical passages with scriptural reasons
- would rather explain the meaning of a verse than simply quote a verse
- when discovering biblical truth, automatically begin to think of ways to present it intelligibly and interestingly
- enjoy imparting scriptural principles to others
- find it easy to convey truth to others

Those with the gift of EXHORTATION (Romans 12:8)

- often have their advice or decisions stand as the final decision of a group
- always feel compelled to prescribe a step-by-step plan of action for the solution of problems
- are able to motivate people to establish spiritual goals
- would rather deal personally with someone with a problem than send them to someone else for help
- are told by others how much they have helped or encouraged them in time of need
- are able to give directions to others and make decisions for them, which involves persuading others to their way of thinking
- are able to help people with their problems from the Word of God and motivate them to act on it
- find it easy to move from discussion of things in general to discussion of spiritual things
- enjoy talking to people about their spiritual development
- identify with people having personal and emotional problems, but are not weighed down by them

Those with the gift of WORD of WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8)

- quickly see the positive results that can come from a negative situation
- easily reduce biblical truths down to principles for living
- easily clarify people's problems for them and give them biblical solutions
- easily illustrate truth they want to communicate
- are more concerned with *how* to apply God's Word than with understanding its message
- immediately know what to do in a situation where other believers are not clear as to what should be done
- when advising others, emphasize more *how* something should be done, rather than *why* it should be done
- possess a special ability to know what to do when dealing with difficult problems and situations
- sense an unusual presence of God and personal confidence when important decisions need to be made
- get more excited about the *application* of biblical truth than the truth itself

Those with the gift of WORD of KNOWLEDGE (I Corinthians 12:8)

- enjoy attacking biblical problems and researching the issues
- enjoy reading scholarly works and debates on biblical issues
- enjoy defending their position on theological issues
- have new insights and easy understanding of difficult subjects when studying God's Word
- seem to know what a passage is saying before other believers discover it when studying God's Word at the same time
- greatly desire to share with other believers the meaning of a difficult verse or passage
- desire to discover and master principles of biblical truth
- view the acquisition of biblical truth as the most effective way to help other believers
- are able to distinguish pertinent principles from the more insignificant observations

- have people come to them with difficult questions from the Bible, seeking understanding and answers

Those with the gift of LEADERSHIP (Romans 12:8)

- normally achieve their goals
- enjoy associating with those who display a definite direction in their life
- set goals and objectives for themselves and their ministry
- are concerned about making someone who is not doing a job well more effective in their task
- would rather show someone else how to do a task than to do it themselves
- are looked to for direction in a group situation when tension turns to stress
- desire to persuade others to move toward achieving group objectives
- enjoy management as it relates to working closely with people
- influence others to accomplish a particular task or biblical purpose
- have others express confidence in the goals they have set for themselves

Those with the gift of ADMINISTRATION (I Corinthians 12:28)

- enjoy managing *programs* rather than people
- enjoy the *process* more than the results of a plan of action
- like to see others organized
- gain great satisfaction from the successful operation of an activity
- see past the surface of an activity to the broader picture of details and results
- easily spot weaknesses and strengths in organizational planning
- want time to be budgeted properly
- constantly think of decisions that need to be made in giving overall direction to a group of organization
- have others depend on them to decide the *process* by which group goals will be achieved
- enjoy organizing ideas, people, resources, and time for more effective ministry

Those with the gift of SERVING (Helps) (I Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; I Peter 4:11)

- feel an immediate obligation to meet a need when it is seen
- concentrate more on *doing* practical things that need to be done than on why they should be done
- greatly enjoy just “doing things” that need to be done, no matter how small or trivial
- prefer to *do* a particular task than to spend time counseling people
- do not need a “job description” when asked to do a particular task
- feel burdened to relieve others of their duties in order to free them to do their most important work
- immediately offer their services upon hearing of someone who needs help
- see themselves in a *supportive* role to others, rather than in public ministry
- are more satisfied with how a person has been helped by what they did than by simply doing the job that was needed
- have others express to them that they ministered to them through helping

The gift of GIVING		The gift of MERCY		The gift of FAITH		The gift of DISCERNMENT		The gift of PROPHECY		The gift of TEACHING	
1		2		3		4		5		6	
13		14		15		16		17		18	
25		26		27		28		29		30	
37		38		39		40		41		42	
49		50		51		52		53		54	
61		62		63		64		65		66	
73		74		75		76		77		78	
85		86		87		88		89		90	
97		98		99		100		101		102	
109		110		111		112		113		114	
TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL	
The gift of EXHORTATION		The gift of WISDOM		The gift of KNOWLEDGE		The gift of LEADERSHIP		The gift of ADMINISTRATION		The gift of SERVING (helps)	
7		8		9		10		11		12	
19		20		21		22		23		24	
31		32		33		34		35		36	
43		44		45		46		47		48	
55		56		57		58		59		60	
67		68		69		70		71		72	
79		80		81		82		83		84	
91		92		93		94		95		96	
103		104		105		106		107		108	
115		116		117		118		119		120	
TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL	

List your three *lowest* scoring columns, which indicate areas of giftedness:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The Holy Spirit is not an “it,” not a “force,” and not a “thing.” The Holy Spirit is deity. He is one of the three persons of the triune Godhead. He is God, having the very same essence, attributes, and characteristics of the other members of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit serves a varying role than that of the Father and the Son.

II Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Acts 5:3, 4d But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?” (4d) “You have not lied to men but to God.”

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CREATOR

The Holy Spirit, as a member of the triune Godhead, is Creator. He used His power to bring into existence everything from nothing.

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:26a, 27a Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness . . .” (27a) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him . . .

Psalms 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED THE WORD OF GOD

The Holy Spirit initiated and prompted the human authors who penned the words of Scripture. His power enlightened and breathed out the very wisdom of God to accurately reveal His Word to mankind.

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II Peter 1:19a, 20-21 We also have the prophetic word made more sure . . . (20-21) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private [origination], for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

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4. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERED JESUS' CONCEPTION

The Holy Spirit produced and empowered the human conception of God the Son. His power rested upon Mary, causing her to supernaturally conceive the God-Man, Jesus.

Matthew 1:18, 20 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 20) . . . an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

Luke 1:35 And the angel said to [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT FROM GOD AND JESUS

The Holy Spirit came from heaven. He was sent to earth by God the Father at the request of Jesus the Son. He came to testify of and glorify Jesus and to help believers, enabling them to live righteously.

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

John 16:7, 13-15 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. (13-15) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS ACTIVE IN CHRIST'S MINISTRY

Jesus' earthly ministry was empowered by the Holy Spirit, as was predicted in Hebrew Scripture (Isaiah 11:1-2, 42:1, 61:1). The Spirit descended and remained upon Jesus at His baptism (Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32), filling Him (Luke 4:1) and anointing Him to preach and heal (cf. Matthew 12:17; Luke 4:17-21).

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Luke 4:14 Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and the news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Acts 10:38a how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power . . .

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Hebrew prophecy recorded God's promise to send the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27, 37:14; Joel 2:28). The Father's faithful promise was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit was sent to indwell believers at Pentecost—50 days after the Passover when Jesus was crucified (Acts 2:1-4). (See also Ephesians 1:13-14.)

Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 2:32-33 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

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8. THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS

The Holy Spirit reproves mankind of his unbelief. He reveals the ways in which man has wronged God and departed from His Truth. He attests that mankind is deserving of eternal judgment by a just and righteous God.

John 16:8-11 “And when [the Helper] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged.”

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES

The Holy Spirit gives eternal life (John 6:63; II Corinthians 3:6). He causes believers to be “born again” (John 3:5-8) through His indwelling power.

Romans 8:10-11 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Titus 3:5-6 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

10. THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZES BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit baptizes believers, placing them into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. The members of the body of Christ are united as one body called the “church,” and Jesus Christ is the exalted Head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 2:19). The Holy Spirit’s baptism was predicted by Jesus (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5).

I Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 4:3-5 . . . endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

11. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit lives inside the physical body of believers, indwelling them at the moment of salvation, thus signifying God’s ownership of them. Jesus foretold the Spirit’s indwelling in John 14:17.

Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

I Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

I John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

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12. THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS BELIEVERS

The indwelling Holy Spirit seals the believer at the moment of salvation. The sealing of the Holy Spirit confirms the purchase of salvation and guarantees our future inheritance.

II Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:5 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit. (5:5) Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession to the praise of His glory.

14. THE HOLY SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

The Holy Spirit's indwelling certifies that we belong to God. His presence is a comforting assurance that exclaims within our own spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:15-17 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

I John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. (See also I John 3:24.)

13. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES GIFTS TO BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the members of the body of Christ, granting abilities that are supernaturally empowered. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to strengthen, edify, encourage, and build up the body of Christ; they are for the benefit of all. These gifts are given to believers at the moment of salvation.

I Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

I Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

15. THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit petitions and prays to the Father on our behalf. He is an advocate who pleads for us according to the will of the Father. The Spirit can intercede according to the will of God because He knows the things of God (I Corinthians 2:10-11).

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

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16. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES DISCERNMENT

The Holy Spirit gives discernment regarding evil and deception. The Spirit of truth (John 14:17) uses the Word of God to enable believers to stand firm by discriminating between good and evil, truth and lies. (See also Hebrews 5:12-14.)

Ephesians 6:11, 17 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemings of the devil. (17) And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I John 2:20, 26-27 (ESV) But you have been anointed by the Holy One and you have all knowledge. (26-27) I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in Him. (See I John 2:20-27.)

18. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit empowers believers, granting strength to live in a manner that is not possible by mere human ability.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

I Corinthians 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (See also I Thessalonians 1:5.)

Ephesians 3:14-16 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.

17. THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit sanctifies believers. He sets us apart to live holy lives, leads us to put to death sinful deeds, and changes us into the image of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

II Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

I Peter 1:2 . . . elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

19. THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS BELIEVERS

Believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Being “filled” means to make full, supply abundantly, and impart richly. We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we let the Word of God dwell richly in our hearts (cf. Colossians 3:16). (See also Ephesians 6:17.)

Ephesians 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

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20. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT ODDS WITH THE FLESH

The Spirit and the flesh are both at war within us. This adversarial relationship creates a ceaseless battle in our hearts and minds. The flesh and the Spirit will never be at peace with each other. However, the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit subdues the flesh. Thus, we must avail ourselves of His power as a spiritual weapon against sin.

Romans 8:6-9a For to be fleshly minded is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Galatians 5:17-19a For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident . . .

22. BELIEVERS ARE TO WALK IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are to walk in the power of and strive after the things of the Spirit, bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We can choose to avail ourselves of the power of the Spirit or, sadly, we can choose to pursue the desires of the flesh.

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16, 24-25, 6:8 I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (5:24-25) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (6:8) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

21. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN BE SINNED AGAINST

The Holy Spirit is God and He can be sinned against. Scripture records these sins against the Holy Spirit: Grieving Him (Ephesians 4:30), quenching Him (I Thessalonians 5:19), blaspheming Him (Mark 3:29), insulting Him (Hebrews 10:29), lying to Him (Acts 5:3-4), and resisting Him (Acts 7:51). Believers are specifically commanded not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to cause Him sorrow and sadness because of indwelling sin. Quenching the Holy Spirit is allowing sin to hinder and stifle His influence, thus inhibiting His power to yield righteous fruit.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

I Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

23. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: LOVE

Love (Galatians 5:22-23) is a benevolence and goodwill toward others that is produced by the Holy Spirit. It is a deliberate affection and a friendly regard toward God and man that displays itself in purposeful acts of sacrifice and kindness. Contrary to love are anger, impatience, bitterness, and envy.

Romans 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

I John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us (cf. I John 4:20-21).

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24. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: JOY

Joy (Galatians 5:22-23) is a gladness of heart produced by the Holy Spirit. Joy permeates one's disposition despite trial, heartache, or pain. It is an attitude of spirit that is fixed upon eternal glories and heavenly blessings, so much so that the sorrows of earth do not cause despair of soul. A joyful heart is a thankful heart. Contrary to joy are anger, despair, anxiety, and envy.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Spirit.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I Thessalonians 1:6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit.

25. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: PEACE

Peace (Galatians 5:22-23) is a contented state of heart produced by the Holy Spirit. It is a tranquility of being that is not dependent upon external circumstances. Peace embraces the very goodness of God in every situation and demonstrates a spirit of thankfulness and rest. Contrary to peace are anxiety, fear, envy, anger, and despair.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

26. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: PATIENCE

Patience or longsuffering (Galatians 5:22-23), is forbearance shown toward others. It is a merciful restraint produced by the Holy Spirit that does not retaliate or give way to anger. Patience is a love for others that shows self-control, even when wronged. Contrary to patience are anger, wrath, pride, selfishness, and bitterness.

Ephesians 4:1-2 I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

27. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: KINDNESS

Kindness (Galatians 5:22-23) is a pervasive spirit of gentleness and servanthood that is shaped and molded by the Holy Spirit's indwelling power. It is motivated by sincere love for others. Kindness is similar to goodness, but goodness is the act of good works whereas kindness is the heart attitude behind the good works. Contrary to kindness are anger, bitterness, selfishness, and pride.

II Corinthians 6:4a, 6 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: . . . (6) by kindness.

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.

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28. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: GOODNESS

Goodness (Galatians 5:22-23) is an active expression of benevolence toward others as produced by the Holy Spirit. It is a love that motivates someone to serve others and help human need. Goodness is similar to kindness, but kindness is the heart attitude behind the good works whereas goodness is the act of good works. Goodness does manifest itself in gentle correction of others, for their benefit. Contrary to demonstrating goodness is to do evil or harm.

Romans 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Ephesians 5:8-9 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) proving what is acceptable to the Lord.

30. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: MEEKNESS

Meekness (Galatians 5:22-23), also translated “gentleness,” is primarily a response to God. It is a state of heart that not only acknowledges God’s sovereign rule, but embraces His sovereign rule as good. A person with meekness does not blame God for undesirable circumstances, nor does he become angry with God when he does not get his way. Meekness must come from the power of the Holy Spirit. Contrary to meekness are despair, anger, wrath, impatience, anxiety, fear, and envy.

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and abundance of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

29. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: FAITHFULNESS

The word for “faithfulness” in Galatians 5:22 means to “win over” or “to persuade.” Faith, or faithfulness, as produced by the Holy Spirit, is a firm persuasion and conviction. It is a belief and confidence in the person of God and His revealed Word such that it brings forth holiness, obedience, and good works in a person’s life. Contrary to faithfulness are unbelief, disobedience, and ungodliness.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

James 2:17-18 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

31. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: SELF-CONTROL

Self-control (Galatians 5:22-23), which is often translated “sober”, is a sober-mindedness that gives thought before acting. Self-control, which is produced by the Holy Spirit, gives way to godly desires rather than sinful desires. A person with self-control looks to future and eternal realities rather than indulging immediate sinful impulses.

I Thessalonians 5:6, 8 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be self-controlled . . . (vs. 8) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

I Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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Overview of Spiritual Gifts

I. What are spiritual gifts?

As we begin to answer this question, I want to do so by first stating what spiritual gifts are not.

This may be helpful in clarifying the subject for us.

#1 - Spiritual gifts are not natural abilities.

You may be able to sing, write, speak, or do something else well but that's not a spiritual gift.

You may use your natural abilities to minister your giftedness but Paul clearly distinguishes between the two in I Corinthians 2:1, 4.

You see, there is a difference between being able to speak well and the spiritual gift of teaching or preaching, even though the two may work hand in hand.

Let me give you another example.

You may have the natural ability to write well but your spiritual gift could be mercy.

You may use your writing ability to communicate mercy or encouragement to others but writing is not the spiritual gift.

Spiritual gifts are not natural abilities.

#2 - Gifts are not a sign of spirituality.

Just because someone is gifted doesn't mean that he/she is walking with the Lord or is spiritual.

In I Corinthians 1:7 Paul said that the Corinthian Church had all the gifts, but the Corinthian Church was the most carnal church in the N.T.

In I Corinthians 11:17 Paul said . . .

Here was a church with all the gifts and yet when they met together, they were worse off for doing so.

There is a segment of Christianity today that says if you are spiritual, you'll have certain gifts or vice versa.

But the church in Corinth is proof that gifts are not a sign of spirituality.

That leads to a third "not" under this question.

#3 - The gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit are not the same thing.

The fruit of the Spirit is listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

The fruit of the Spirit consists of character traits we all should possess: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.

The fruit of the Spirit should be present as we minister our spiritual gifts.

However, it is possible to minister your gift without the fruit of the Spirit, as the Corinthians were doing, and it's also possible to have the fruit of the Spirit but not be ministering your spiritual gift.

These are some of the “nots” to the question, “What are spiritual gifts?”

So, what are they?

Spiritual gifts are special abilities that are granted by the Holy Spirit to every believer.

These gifts come to us freely and “entirely through the undeserved favor of God.”

We do not earn spiritual gifts, nor are gifts a reward for obedience, faith, maturity, or godliness.

In fact, the Greek word for spiritual gifts is “charisma” and the Greek word for grace is “charis.”

You can hear the word charis in charisma.

It's a reminder that spiritual gifts given to us find their source in the grace of God.

They can't be earned.

Spiritual gifts are grace gifts.

We are given several lists of spiritual gifts in the NT and the lists aren't the same.

What that tells us is that when the biblical writers list various spiritual gifts, they are not attempting to give an exhaustive list.

They are not listing every possible gift.

They are just giving samples and examples.

They mention the gift of exhortation and the gift of mercy and the gift of hospitality and the gift of serving and the gift of teaching and the gift of giving and many others.

Therefore, it is possible that there are even more spiritual gifts than what we have listed in the NT.

Here's another way to say it: each gift is a characteristic or aspect of Christ.

Jesus had all these characteristics and abilities in His life.

He was the ultimate teacher, the ultimate giver, the ultimate mercy show-er, etc.

So, as we corporately minister our gifts, we manifest Christ to the world and we present a picture of Him.

II. The 2nd question we want to answer is, “When?”

When did spiritual gifts begin?

They began when the church began, which was Acts 2.

On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came and baptized the believers into the body of Christ and gave them gifts.

Because of the uniqueness of the occasion, two gifts stood out on that day: the Apostles spoke in other languages, which was a supernatural sign-gift, and Peter preached a powerful sermon that led to the salvation of thousands, which was a display of the gift of prophecy or proclamation.

We don't know how many of the believers present for that occasion spoke in other languages but clearly some did.

So, as we seek to answer the question of when, we can say that the giving of spiritual gifts began when the church was born on the Day of Pentecost.

Secondly, we can say that spirituals gifts continue to be given to us today when we become believers and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God.

If you are a Christian, then you have been gifted by the Holy Spirit in some way to minister to the body of Christ.

The assumption and indication of all the passages on spiritual gifts is that every Christian is presently gifted to be able to serve.

Thirdly, when we talk about the "when" of spiritual gifts, we see that they will continue in operation until we are perfect and with the Lord.

However, Paul does indicate in 1st Corinthians 13 that not all the gifts will cease at the same time.

Turn with me to 1st Corinthians 13.

v. 8

Notice the first phrase of this verse – "Love never fails."

Many people have misunderstood and misapplied that statement, and taken it to mean something it doesn't mean.

It doesn't mean that "love always succeeds and wins in every situation."

That's how some people have taken the statement.

They believe that if you just love, then everything will turn out right.

But, we know that is not true in many cases.

For example, no one ever loved like the Lord Jesus loved.

He loved so much that He was even able to say, while on the cross, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Jesus loved immensely, but His love didn't succeed in softening every heart and winning in every situation.

Jesus loved Judas, and even washed His feet.

But, Judas spurned the love of Jesus and ended up betraying Him for a few pieces of silver.

We are told in Mark 10 that Jesus loved the rich young ruler who came to Him to ask about eternal life, but the rich young ruler walked away without eternal life.

He wasn't willing to let go of what was holding him back.

The love of Jesus didn't soften that man's heart and win him over.

So, that's not what this phrase is asserting.

The Apostle Paul loved his Jewish brethren so much that, in Romans 9, he said that he could wish that he himself were accursed from Christ for them.

Paul loved them immensely.

But when Paul went into the synagogues and proclaimed the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, he was often thrown out, beaten, persecuted, or thrown in jail.

Paul's great love didn't soften the hearts of his kinsmen and win them over.

This kind of thing still happens in our day.

There are husbands who turn their backs on the genuine love of a good wife and there are wives who turn their backs on the genuine love of a good husband.

Love doesn't always win, in the sense of conquering the hard-heartedness of others.

That's not what this phrase is saying.

When Paul says, "Love never fails," he is not referring to effect, he is referring to time and only the ESV brings this out in translation.

Paul is saying, "Love is eternal. It will go on forever."

And that is the thrust of the rest of the chapter.

Love never fails in the sense that it will go right on into eternity and will last forever.

The Bible doesn't say God is hope or God is faith, but it does say that God is love.

God is love.

Love is His nature.

The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, the Father loves the Spirit, the Spirit loves the Son, etc.

Love is a part of the inner-trinitarian relationship.

And God has expanded that by loving us.

We, in turn, love Him and we are to love one another.

These relationships will continue on into eternity and, therefore, love is of supreme importance.

That's what Paul means by the phrase at the beginning of verse 8, "Love never fails."

And that becomes clear as we read the rest of the verse.

v. 8b

The translation I am using, which is the New King James Version, is a little bit confusing at this point.

It gives the impression that there are 3 different verbs in this verse: fail, cease, and vanish away.

The NIV is similar.

The New American Standard Bible and the ESV indicate that there are only two verbs used, which is, in fact, the case.

When Paul mentions prophecies and knowledge, he uses the same verb in the Greek language.

It is a verb that means to nullify, cancel, or abolish.

However, as you can see, it is in the passive voice.

In other words, this is what will be done to these two gifts.

They will be nullified, cancelled, or abolished.

However, when Paul mentions the gift of tongues or languages, he uses a different verb and it is not in the same voice, the passive voice.

It is in the middle voice.

I know this is a little bit technical, but stay with me.

The verb Paul uses in relation to the gift of tongues, when it appears in the middle voice, means to stop or cease.

That is very significant.

Paul is saying that the day will come when the gift of prophecy and the gift of knowledge will be cancelled or abolished, but the gift of tongues will not need to be stopped because it will cease by itself.

To state it in this context, the day will come when the gift of prophecy and the gift of knowledge will be cancelled or abolished by the arrival of that which is perfect, but the gift of tongues will not need to be stopped by that which is perfect because it will have already ceased by itself.

What is important to see in this verse is the strong implication that the gift of tongues (or languages) will cease before the gift of prophecy and the gift of knowledge are stopped.

Further evidence for that conclusion is in the next verse because Paul doesn't even mention the gift of languages, but he does mention knowledge and prophecy.

v. 9

Notice that Paul doesn't even mention the gift of languages.

By the time the gift of prophecy and the gift of knowledge have been stopped, the gift of tongues will have already ceased by itself.

It is interesting to note that the gift of tongues is only mentioned here, in the book of 1 Corinthians, and in the book of Acts.

It's not mentioned in Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, or even in 1 Peter, which has a section that addresses the subject of spiritual gifts.

So, even the information given to us in the New Testament points to the view that the gift of tongues was fading out by itself.

Why would this be the case?

Why would God give a gift that was only intended for a limited period of time?

If the gift of tongues or languages was temporary, what was its purpose?

The only specific purpose for tongues stated in the Bible is found in I Corinthians 14.

vv. 20-22

That is the only time in the New Testament where the Holy Spirit specifically states the purpose of the gift of languages and He says it was a sign to unbelieving Israel.

And the quotation in verse 21 from Isaiah 28:11-12 indicates that the sign to unbelieving Israel was a sign of judgment.

So to remove the gift of languages from the context of unbelieving Jews is to transfer it to a context that doesn't have biblical basis or purpose.

And if you don't understand that, then the next verse won't make any sense.

v. 23

You say, "I thought you just said tongues are a sign to unbelievers but here Paul says unbelievers who hear tongues will say you're crazy. How do you reconcile that?"

Tongues were a sign to unbelieving Jews, but Corinth was not a Jewish city.

It was a Gentile city with a Jewish synagogue in it.

So, for the most part, there was no need for tongues.

But, since there was a Jewish synagogue in the city, Paul didn't forbid to speak in languages because there might have been an occasion when it would meet its God-intended purpose to unbelieving Jews.

So the problem Paul addressed in verse 23 was that non-Jewish people were coming into this assembly and thought these Christians were crazy because the unbelieving Gentiles were being exposed to a spiritual phenomenon God never intended for them.

Even in Acts 10, when the Gentiles spoke in tongues, it's important to remember that they were Gentiles in the

Jewish city of Joppa and the purpose was as a sign to the unbelieving Jews around them.

And in Acts 19 when it mentions the gift of languages in Corinth, the very next verse connects the phenomenon with unbelieving Jews because it says, "And Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God."

The Holy Spirit makes it clear in I Corinthians 14:22 that the purpose for the gift of languages was as a sign to unbelieving Israel of their judgment.

When did God judge the unbelieving Jews of that day?

In A.D. 70 God destroyed Jerusalem and stopped dealing with Israel as a nation, although He will return to them after the church is completed and raptured.

So the gift of languages has no purpose today.

There are no longer ongoing signs to Israel of their judgment.

That's why the sign gift of languages is mentioned only in earliest N.T. books and that explains why there is historical evidence that tongues did cease.

III. The next question we want to answer is "Who?"

There are a number of correct answers to this question because scripture indicates that all 3 members of the Triune Godhead are involved in giving spiritual gifts but I'm going to keep the answer a little more simple by emphasizing 2 "who"s.

One of the "who"s is you and me and every child of God.

As I mentioned earlier, every member of the body of Christ has been gifted.

Look at 1st Corinthians 12.

v. 11

Notice the phrase, "each one."

The same thing is said back in verse 7.

v. 7

Each one of us has been gifted.

Ephesians 4:7 uses this same phrase - "each one."

The 2nd "who" that is important to understand is who it is that gifts us.

Look at verse 11 again.

v. 11

The Holy Spirit of God is the One who distributes the gifts as He sovereignly chooses.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not an "it," not a "force," not a "power," and not a "thing;" He is a person--a member of the Triune Godhead.

He is deity--equal with the Father and the Son.

He is the one who distributes the gifts as He sovereignly chooses.

You and I can't choose our own gifts.
We can't demand from God certain gifts.

That's the sovereign choice of the Holy Spirit of God.

You can't get a gift by praying for it and neither can we give someone a gift by laying hands on him/her to receive a certain gift.

We don't have that apostolic authority.

And yet today many Christians will urge other Christians to experience a certain gift, even if God hasn't chosen to give that gift.

There are those who say that every Christian should speak in tongues.

But 1st Corinthians 12:11 says the Spirit divides up the gifts as He sees fit.

IV. The next question we want to answer is, "Why?" - INTERACTIVE QUESTION OF WHY FOR TABLES

Why does the Holy Spirit gift you?

The short answer is: to serve and build up others.

The Holy Spirit has gifted you to be able to serve others and serve the body of Christ.

The gifts are given for the edification of the body.

No where does the N.T. condone anyone using a gift for his own personal benefit.

And yet, many Christians today claim that that's how they use their gift.

Look at 1st Corinthians 14.

vv. 12, 26

The gifts are for the edification of the body.

As you minister your gift I am encouraged and strengthened and built up and as I minister my gift hopefully you are edified.

But there's even more to it than that.

Your gift not only benefits me directly but it also should benefit me indirectly as well.

Let me explain what I mean.

Let's say you have the gift of giving and you give generously to the Lord's work.

By you exercising your gift, we should all learn how to give more generously.

The same thing goes with mercy, helps, administration, etc.

As those gifts are expressed we benefit directly by receiving the ministry of those gifts but we also benefit by learning how to do those same things.

So the gifts are for the building up of others.

Under that general category of edification, we could add other purposes such as equipping and protection and witness and united love & care and for our eternal rewards and ultimately for God's glory.

V. The final question we want to consider is, "How?"

I want to divide this up into 2 parts: how are spiritual gifts to be used and how do you discover your spiritual gift.

First of all, how are spiritual gifts to be used?

They are to be used in stewardship and in love.

God has entrusted us with spiritual gifts as a stewardship.

Remember, the gifts aren't for ourselves; they are for others.

We are stewards of those gifts and we should exercise good stewardship.

In 1st Timothy 4:14 Paul told Timothy not to neglect his spiritual gift.

In 2nd Timothy 1:6 Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift that was in him.

It is possible to have a gift and not be using it, which would be poor stewardship.

So we are to use our spiritual gifts as good stewards and we are to minister them in love.

Every passage that discusses and lists spiritual gifts is surrounded by exhortations to love.

In fact, the famous love chapter of the Bible, 1st Corinthians 13, is right between 2 chapters about spiritual gifts - chapters 12 and 14.

We are to use our spiritual gifts as good stewards and we are to minister them in love.

You say, "How do you find out what your spiritual gift is?"

Well, there are a number of ways to do so and one of them is to do what you are doing here this morning - studying them and contemplating them and getting to understand what the word of God has to say about them.

But don't fail to use one of the best ways and that is to get involved in ministry to try to meet needs in the body of Christ.

In time you'll begin to see the strengths the Holy Spirit has given you and the body will affirm your giftedness.

When I first began to walk with the Lord, I was in a church in Florida.

I had a passionate desire to see Jesus Christ glorified in His church.

I didn't even know there was any such thing as spiritual gifts, but I really wanted to serve the Lord.

So I did anything I could to meet needs in the body.

I taught little kids Sunday school.

I drove the bus for church outings.

I worked with the youth group.

I did visitation ministry.

I worked in a prison ministry.

I organized activities.

You name it and I did it.

And in time I began to be drawn more to certain areas of ministry and others in the body would affirm certain areas of giftedness.

That's how I came to find my niche in the body.

I got involved to meet needs.

After all, it's difficult to steer a parked car.

It's much easier when it's moving.

If you have an earnest desire to minister and if you are attempting to meet needs and are available, then you'll begin to recognize your spiritual gift in time and the people in the body will affirm your areas of giftedness.