

Finding Your Spiritual Gifts

God has given each Christian two vitally important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and for the growth of God's Kingdom. These abilities are called spiritual gifts and they are received through our baptism.

Like other presents, it is impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until they have been opened. This tool will help you begin to open your spiritual gifts by guiding you through the following three activities:

Scripture Review:

Highlighting scripture references that both support the existence of spiritual gifts and identify those which are commonly found in service today.

Self Assessment: a list of 60 questions which will help you identify which gifts you have received in greatest measure.

Exploration of Use: suggestions for the various types of ministry you might be most effective in because of your spiritual gifts. These three activities will begin to help you discover and employ your spiritual gifts. May the special abilities God has given you be deployed in areas of ministry where they will be most effective for the good of the entire church body. These gifts should also be affirmed by the body and utilized by the one who is gifted.

Scripture References:

The Apostle Paul addresses the presence of spiritual gifts in three main sections of scripture: Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Peter also verifies their existence in I Peter 4:10. Through these sections of scripture, we learn that all Christians have been given at least one spiritual gift. The purpose of spiritual gifts is twofold: (1) to unify Christians in their faith and (2) to produce growth within the church, both numerical and spiritual. These gifts are to be used out of love for one another, and in service to one another.

We do not choose which gifts we will receive. God bestows them upon us through the work of the Holy Spirit. Not all of the gifts identified in scripture are used in this inventory.

Self-Assessment Inventory

Instructions:

For each of the 60 questions which follow, circle the number that corresponds with the response that most closely matches how you perceive yourself, then put that number in the box corresponding to the question number on the provided matrix. Be sure to answer all sixty questions.

- 4, consistently true
- 3, frequently true
- 2, occasionally true
- 1, infrequently true
- 0, rarely true

1. When presented a goal, I immediately think of steps that need to be taken in order to achieve the desired results. 4 3 2 1 0
2. I express myself through artistic means. 4 3 2 1 0
3. My faith requires me to seek out God's will and purpose in all circumstances that arise in my life. 4 3 2 1 0
4. I am able to convey the Gospel message to non-believers in ways that they are able to easily understand. 4 3 2 1 0
5. I am moved by those who through conflict or sorrow are wavering in faith. 4 3 2 1 0
6. I am certain of the spirit's presence in my life and the lives of others. 4 3 2 1 0
7. I am blessed by God each day and gladly respond to these blessings by giving liberally of my time and money. 4 3 2 1 0
8. I enjoy meeting new people and becoming acquainted with them. 4 3 2 1 0
9. I know that God hears and responds to my daily prayers. 4 3 2 1 0
10. I feel compelled to learn as much as I can about the Bible and faith. 4 3 2 1 0
11. I am a take charge person. When others follow my direction, the goal or task will be completed. 4 3 2 1 0
12. When I see a person in need, I am moved to assist them. 4 3 2 1 0
13. I love to sing and enjoy inspiring others through song. 4 3 2 1 0
14. I find joy and express myself by playing a musical instrument. 4 3 2 1 0
15. I am motivated to provide spiritual leadership to those who are on a faith journey. 4 3 2 1 0
16. I like working behind the scenes to ensure projects are successful. 4 3 2 1 0
17. I enjoy working with my hands in a trade or skill that required considerable experience to perfect. 4 3 2 1 0
18. My great joy is to communicate biblical truth in such a way that it becomes real and understood by others. 4 3 2 1 0

19. When a challenge is presented, I am usually able to identify an appropriate solution. 4 3 2 1 0
20. I am able to take a thought or idea and put it into a clear and inspiring written form. 4 3 2 1 0
21. I enjoy organizing thoughts, ideas, hopes and dreams into a specific plan of action. 4 3 2 1 0
22. I can translate into artistic form what I first see in my imagination. 4 3 2 1 0
23. I have assisted others as they sought to discern whether or not their personal decisions were helpful and in accord with God's will for their lives. 4 3 2 1 0
24. I enjoy being with non-believers and like having the opportunity to encourage them to faith and commitment. 4 3 2 1 0
25. When I know someone is facing a crisis, I feel compelled to provide support and care. 4 3 2 1 0
26. My trust in the Spirit's presence, when I encounter times of personal crisis, is a source of strength for others. 4 3 2 1 0
27. I manage my time and money so that I am able to give much of it to the work of the church or other organizations. 4 3 2 1 0
28. I am often asked to open my home for small group gatherings or social occasions. 4 3 2 1 0
29. I often become so absorbed in my prayer life that the door bell or phone can ring and I will not hear it. 4 3 2 1 0
30. Not one day would be complete without biblical study and thought. 4 3 2 1 0
31. When I am in a group, others will often look to me for direction. 4 3 2 1 0
32. I feel an urgency to provide housing for the homeless, food for the starving, comfort for those in distress. 4 3 2 1 0
33. I have sung before groups and felt a real sense of God's presence. 4 3 2 1 0
34. By my playing a musical instrument, inspiration has been provided for both myself and others. 4 3 2 1 0
35. I have responsibility for providing spiritual guidance to an individual believer or group of believers. 4 3 2 1 0
36. People tell me that without my willingness to do the unnoticed jobs, their work would be more difficult. 4 3 2 1 0

37. I am good at building, repairing, or restoring things and find satisfaction in doing so. 4 3 2 1 0

38. I want to express my faith by assisting others to discover the truths contained in the Bible. 4 3 2 1 0

39. People come to me for help in applying Christian faith and values to personal situations. 4 3 2 1 0

40. I often feel moved to write about my thoughts and feelings so others may benefit from them. 4 3 2 1 0

41. I have been successful in organizing, directing and motivating people to achieve a goal. 4 3 2 1 0

42. My artistic work has given spiritual strength to both believer and non-believer. 4 3 2 1 0

43. In the congregation, I am often asked if a direction being discussed is in accord with God's will and purpose. 4 3 2 1 0

44. I do not find it difficult to share what Jesus means to me with non-believers. 4 3 2 1 0

45. Those who are struggling with life questions have come to me for guidance and help. 4 3 2 1 0

46. I can see great things happening in my congregation and am not derailed by the pessimism of others. 4 3 2 1 0

47. When I receive money unexpectedly, one of my first thoughts is to share this gift through the church. 4 3 2 1 0

48. I enjoy welcoming guests and helping them to feel at ease. 4 3 2 1 0

49. Believers have asked me to pray for healing in their lives, and have evidenced God's healing power. 4 3 2 1 0

50. My study of the Bible has proven helpful to others in their faith journey. 4 3 2 1 0

51. People have said they like to work with me because the task will be successfully completed. 4 3 2 1 0

52. People have been surprised by how at ease I am while working with those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. 4 3 2 1 0

53. I am grateful and humbled that my singing has provided inspiration and hope for others on their faith journey. 4 3 2 1 0

54. Others have told me they were moved by my playing a musical instrument. 4 3 2
1 0

55. People have come to me for spiritual help and it has developed into a long-term
relationship. 4 3 2 1 0

56. When I turn out the lights, take tables down, work in the kitchen or put chairs
away, I feel that I have served the Lord. 4 3 2 1 0

57. My knowledge of building, maintenance or repair has been a special value to the
church and others. 4 3 2 1 0

58. Students have told me that I can take the most difficult idea or concept and
make it understandable. 4 3 2 1 0

59. When direction is needed at work or in the congregation, I am generally asked
for my opinion. 4 3 2 1 0

60. My written work has been helpful to others in understanding life's truths. 4 3 2 1
0

SCORING THE MATRIX:

When you have completed all sixty questions and put your numbers (score of 0 thru 4) in all sixty blocks on the matrix, then add up each column vertically. For example, under the "Ad" column you see blocks for questions 1, 21, and 41. If your score for question 1 was "3", your score for question 21 was "2", and your score for question 41 was "4", your total for the "Ad" column would be "9."

The strongest gift(s) will generally have a total score of "7" or more. If you have more than one gift with a total of seven or more, then all of these gifts can be referred to as your "gift cluster." Notice how each gift within the cluster has the potential to compliment and support another. The gifts within the cluster will need to be further explored to determine which ones you have truly been blessed with.

This inventory is designed to begin your journey toward spiritual gifts discovery. Keep in mind that it is not a scientific instrument. Your perceptions will be validated by others and confirmed through prayer and by their use over time. Identify your spiritual gift cluster, then list the gifts in the gifts cluster.

Ad = Administration

Questions 1, 21, 41

Ar = Artistry

Questions 2, 22, 42

D = Discernment

Questions 3, 23, 43

Ev = Evangelism

Questions 4, 24, 44

Ex = Exhortation

Questions 5, 25, 45

F = Faith

Questions 6, 26, 46

G = Giving

Questions 7, 27, 47

H = Hospitality

Questions 8, 28, 48

I = Intercession

Questions 9, 29, 49

K = Knowledge

Questions 10, 30, 50

L = Leadership

Questions 11, 31, 51

Me = Mercy

Questions 12, 32, 52

Mv = Music-vocal

Questions 13, 33, 53

Mi = Music-instrumental

Questions 14, 34, 54

P = Pastoring

Questions 15, 35, 55

Sv = Service

Questions 16, 36, 56

Sk = Skilled Craft

Questions 17, 37, 57

T = Teaching

Questions 18, 38, 58

Ws = Wisdom

Questions 19, 39, 59

Wr = Writing

Questions 20, 40, 60

Which gifts have you truly been blessed with? Discovering the answer to that question requires the following:

Prayer:

Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance while evaluating your gifts.

Study:

Become familiar with the scripture references, definitions, and how each gift functions within the Body of Christ. This will provide you with a solid foundation from which to further evaluate your gifts.

Self-Examination:

Explore your feelings about each of the spiritual gifts in your cluster. Examples of how each gift may be utilized in the church are provided below. As you read these examples, ask yourself how you feel about the types of ministry activity identified for the gifts in your cluster. You may expect to feel fulfilled through the use of your gifts.

Track Your Results:

As you use your spiritual gifts, pay close attention to the results produced through your efforts. You can expect to experience positive results from the use of your gifts.

Listen For Affirmation:

As you use your spiritual gifts, listen for affirmation from other Christians. They will recognize and confirm your spiritual gifts, through genuine expressions of approval and thankfulness for a job well done!

Putting Your Gifts To Use:

All Christians are to work together, supporting one another. However, our gifts make us better prepared and equipped to perform in some areas of ministry over others. A person who is working within a ministry area they are gifted for, will be more effective in that ministry than one they not gifted for.

Matching your spiritual gifts with the opportunity to serve at St Luke:

Included in this package is a description of each of the spiritual gifts listed above, a Scripture passage that will help give you the biblical basis for the gift, and finally, samples of opportunities to serve in our congregation where your gifts can best be used. (NOTE: If you are doing this via the online access on the St. Luke website, you will need to download the Time and Talent Pledge Sheet separately).

After you have some time to complete this inventory, study the results and scripture passages, and prayed about them, please take a few moments to complete the time and talent sheet included in this package. You may mail it in, drop it in the offertory baskets on Sunday, or drop it off at the Church Office.

For Further Thought: Your Spiritual Gifts do not appear and disappear as you pass through the doors of your church! The special gifts God has given you are with you always. They are also meant to be used in your daily life to bring glory to God and serve the needs of others

Thank you! Thank you for giving the precious gift of yourself through your time and talents.

Acknowledgement: This has been adapted from the "Finding Your Spiritual Gifts" tool located on the ELCA website.

