

An Explanation of Spiritual Gifts

When you accepted Christ, you not only got saved...you were given something very special from God. You were given a giftedness to serve God in a unique way. God's plan for your life is that you would meet a specific need in the church family, and He has gifted you in a special way to meet that need.

"Based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God."—1 Peter 4:10

If you have trusted Christ, then you have a spiritual gift! Even if you don't know what it is or don't feel particularly gifted in a specific area, the Bible teaches that you do have a special gift that you can use to serve God. And, believe it or not, your gift is vital to the work of God in our church family, otherwise God would not have placed you here.

"But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,"—1 Corinthians 12:18–24

God's Word teaches that as a member of this church family (this body), you are important to His work in this place. He has appointed you a gift and a purpose for being here...and you will greatly enjoy discovering and using that gift for His purposes!

What should you do with this spiritual gift?

First Peter says that God wants you to be a "good steward" of His gift to you! The best way to do that is to begin now discovering, developing, and using your gift to serve the Lord and His church. The great result of using your gift is that the entire church family ministers to each other and to the community. That's the way the church is supposed to work!

What are the Spiritual Gifts?

The gifts can be more carefully explained if you make an appointment. But in a quick survey, here is what the Bible says,

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his[a]faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."—Romans 12:6–8

The spiritual gifts may be summarized in this way...

Prophecy—more than just a gift; a call from and equipping by God to preach His Word.

Ministry (Helps)—a desire to serve and help God's people. Spiritual Gifts Test

Teaching—the ability to teach God's truth; helping people understand how His Word applies to them.

Exhortation (Encouragement)—the ability and desire to encourage others in the Christian life.

Giving—the ability and desire to give to God's work and God's people.

Ruling (Administration)—the ability to lead and administrate part of God's work.

Mercy—the ability to feel the pain of others and help them during trials.