

WHAT ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

IN ROMANS 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-30, Ephesians 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:11, the Bible talks of spiritual gifts given by God to individual believers in accordance with his will. The purpose of these gifts is not to help us build our careers and find success. The gifts are given for one purpose: “so that [the church] may be built up” (Ephesians 4:12, NIV).

Christians are most fulfilled when they are serving through the use of their spiritual gifts. When we understand our spiritual gifts, we are better able to understand ourselves and how God has uniquely empowered us.

How do we determine our spiritual gifts? There are at least two ways: the inventory approach and the checklist approach. You may want to do both to see if they are consistent.

Before beginning this evaluation, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you and make you aware of your God-given gifts.

A. The inventory approach. Take one of the more standardized spiritual gift inventories that are available in most Christian bookstores.

The following are two examples:

- Bruce L Bugbee. *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts the Network Way*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
- Peter Wagner. *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts*. Ventura CA: Regal Books, 2005.

B. The checklist approach. Make three copies of the following list of spiritual gifts. Look over the list and put a check by the words that seem to describe you.

Spiritual Gifts

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Apostleship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsmanship | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discernment | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> Helps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercession |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy | <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherding | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom | <input type="checkbox"/> Healing * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation * | <input type="checkbox"/> Miracles * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tongues * | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling ** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celibacy ** | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving ** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music ** | |

* *These gifts are not included in some lists because they are more easily identified.*

** *These gifts are not listed in Scripture but are identified by some Christians as spiritual gifts.*

Next, go back over the items you have checked and give each a number: 1 for those that are very strong in your life and descriptive of you, 2 for those that are somewhat strong and descriptive of you, and 3 for those that are the least descriptive of the items you checked.

Then ask three people who know you well to do the same on the photocopied lists.

Write down the items that were ranked number 1 on the lists. Probably these are your spiritual gifts.