

HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Pray with a commitment to use the gift(s) God reveals you have.
2. Notice characteristics of people in the Bible who had this gift and compare them to characteristics of your own life.
3. Observe characteristics of other Christians who have a certain gift and compare them to characteristics of your life.
4. Seek the help of fellow Christians in evaluating your impression and past ministry experience as they relate to your giftedness.
5. Remove from active consideration the gifts you do not seem to have.
6. Select 3 you might have.
7. Begin to serve in a capacity that would allow you to function with those potential gifts.
8. Watch for confirmation from the Holy Spirit in bringing you peace that you are serving in the right place, satisfaction in serving, and God anointed results in your ministry.

THE PROPHET

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by proclaiming God's truth.

Characteristics:

1. Hates sin; quick to point out sin (Amos).
2. Loves sinner (Hosea).
3. Very discerning of people's character (Nathan).
4. Concerned for program of God (Isaiah).
5. Often individualistic, opinionated, dominant, authoritative – especially about Scripture (Elijah).
6. Has great sense of urgency (Elijah).
7. Usually serious rather than lighthearted (Elisha).
8. Needs to express truth verbally (Jeremiah).

TESTS OF A PROPHET

Deut. 18:22 – 100% right!

Jn. 17:17 – Consistent with Scripture

2 Peter 1:21 – Given by Spirit

Rev. 19:10 – Points to Jesus

THE SHEPHERD (PASTOR-TEACHER)

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for a group of Christians.

Characteristics:

1. Loves people; wants them to learn and grow.
2. Protective of those under his care.
3. A leader more than a follower; desiring to give direction.
4. Likes to study; burdened to teach whole Word of God.
5. Usually patient, tolerant, empathetic, and diplomatic; but also often authoritative.
6. Usually is a “Jack of all and master of one.”
7. Sometimes is too independent becoming a workaholic.
8. Gift applies to any size group.

THE TEACHER

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by explaining the Word of God with accuracy and simplicity.

Characteristics:

1. Has great desire to know and teach whole Bible.
2. Is systematic in approach.
3. Delights in research to validate truth.
4. Accumulates knowledge; gives attention to detail.
5. Is careful to use Scripture in context and often uses Biblical illustrations.
6. Accuracy in concepts, word usage; pronunciation is important.
7. Enthusiastic when explaining; is easily understood.
8. Often uses lists, charts, and graphs.

THE EVANGELIST

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by sharing the gospel to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Characteristics:

1. Has a consuming passion for lost souls.
2. Usually outgoing, socially active, lighthearted, enthusiastic, agreeable.
3. Has a clear understanding of the gospel.
4. Likes to memorize Scripture.
5. Is a good listener; remembers names and faces.
6. Believes salvation is the greatest gift.
7. Sometimes impulsive and subjective.
8. Is tolerant, sympathetic, and forgiving.

THE EXHORTER

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by motivating others to action by urging a specific course of conduct.

Characteristics:

1. Is the "how-to" teacher, counselor, leader, trainer.
2. Is result oriented.
3. Is very practical and analytical.
4. Motivates using steps to take, lists, diagrams.
5. Enjoys working one on one, as well as with groups.
6. Usually tolerant and sympathetic.
7. Often enthusiastic, cheerful, bubbly.
8. Sometimes is talkative, impulsive, needs self-discipline.

THE SERVER

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by rendering practical help in both physical and spiritual matters.

Characteristics:

1. Is burdened with the practical needs of people and responds quickly to meet them.
2. Enjoys doing manual projects that meet practical needs.
3. Prefers to be a follower and likes to have a good leader to support.
4. Is ambitious, involved in many jobs; has difficulty saying "no."
5. Is loyal, sincere, tolerant, and devoted.
6. Is usually easy-going, likeable, congenial, inoffensive.
7. Does not draw attention to self, but desires sincere appreciation.
8. Prefers short range goals to long range projects which cause frustration.

THE GIVER

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving one's material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.

Characteristics:

1. Is sensitive to financial and material needs, especially those others might overlook.
2. Wants gift to be of high quality and to know it is used properly.
3. Prefers to give quietly and without the pressure of appeals.
4. Usually is not the first to give, but will wait for a project to prove itself.
5. Makes quick financial decisions, but will often depend on spouse's counsel to confirm amount of gift.
6. Often has the capacity to make money, as well as give generously, but not always.
7. Usually is quiet, lighthearted, well-organized, and self-disciplined.
8. Likes for gift to motivate others to give.

THE MERCY-SHOWER

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by identifying with and comforting those who are in distress.

Characteristics:

1. Is sympathetic and sensitive especially to the poor, aged, ill, and under-privileged.
2. Is good-natured, loving, warm, outgoing.
3. Is responsive, patient, tolerant.
4. Is self-sacrificing.
5. Is usually more subjective than objective, making decisions according to feelings; impulsive.
6. Attracts people who are hurting or rejoicing.
7. Good remembering names and faces.
8. Usually soft-spoken and low keyed; but expressive of personal feelings.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by organizing, promoting, and leading the various ministries of the church.

Characteristics:

1. Is goal oriented, dreams big dreams, moves quickly from a completed task to a new one.
2. Is serious minded, highly motivated, a perfectionist; wants to win, sometimes overly competitive.
3. Can see the overall picture and classify long-range goals; does not like the trivial.
4. Organizes the project for which he is responsible.
5. Is a good motivator, dominant in relationships; often hides his emotions.
6. Delegates wherever possible, but knows when not to delegate.
7. Makes quick decisions; concerned for welfare of total project.
8. Does not procrastinate, but works best under pressure; sometimes becoming a workaholic.