

# Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts Workshop  
Sydney Church of Christ  
May 2011

*7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says:  
"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train  
and gave gifts to men."  
Eph 4:7-8*

Through the grace of God, Christ has given us gifts in order to build up the church. God has blessed you with a specific personality and heart that will enhance your spiritual gifts. Some of our gifts have been developed through life experiences, education or special training. For those of us who have been Christians for a while, we have developed many different gifts for many different Kingdom purposes. Just because we have a gift doesn't automatically mean it is our heart's desire. The purpose of this survey is to help us clarify, discover or rediscover our God given gifts. As a leadership we want to help you find that place. This survey is simply a tool to help you. The question may be asked, why should we do this? By finding our gifts, we will maximize our impact, increase our joy, and fulfill the destiny for our lives laid out by the great giver of gifts!

This is not in conflict with the basic purposes of the Church. For example, everyone is called to serve the poor, yet those gifted in one of these areas will lead the way and surpass the norm. While all of us are called to magnify God's name in praise, lifting up our voices in song, not everyone has the gift to lead the worship. This principle is the same for giving contribution, evangelism and many other basics. Identifying our gift should only enhance or build up the part of the body that our gift has placed us in, not limit us in the basic responsibilities Jesus has given each of his followers.

The gifts ministry prepares each member of the body for the works of service God prepared in advance for them to do individually. *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:10)*. This is all according to the grace of our Lord.

We need to view our gifts as a trust given us by God. We are to use them to serve others. To the degree that we refuse to do that, we deny people the very grace of God! *(1 Peter 4:10-11)*

As you fill out the survey try to be as realistic and open-minded as you can. Don't be fearful that if you have many gifts you will have to participate in all of them. Try to narrow it down to the top two and then choose an already existing ministry or help create ministries to enhance your gifts. As you fill out a survey for a friend try to not be given to flattery, but speak the truth in love. May the Holy Spirit guide us as *every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (Eph 4:16)*

## STEPS IN DISCOVERING AND IMPLEMENTING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS<sup>i</sup>

**STEP 1:** Pray for God's guidance and take the *Spiritual Gift Self-Evaluation* test being as objective as you can.

**STEP 2:** Hand out the *Spiritual Gift Evaluation by a Friend* test to three people. Ask them to evaluate **you** honestly and openly and return the test to you as soon as possible. Once the tests are returned, record the results from Step 1 and Step 2 on the *Spiritual Gifts Evaluation Grid*.

**STEP 3:** Evaluate these tests to find which gift(s) the majority of the test results revealed to you. If there are major discrepancies, go discuss it with the ones who evaluated you to find out how they were thinking. If you think you had a gift that the others say you do not, this could be sobering moment (Ro 12:3) to help you re-evaluate yourself. If you think you do not have a gift that everyone else says you do, this might be a time to realize a new gift.

**STEP 4:** At our *Gifts Workshop*, brainstorm with others that have similar results how you might use your gift(s) to reach into the congregation and reach out to the lost. Choose one or two things that strike you most and go after them with all your heart, mind, and strength to bring God the Glory. You have now found ways to serve God and to give your body as a living sacrifice for him (Rom. 12:1) and can begin to implement one aspect of God's will for your life. You may want to modify things as you learn more. That is fine. You are on a learning and serving path with God. Have fun!!!

## **STEP 1: SPIRITUAL GIFT SELF-EVALUATION:**

Read through each gift listed below, pray for God's guidance, and mark it **to the left of the letter** with a 1, 2, or 3. The meaning of the numbers is as follows:

Number 1: "I am certain that I have this gift"

Number 2: "I might have this gift"

Number 3: "I don't think I have this gift"

**A. Artistic Gifts:**

Ex. 31:3; 35:31: Skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts to make artistic designs. Like Bezalel, *some are* "filled with the Spirit of God" to do this.

**B. Musical Gifts for Worship:** Skill, ability to play an instrument or sing.  
*1 Chron 15:22 Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it.*

**C. Contentment:** *Eccl. 3:13; 5:19.*  
*"When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God"*

**D. Prophecy/Preaching:** *Rom 12:6.* Although as used in the NT this may be mostly speaking for God giving new revelation, the scriptures seem to also indicate that this term included both foretelling and forth telling. Foretelling is more the miraculous (new revelation) while forth telling is having the ability to preach and apply (make relevant) the already revealed message of God for today. Forth telling or preaching would be what is available to us today.

**E. Serving:** *Rom. 12:7.* This is the special ability God gives to some to (1) see the needs of others and use the talent they have to (2) meet those needs.

**F. Teaching:** *Rom. 12:7.* This is the special ability to communicate information pertinent to the needs of individuals as well as the whole body that will help in their spiritual growth, understanding, and their ministry for Christ.

**G. Encouraging:** *Rom. 12:8.* This is the special ability to speak words and do things that will encourage others in a way that helps them feel wanted, important, needed and helped.

**H. Giving/Contributing:** *Rom. 12:8.* This is the ability to contribute material resources to God's work liberally and with cheerfulness. It presupposes that the individual has the ability or life situation to make money, gain possessions, or already has these resources.

**I. Leadership:** *Rom. 12:8.* This is the special ability to set the example in ones life for the flock, set goals in accordance with God's will and inspire others to reach for those goals in a way that they voluntarily work together toward them

**J. Showing Mercy:** *Rom. 12:8.* The talent to (1) feel genuine empathy and compassion for those who suffer physical, emotional, mental, and/or spiritual problems and (2) to be able to love those people in a way that relieves them or helps them carry the burdens they have.

## **SPIRITUAL GIFT SELF-EVALUATION (con't)**

- K. Celibacy:** I Cor. 7:7. One who has the ability to joyfully remain single and not suffer undue sexual temptations so that they can devote more time to God's work.
- L. Wisdom:** I Cor. 12:8. The ability to unite knowledge with action both in their own lives and in the advice they give others. The knowledge is applied in the best way to meet the needs that arise both within the congregation and in the lives of individuals.
- M. Knowledge:** I Cor. 12:8. The special ability to discover, analyze, gather, clarify, and organize information and ideas that are needed for the well-being of the body.
- N. Faith:** I Cor. 12:9. The ability to see (envision) potential (1) in what the church might do as a body for Christ and (2) in people in what they can do for Christ. It involves belief in God and belief in people's (as well as one's own) potential. This is a person with the ability to have extraordinary confidence in both God and people.
- O. Healing:** I Cor. 12: 9. Probably specifically means ability to heal apart from the use of natural methods (i.e., supernatural healing). As such it would be a "sign gift" and not available for today. However, some people have the ability to heal through natural means, whether through counseling, being a doctor or nurse, or just touching or spending time with someone (along the encouraging lines).
- P. Miraculous Powers:** I Cor. 12:10. The ability to do miracles. This is a "sign gift" no longer available
- Q. Distinguishing spirits:** I. Cor. 12:10. The ability to know if certain behavior or a spiritual stance is of God, of human, or of Satan. It is intuitive spiritual discernment.
- R. Languages/tongues.** I Cor. 12:10. This is a "sign gift" of having the ability to speak other languages without having studied them. This is not available today. However, there are those who have the talent today to learn other languages easily and use them to the glory of God.
- S. Interpretation or translation of languages/tongues:** I Cor. 12:10. Also a "sign gift" of having the ability of interpreting or translating languages one has no familiarity with. This is no longer available, but some have the linguistic talent to learn how to translate different languages to help spread the Word.
- T. Apostleship/Missionary:** I Cor. 12:28. The New Testament introduces us to no more than 16 apostles. We have their words in the NT, but we have no Apostles today in the sense of the 12 who were part of the foundation of the church. In the sense of the meaning "those sent out with a commission," we have modern day missionaries who have the talent to minister for Christ in a culture not their own.

## **SPIRITUAL GIFT SELF-EVALUATION (con't):**

- U. Administration:** I Cor. 12:28. The ability to organize, devise, and carry through plans for the accomplishment of God's will for his church. These persons can coordinate the other gifts of the body for the maximum effect to bring glory to God
- V. Evangelist:** Eph. 4:11. This is the special ability to preach, teach, share, and communicate the gospel to unbelievers in such a way that they become disciples of Christ. While every disciple is called to share his/ her faith, some have a special ability.
- W. Shepherd/pastor:** Eph. 4:11. The ability to shepherd (take spiritual care of) the members of the body to help them grow, keep them from the wolves, help them remain faithful, and help them become mature in Christ.
- X. Hospitality:** I Pet 4:9. The ability to provide a warm welcome open house of food and lodging for those in need.
- Y. Helps:** I Cor. 12:28. The ability to see the needs of others, see how they could be helped, and then using one's own talents to help these other members enhance their effectiveness in using their talents for the body.
- Z. "Whatever gift":** I Pet. 4:10. Anything else one may have as a talent is to be used for God and the church. What can you think of?

## SPIRITUAL GIFT SELF-Evaluation:

Please read through each gift listed below, pray for God’s guidance, and mark it to the left of the letter with a 1, 2, or 3 in evaluating my spiritual gift(s) or talent(s). For a person to have a spiritual gift means that he/she either already excels incredibly and excellently in that talent or seems to have the potential to do so.

**The meaning of the numbers is as follows:**

Number 1: “I am certain that I have this gift”

Number 2: “I might have this gift”

Number 3: “I don’t think I have this gift”

### SPIRITUAL GIFT EVALUATION GRID

<b>Gift</b>	Evaluation (fill in appropriate number)
A. Artistic Gifts	
B. Musical/ Worship	
C. Contentment	
D. Prophecy/Preaching	
E. Serving	
F. Teaching	
G. Encouraging	
H. Giving/Contributing	
I. Leadership	
J. Showing Mercy	
K. Celibacy	
L. Wisdom	
M. Knowledge	
N. Faith	
O. Healing	
P. Miraculous Powers	
Q. Distinguishing spirits	
R. Languages/tongues	
S. Interpretation	
T. Apostleship/Missionary	
U. Administration	
V. Evangelist	
W. Shepherd/pastor	
X. Hospitality	
Y. Helps	
Z. “Whatever gift”	

## STEP 2: SPIRITUAL GIFT EVALUATION BY A FRIEND:

Please read through each gift listed below, pray for God’s guidance, and mark it to the left of the letter with a 1, 2, or 3 in evaluating my spiritual gift(s) or talent(s). For a person to have a spiritual gift means that he/she either already excels incredibly and excellently in that talent or seems to have the potential to do so.

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Number 2: “You might have this gift”

Number 3: “I don’t think you have this gift”

### SPIRITUAL GIFT EVALUATION GRID

I am completing this evaluation for \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Gift</b>	Evaluation (fill in appropriate number)
A. Artistic Gifts	
B. Musical/ Worship	
C. Contentment	
D. Prophecy/Preaching	
E. Serving	
F. Teaching	
G. Encouraging	
H. Giving/Contributing	
I. Leadership	
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C. Contentment	
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B. Musical/ Worship	
C. Contentment	
D. Prophecy/Preaching	
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V. Evangelist	
W. Shepherd/pastor	
X. Hospitality	
Y. Helps	
Z. “Whatever gift”	

### SPIRITUAL GIFT SUMMATION GRID

Gift	Your evaluation	Friend	Friend	Friend	Common
A. Artistic Gifts					
B. Musical/ Worship					
C. Contentment					
D. Prophecy/Preaching					
E. Serving					
F. Teaching					
G. Encouraging					
H. Giving/Contributing					
I. Leadership					
J. Showing Mercy					
K. Celibacy					
L. Wisdom					
M. Knowledge					
N. Faith					
O. Healing					
P. Miraculous Powers					
Q. Distinguishing spirits					
R. Languages/tongues					
S. Interpretation					
T. Apostleship/Missionary					
U. Administration					
V. Evangelist					
W. Shepherd/pastor					
X. Hospitality					
Y. Helps					
Z. "Whatever gift"					

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Much of the material in this packet was gleaned from a number of sources: Glenn Giles (Teacher) Denver Church of Christ .The Saddleback website at <http://www.saddlebackfamily.com/ministry/images/discoverytool.pdf>, Douglas Jacoby, *The Spirit* (Woburn, MA: DPI, 1998), and C. Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1994), 253-58.