

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

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Introduction

Before you can discover your spiritual gifts, you must be a child of God and have received the Spirit of God. If you put your trust in Jesus Christ, you are God's child (Jn 1:12; Rom 8:15-16) and, when you believe in or trust Christ, God gives you His Spirit (Eph 1:13; 1 Cor 2:12).

Once you know you have the Spirit, you can discover your spiritual gifts through a discernment process:

First: Learn about the spiritual gifts. Check the spiritual gift-lists in the Bible and study each of the gifts where they appear elsewhere in scripture. Various gift-lists are found in Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 7:7-11 (married and single); 1 Cor 12:4-31; 1 Cor 13:1, 8-9; 1 Cor 14:1; Eph 4:11-12; 1 Pet 4:10-11.

Second: Use the Spiritual Gifts Inventory¹ to help you reflect on what spiritual gifts God may have given you.

Third: Get feedback from other Christians. Ask Christians (or other people) who know you well what spiritual gifts they have seen operating in your life and/or think you have the potential for realizing.

Fourth: Pray and listen for God's voice on the matter

Fifth: Practice the gifts you think God has given you. As the proverb says, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." If you think you have the gift of teaching, practice teaching the Bible or theology. If you receive deep satisfaction from teaching and you get positive results or feedback from others, then teaching is one of your spiritual gifts.

Sixth: Repeat this process every year or two.

Remember that the spiritual gifts listed in the Bible (and the gifts mentioned in the Wesley Spiritual Gifts Inventory) are not exhaustive, but only representative of the gifts that God's bestows. If you think you have discovered a spiritual gift for yourself not listed in the Bible or on the Inventory, test that gift with other Christians and seek feedback.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

Go through the list of 120 statements in the Inventory below. For each statement, say to yourself: "In my life I have satisfactorily experienced..." and then enter the points (1, 2, or 3 pts) under the appropriate box (much, some, little, or none).

If you are over thirty or have been a Christian ten years or more, then you should only deal with *what you have already experienced*.

If you are under thirty or have been a Christian less than ten years, you may want to do this exam based on *your interests*. Be fair in evaluating your interests do you really feel that way or do you just think you should? If you base your answer on interests, you will need to go out and test the results.

¹ The attached inventory is the "Wesley Spiritual Gifts Inventory" published by Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth P.O. Box 91990, Pasadena, California 91109-1990.

“In my life I have satisfactorily experience...”	Much (3 pts)	Some (2 pts)	Little (1 pt)	None (0 pts)
1. Proclaiming the truth of God in an inspired and enthusiastic manner.				
2. Having responsibility for the growth of a group of Christians.				
3. Adapting well in a different culture in order to evangelize.				
4. Leading other people to a decision for salvation through faith in Christ.				
5. Speaking words of encouragement to those who are troubled, discouraged, or not sure of themselves.				
6. Finding pleasure in the drawing and/or designing of various objects.				
7. Applying truth effectively in my life.				
8. Being able to help other people learn biblical facts and details, which aid in the building up of their lives.				
9. Seeing the difference between truth and error.				
10. Having the ability to discover new truths for myself.				
11. Knowing that the repair and maintenance of things in my environment comes easily to me.				
12. Managing money well in order to give liberally to the work of the Lord.				
13. Assisting key leaders to relieve them for their essential jobs.				
14. Providing food and/or lodging graciously and willingly to people who are in need.				
15. Joyfully singing praises to God either alone or with other people.				
16. Praying for other people and often losing track of the time.				
17. Persuading other people to accomplish present goals and objectives.				
18. Working joyfully with and helping those people who are ignored by the majority of others around them.				
19. Believing God will keep His promises in spite of circumstances.				
20. Being able to discern when to delegate important responsibility, and to whom.				
21. Being able to effectively play a musical instrument.				
22. Enjoying the fact that I am called on to do special jobs.				
23. Being able to glorify God by miraculously changing circumstances through the name of the Lord.				
24. Being able, in the name of the Lord, to bring help to physical afflictions.				
25. Preaching the Word of God in a manner that brings conviction to the hearers.				
26. Sacrificially giving myself for infant or straying Christians.				
27. Learning another language well to help start a church.				
28. Sharing joyfully with other people how Jesus has brought me to Himself.				
29. Being an instrument for dislodging the careless and redirecting the wayward to face spiritual realities.				

“In my life I have satisfactorily experience...”	Much (3 pts)	Some (2 pts)	Little (1 pt)	None (0 pts)
30. Finding joy in painting pictures or in making handcrafted objects.				
31. Being able to intuitively reach good solutions to complicated problems.				
32. Enjoying the times I share my biblical/theological knowledge and the knowledge of others with children and/or adults.				
33. Judging well between the evil and the good.				
34. Knowing that the insights I possess and share with other people will bring change in attitude and conviction to my fellow Christians.				
35. Working with various manual projects and enjoying it.				
36. Giving my money and/or things generously to the work of the Lord.				
37. Helping in small ways that oftentimes seem to be behind the scenes.				
38. Enjoying having guests in my home.				
39. Leading others in singing songs of praise to God or for pure enjoyment.				
40. Finding myself praying when I could be doing other things.				
41. Leading Christian followers in a clear direction.				
42. Talking cheerfully with the elderly, the shut-in person, or those in jails or prisons.				
43. Having a conviction of the reality of an active God in the daily affairs of my local church or small group.				
44. Being able to organize ideas, people, things, and time for more effective ministry.				
45. Being involved in a church, school, or local musical instrumental presentation.				
46. Enjoying routine work at church that would seemingly bore other people.				
47. Being empowered by the Spirit to expel demons in the name of the Lord.				
48. Being able to bring healing to the emotionally sick.				
49. Communicating great truths of God in a gripping, compelling, clear fashion, clearly spoken from the Lord.				
50. Knowing and being well known to the same group of people over an extended period of time, and sharing with them in successes and failures.				
51. Being able to begin new churches with a different language and culture.				
52. Enjoying meeting other people and sharing with them the joy and peace which Jesus and His love have given me.				
53. Verbally challenging the spiritual apathetic.				
54. Finding joys in having a beautiful lawn, flowers, and shrubs, which are properly placed and cared for.				
55. Choosing from alternatives as option, which usually works.				
56. Making difficult biblical truths understandable to others.				

“In my life I have satisfactorily experience...”	Much (3 pts)	Some (2 pts)	Little (1 pt)	None (0 pts)
57. Having insights into the motives of people and being able to see beneath the surface.				
58. Acquiring and mastering new facts and principles, which can be applied to given situations to aid others in their growth and stability.				
59. Enjoying the work necessary for gardening, landscaping, and other projects.				
60. Cheerfully giving so that God’s work can be extended and helped.				
61. Typing, filing, or recording figures or minutes necessary in the work of the Lord.				
62. Having guests and/or visitors in my presence and making them feel welcome and a part of the things.				
63. Singing familiar Gospel songs with groups of fellow Christians or as solos.				
64. Taking prayer requests very seriously and praying until the answer comes.				
65. Having others follow me and the example I set because I have knowledge, which contributes to the building of my church or small group.				
66. Visiting in hospitals and/or retirement homes and knowing that my presence has helped in comforting and cheering those people with whom I have come in contact.				
67. Trusting in the presence and power of God for the impossible.				
68. Planning and administering programs, which benefit my fellow Christians.				
69. Using my instrumental music talents for the appreciation of my friends and to the glory of God.				
70. Feeling satisfaction in doing menial unskilled tasks for the glory of God.				
71. Seeing God intervene and doing the impossible in my life.				
72. Being used by God to treat successfully those who are spiritually sick.				
73. Preaching effectively so as to help people reach a verdict and respond to God.				
74. Feeding followers by guiding them to selected portions of the Bible.				
75. Being able to relate well to Christians of a different race, language, or culture.				
76. Seeking out unbelievers in a continual manner in order to win them for Jesus.				
77. Being able to effectively counsel those people who are perplexed or confused, guilty or addicted.				
78. Enjoying the times that I am able to create beautiful items especially when they benefit others.				
79. Having my nominations of certain people for church positions prove to be good selections.				
80. Training Christians to be obedient disciples of Christ.				
81. Being able to identify ideas, plans, or activities that are not true to the Christian faith.				
82. Reading and studying a great deal in order to build myself up in the				

“In my life I have satisfactorily experience...”	Much (3 pts)	Some (2 pts)	Little (1 pt)	None (0 pts)
understanding of biblical and theological truths.				
83. Finding out that my skills in building or repairing objects benefit others.				
84. Feeling deeply moved when confronted with urgent financial needs in the work of God’s kingdom.				
85. Being happy when others get credit for what I do.				
86. Opening my home to visiting preachers and/or missionaries and sharing with them what I have.				
87. Finding much joy and pleasure in the seemingly simple routine of singing hymns and other Gospel selections.				
88. Feeling when I am asked to pray for others that my prayers will have tangible results.				
89. Being able to lead small or large groups of people in decision-making processes.				
90. Helping other people without expecting them to do anything in return.				
91. Being confident that God will bring victory into difficult situations even when others are discouraged.				
92. Being able to set goals and objectives and then to make plans to reach or accomplish them.				
93. Finding that my ability to perform instrumental music has helped others grow as Christians.				
94. Being ready to take orders rather than given them.				
95. Being an instrument of God’s supernatural change in lives or events.				
96. Praying for others that healing might happen.				
97. Bringing messages that cut to the heart.				
98. Bringing back into the fold of God those who have wandered away.				
99. Having the ability to learn foreign languages.				
100. Continually going where unbelievers are in order to win them.				
101. Comforting a Christian in his/her affliction or suffering.				
102. Receiving much joy from working with my hands at various arts and crafts.				
103. Having an unusual sense of the presence of God and personal confidence when important decisions needed to be made.				
104. Sharing my knowledge of the love of Christ with children and/or adults in an effective and meaningful manner.				
105. Seeing through a phony before his/her phoniness is clearly evident.				
106. Distinguishing important biblical and theological truths that benefit myself and others as members of the body of Christ.				
107. Enjoying maintenance and repair work around the church or for other Christians.				

“In my life I have satisfactorily experience...”	Much (3 pts)	Some (2 pts)	Little (1 pt)	None (0 pts)
108. Being ready to forego certain privileges in order to give money to Gods’ work.				
109. Finding joy in being an aide to someone who can sue my help and concern.				
110. Inviting visitors and guests (strangers) home to dinner to share God’s love.				
111. Singing as one of my favorite spiritual exercises.				
112. Praying as one of my favorite spiritual exercises.				
113. Being able to motivate people to become involved it building up of Christians.				
114. Comforting a fellow Christian during sickness or times of problems and/or anxiety.				
115. Trusting in the reliability of God when all else looks dim.				
116. Knowing where to place Christians so they can exercise their spiritual gifts.				
117. Playing a musical instrument as a helpful spiritual exercise for myself.				
118. Enjoying it when others express a need for my help.				
119. Having God work though my life and often doing impossible things.				
120. Seeing God heal someone in direct answer to my prayers.				

Tallying the points

1. First, enter the value (1, 2, or 3 pts) for each question you answered. Then, add up each row and enter to the total value.

Rows	Value of Answers (1, 2, or 3 pts)					Total	Gift
Row A	1	25	49	73	97		Prophecy
Row B	2	26	50	74	98		Pastor
Row C	3	27	51	75	99		Missionary
Row D	4	28	52	76	100		Evangelism
Row E	5	29	53	77	101		Exhortation
Row F	6	30	54	78	102		Craftsmanship/Artistic
Row G	7	31	55	79	103		Wisdom
Row H	8	32	56	80	104		Teaching
Row I	9	33	57	81	105		Discernment of Spirits
Row J	10	34	58	82	106		Knowledge
Row K	11	35	59	83	107		Craftsmanship/Manual
Row L	12	36	60	84	108		Giving

Rows	Value of Answers (1, 2, or 3 pts)					Total	Gift
Row M	13	37	61	85	109		Helps
Row N	14	38	62	86	110		Hospitality
Row O	15	39	63	87	111		Music/Vocal
Row P	16	40	64	88	112		Prayer
Row Q	17	41	65	89	113		Leadership
Row R	18	42	66	90	114		Mercy
Row S	19	43	67	91	115		Faith
Row T	20	44	68	92	116		Administration
Row U	21	45	69	93	117		Music/Instrumental
Row V	22	46	70	94	118		Service
Row W	23	47	71	95	119		Miracles
Row X	24	48	72	96	120		Healing

2. Next, circle the three highest scores and write down the gifts in the space below.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Discuss these gifts with Christians who know you well. Do they see these gifts operating in your life? If so, how could you strengthen your gift? How could you use them in the church and in the world to glorify God?