

Message Reflections

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Reflections accompany the [weekly message](#).

Every follower of Jesus has been given at least one (probably more) special gift from the Holy Spirit. The highest purpose of these gifts is to bring God glory. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit has given you gifts!

If you do not know what your spiritual gifts are, I have good news for you! White River Christian Church provides a free assessment tool to help you identify your gifts. It is called the [MyFit Assessment](#). I took the MyFit Assessment today. Have you taken the assessment yet? Do you know the special gifts the Holy Spirit has given you? After I took the assessment, I received these results in my email:

- Discernment 100%
- Knowledge 96%
- Teaching 96%
- Encouragement 96%

So, these are my gifts of the Holy Spirit? Now what?

Discernment, teaching, and encouragement were not a surprise to me. I have known for some time now that the Holy Spirit works in my life through these gifts. And when He does, it is AMAZING. There is nothing greater in life under the sun than knowing God, and knowing He is for me, and He is working through me for my good, for the good of His Church, and most of all for His glory.

Wow! I never saw it before, but it's true! I am excited about the knowledge of God. My favorite book is *The Knowledge of the Holy* by Tozer. I desire to know God and to make Him known. There are times when I write to make God known, and I will begin to weep as the Holy Spirit moves. What a beautiful gift! Makes sense ... my life verse is: "I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death." (Philippians 3:10)

Right now, as I write, I want to teach anyone who reads this Message Reflection just how incredible, how life-changing it is to know God, to know His Son Jesus, and to know the power of the Holy Spirit as He moves in your life. Do you know Jesus? What are you waiting for? Today is your day of salvation. Believe and receive God's gift of love, Jesus, into your life now.

But I will leave the teaching of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to our gifted and talented teachers at WRCC. Right now, I am going to lean into my gift of encouragement. As I write this, I am learning more about myself and the gifts the Holy Spirit has given me. I encourage you to do the same. If you have not taken the [MyFit Assessment](#), what are you waiting for? Do it now. When you get the results, before you do anything, pause and pray, "Holy Spirit, please teach me about the gifts You have given me. Please teach me how to step into these gifts to join with You to bring glory to God." For Jesus said, "The Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." (John 14:26)

I have been a follower of Jesus for 42 years, and I have reasonable confidence in the knowledge of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Still, I often pray, "Holy Spirit, teach me." But I wasn't always confident. When I was young in the Lord, I didn't understand the gifts the Holy Spirit gave me. I often discerned things that confused me. I tried many times to teach, but I didn't see people respond, and I became discouraged, and I stopped teaching. And, in my human body, the gift of encouragement often leaves me completely drained and exhausted. In my journey with Christ, I have learned many lessons about putting the gifts of the Holy Spirit into practice, lessons I wish I had known earlier in the journey. If I could go back in time and talk to my younger self, here are a few lessons I would share with myself, lessons I share with you:

- Don't be afraid to use the tools and the resources the church has given you.
- Don't try to be perfect; you won't be.
- God gives you grace; give grace to yourself.
- Don't expect others to be perfect; they won't be.
- God gives you grace; give grace to others.
- Jesus went all in for you; go all in for Him.
- Keep learning and keep growing.
- Always have a thankful and available heart.
- Serve! Be intentional to engage in the opportunities the local church has for you.

- Be intentional to engage in everyday opportunities to practice your gifts of the Holy Spirit. These opportunities are just a few of the good works the Lord has prepared in advance for you.
 - When you step into the good works God has prepared for you, the enemy will fight. He will seek to disrupt God's good plan to use His gifts through you.
 - When the Holy Spirit is working through you and the enemy is fighting, you can be sure you are in the center of God's plan and purpose for your life, and that is a very good place to be!
 - Always, always, always keep your focus on the giver of the gifts.
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- Have you taken the [MyFit Assessment](#)?
 - What were your top 3 or 4 gifts the assessment identified?
 - Take some time this week to ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about your Spiritual Gifts.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to give you His power to take one step forward this week to step into the gifts He has given you.
 - When you think about how the Lord works in and through you, what do you get excited about? What makes you weep? What do you want to tell others about? What brings joy to your soul?