

*Welcome to*  
**DISCOVERING MY MINISTRY**  
*C.L.A.S.S. #301*

This class is the third of Lakeview's four basic classes. Since these classes build on each other it is required that you first attend *Discovering My Membership #101* and *Discovering Spiritual Maturity #201* before taking this class. We are convinced that you must first be committed to membership in a church family and committed to the habits for spiritual maturity before you are ready for ministry. **Membership and Maturity are the foundation for Ministry.**

**The Purpose For This Class:**

*"(God) has given... pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up."*

Eph. 4:11-12

**The Bible says:**

- **The Pastors are the administrators.**
- **The People are the ministers.**

**The Principle undergirding this class:**

**My ministry is determined by my makeup.**

What God made me to *BE* determines what He intends for me to *DO*. I will understand the **purpose I** was created for when **I** understand the kind of **person I** am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

God is consistent in his plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! By reviewing and studying these factors, we can discover the ministry God has for us.... the *unique* way God intends for us to serve him.

The two results of discovering the ministry I've been shaped for are:  
*fruitfulness and fulfillment*

## The Focus of this Class

At Lakeview, we focus on an **individual** approach to ministry rather than an **institutional** approach.

We will focus on **Five Personal Factors** that have combined to shape the “real” you. By identifying the specific traits you possess in each of these areas, the ministry God has designed you for will become crystal clear!

## Class Outline

### Session One: Made For Ministry

- What the Bible Says About Ministry
- How Has God Shaped Me?
- The Process For Discovering My Ministry
- Identifying My Unique S.H.A.P.E.

### Session Two: Serving Through Lakeview

- Lakeview’s Vision For Ministry
- Previewing the Opportunities (Ministry Menu)
- Developing a Heart to Serve
- Where Do I Go From Here?

### Three Phases To Completing This Class

1. Attend CLASS 301
2. Complete your S.H.A.P.E. Personal Profile

Meet with a Ministry Guide

## The Goals of This Class:

1. That I will *discover* my unique design (S.H.A.P.E.) for ministry and commit to *developing* and my God given gifts and abilities in serving God and others through my church family.
2. That I will *select* and begin *serving* in the ministry of my church best *expresses* what God made me to be.

- My Primary Ministry

- My Secondary Ministry

## What the Bible Says About the Ministry

### What is Ministry?

**DEFINITION:** (Greek “*diakonos*” = “*to serve*”)

“Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve him and the needs of others”

### We Minister in 3 Directions

- **To the Lord (worship)** (Acts 13:2)
- **To other believers** (Heb. 6:10)
- **To un-believers** (Matt. 5:13)

### We Minister to 3 Areas of Need

- **To people's *physical* needs.**

*“(God says) I was hungry and you fed me .... thirsty and you gave me a drink... needed clothes and you clothed me... sick and you cared for me... in prison and you visited me... Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me.”*

Matt. 25:35-36,40

*“If, as my representative, you gave even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded.”*

Matt. 10:42 (LB)

- **To people's *emotional* needs.**

*“... Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all”*  
1 Thess. 5:14 (GN)

- **To people's *spiritual* needs.**

*“...God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

2 Col. 5:18

*“We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”*

Col. 1:28, 29

## **The Purpose of Ministry**

“There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”

God wants to use me to: *build up His body.*

## **The Priority of Ministry**

(Why should I be interested?)

### **1. I've been *created* for ministry!**

*“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

### **2. I've been *saved* for ministry!**

*“It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began...”*

2 Tim. 1:9 (LB)

“Saved to Serve?”

### **3. I've been *called* for ministry!**

*“God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve him.”*

Gal. 1:15 (GN)

*“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”*

Eph. 4:1

*“... You have been chosen by God himself - you are priests of the King...you are God’s very own - all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing; now you are God’s own!”*

1 Peter 2:9-10 (LB)

*“...you will serve as holy priests...”*

1 Peter 2:5 (GN)

I am not who I think I am  
I am not who you think I am  
But I really am who God says I am!  
A Life Changing Truth - My Primary Identity:

I am a *minister* of Jesus Christ!

**4. I've been *equipped* for ministry!**

*"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessing."*

1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

**5. I've been *gifted* for ministry!**

*"(Jesus said) All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples..."*

Matt. 28:18-19

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..."*

2 Cor. 5:20

**6. I've been *commanded* for ministry!**

*"(Jesus) Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve..."*

Mt. 20:28 (LB)

*"(To Archippus) Take heed to the ministry you've received from the Lord and fulfill it."*

Col. 4:17 (KJV)

**7. I've been *prepared* for ministry!**

*"God gave...pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up..."*

Eph. 4:11-12

**8. The Body of Christ *needs* my ministry!**

*"All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it."*

I Cor. 12:27 (LB)

Ministry always functions in the context of the *church family*.

*“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, ‘The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send our workers into his harvest field.’”*

Matt. 9:36-37

## **9. I am accountable for ministry!**

*“So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”*

Romans 14:12

The Parable of the Talents: Matt. 25:14-30

## **10. I've been rewarded for ministry!**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”*

Col 3:23, 24

*“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share our Master's happiness!”*

Matt. 25:23

## **The Procedure: How to Discover My Ministry**

(Romans 12:1-8)

### **STEP 1: Dedicate *my body*.**

*“I urge you...to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship.” (vs. 1)*

### **STEP 2: Eliminate *competing distractions*.**

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (vs. 2)*

### **STEP 3: Evaluate *my strengths*.**

*“Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you.” (vs. 3 Ph)*

### **STEP 4: Cooperate *with other believers*.**

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (vs. 4-5)*

**Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:**

(See also I Cor. 12:1-31)

- Every member is a minister in Christ's body.
- Every member has a different function.
- Every member's ministry is important.
- Every member belongs to the others.

*“Each of us is apart of the one Body of Christ... The eye can never say to the hand, ‘I don't need you.’ The head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don't need you.’ And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary!... So God put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important.”*

I Cor. 12:13,21-22, 24b (LB)

**STEP 5: Activate *my gifts*.**

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us...prophesy.. serving... teaching... encouraging... contributing... leadership...showing mercy...”*

Romans 12:6-8

*Discovering How  
God Has  
Shaped Me  
For Ministry*





## How Has God Shaped Me?

*“Your hands **formed** and **shaped** me...”*

Job 10:8a (GN)

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping even before you were born!

*“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous ... You were there while I was being formed ... You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.”*

Psalm 139:14-16 (LB)

1. **I was shaped for a purpose.**
2. **I am unique !**
3. **I am wonderfully complex!**

*“What right do you have, a human being, to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: Why did you make me this shape? A potter can do what he likes with the clay!”*

Rom. 9:20-21

In Ministry...Function follows Form!

### Ministry is Determined by Several Factors

*“There are different kinds of **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** but the same Spirit gives them. There are different **WAYS OF SERVING**, but the same Lord is served. There are different **ABILITIES** to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown **IN SOME WAY** in each one, for the good of all.”*

1 Cor. 12:4-7 (GN)

## My S.H.A.P.E. Will Determine My Ministry

## Spiritual Gifts

*"...Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."*

1 Cor. 7:7b

**What Am I Gifted To Do?**

## Heart

*"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose..."*

Rev. 17:17

*"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!"*

Phil. 2:13 (NEB)

**What Do I Love To Do?**

## Abilities

*"There are different abilities to perform service..."*

1 Cor. 12:6

*"I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..."*

Exodus 31:3

*"...our competence comes from God."*

2 Cor. 3:5b

**What Natural Skills and Abilities Do I Have?**

## Personality

*"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself"*

I Cor. 2:11 (LB)

**Where Does My Personality Best Suit Me To Serve?**

## Experiences

- **What *spiritual* experiences have I had?**

*“There has been enough time for you to be teachers- BUT you still need to be taught.. (you are) without any **experience** in the matter of right and wrong.”*

Heb. 5:12-13

- **What *painful* experiences have I had?**

*“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”*

Prov. 20:30 (GN)

*“God helps us in our troubles, **so we are able to help others** who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.”*

2 Cor. 1:4 (GN)

- **What *educational* experiences have I had?**

*“Always remember what you have learned. Your **education** is your life - guard it well!”*

Prov. 4:13 (GN)

- **What *ministry* experiences have I had?**

*“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel...”*

2 Cor. 9:13

**Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your *gifts* and *abilities* in the area of *heart's desire* in a way that best expresses you *personality* and *experience*!**

<b><i>Success is doing what God made me to do!</i></b>
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## How Paul's Ministry Was "SHAPED"

### Paul's **S**piritual Gifts

*"And of this gospel I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher."*

2 Tim. 1:11

### Paul's **H**earth

*"My constant ambition has been to preach the gospel where the name of Christ was previously unknown, and to avoid building on another man's foundation."*

Rom. 15:20 (Ph)

*"For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles."*

Gal. 2:8

*"Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus..."*

Acts 20:24 (LB)

### Paul's **A**bility

*"...Paul went to see them, and stayed and worked with them, because **he earned his living by making tents**, just as they did. He debated in the synagogues every Sabbath, trying to convince both Jews and Gentiles."*

Acts 18:2b-4 (GN)

### Paul's **P**ersonality

*"For you have heard of my past... I persecuted the church with fanatical zeal... and did my best to destroy it... I was ahead of most of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion, and had a boundless enthusiasm..."*

Gal. 1:13-14 (Ph)

### Paul's **E**xperiences

#### His Spiritual Experiences

- Watching Stephen be stoned (Acts 8:1)
- Conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-20)

- 3 years maturing in Arabia (Gal. 1:18)
- Special vision from God (2 Cor. 12:2-7)

### **His Painful Experiences**

*“...I have been in prison more times... near death often ...been whipped five times with 39 lashes by the Jews and three times by the Romans... once stoned... I've been in three shipwrecks... and once spent 24 hours in the water... In my travels I've been in danger from floods... robbers... enemies... wild animals and false friends... I've served long hours without sleep or food or shelter or even clothing...”*

2 Cor. 11:23-27

*“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these great revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me.”*

2 Cor. 12: 7

### **Paul's Educational Experiences**

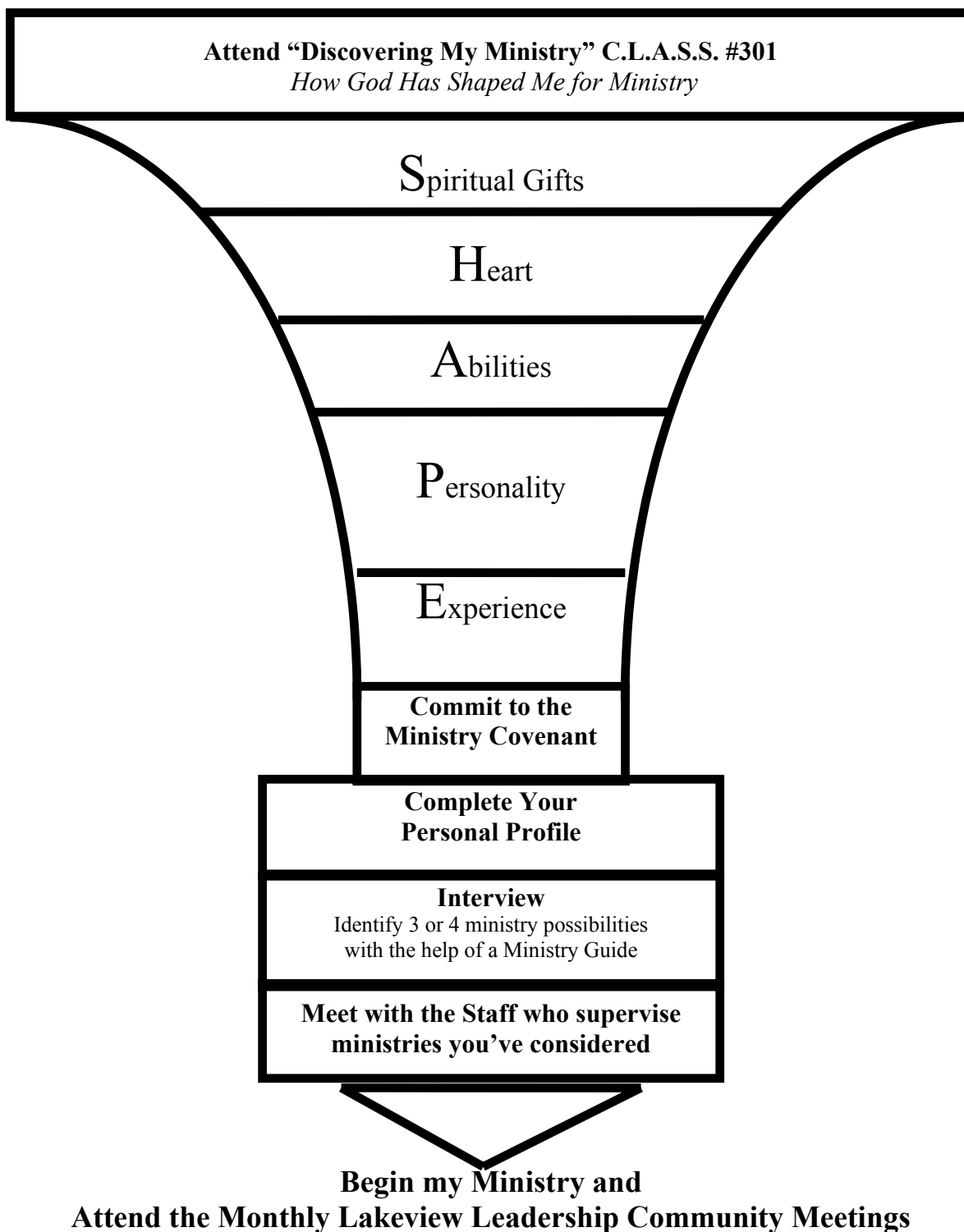
*“I received my training at the feet of Gamaliel, and I was schooled in the strictest observance of our fathers' Law.”*

Acts 22:3 (Ph)

### **Paul's Ministry Experiences**

Read the Book of Acts!

## Lakeview Ministry Discovery Process



## Identifying My Unique S.H.A.P.E.

We've prepared and adapted several tools to help you discover and think through the five factors that make up who you are. You will complete these on your own (homework) before you meet with a Ministry Guide.

- ***“Unwrapping your gift”*** will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.
- ***“Monitoring your heartbeat”*** will help you clarify what you really love to do.
- ***“Applying your abilities”*** will help you appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have.
- ***“Plugging In your personality”*** will help you see how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry.
- ***“Examining your experiences”*** will help you review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill.

### Remember:

1. Have fun! These are not “tests”! There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose is to show how you are a unique blend!
2. Each one is self-evaluating. No one is “rating” you on this. We're interested in your feelings, not others. However it may be helpful to ask for additional input from those closest to you after you've filled in your own responses.
3. The value of each of these tools will vary depending on your age, how long you've been a Christian, your background, your honesty, and how much time and serious thinking you're willing to invest in them!
4. **As You complete each tool, transfer your results to the form called *“My Ministry Profile”*. You will bring this profile with you to your interview with a ministry guide.**

## What The Bible Says About Spiritual Gifts

### A Condensed Overview

*“Now about **spiritual gifts** I do not want you to be ignorant.”*

1 Cor. 12:1

**A Spiritual Gift:** It is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.

### 10 Truths

1. **Only *believers* have spiritual gifts.** 1 Cor. 2:14
2. **Every Christian has at least *one* gift.** 1 Cor. 7:7
3. **No one receives *all* the gifts.** 1 Cor. 12:27-30
4. **No single gift is given to *everyone* .** 1 Cor. 12:29-30
5. **You can't *earn or work for* a spiritual gift.** Eph. 4:7
6. **The *Holy Spirit* decides what gifts I get.** 1 Cor. 12:11
7. **The gifts I'm given are *permanent*.** Rom. 11:29
8. **I am to *develop* the gifts God gives me.** I Tim. 4:14
9. **It's a sin to *waste* the gifts God gave me.** 1 Cor. 4:1-2;  
Mt. 25:14-30
10. **Using my gifts *glorifies* God and *grows* me.** John 15:8

### The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

**A. Not for my benefit, but *for others*.**

*"Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others, the spiritual gift he has received from God."*

1 Peter 4:10 (GN)

*"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church."*

1 Cor. 12:7 (LB)

**B. To produce *maturity and stability* in our church family.**

*"It was He who 'gave gifts to men'... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..."*

Eph. 4:11,13-14 (GN)



### ***Cautions About Spiritual Gifts***

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal.5:22-23
  - "Fruit" shows my Maturity.
  - "Gifts" show my Ministry.
3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
4. Be aware of the "gift projection" tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results)
5. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. 1 Cor. 12:21
6. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless!

*"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains - but if I have not love, I am nothing....it does no good."*

Cor. 13:1-3 (GN)

7. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church:  
My *primary ministry* commitment should be in the area where I am *gifted*.  
My *secondary ministry* includes serving in any other area of the Body when I am *needed*. Titus 3:14

### **How To Discover Your Gift** *Get Started!*

**S**tudy

See suggested book list or take Networking, Lakeview's Spiritual Gifting Seminar

**T**rial and Error

Experiment with different areas of service

## A<sub>analyse</sub>

Use the "Unwrapping My Gift" Tool, take Spiritual Gifting Seminar

## R<sub>request responses from others</sub>

Ask others what gifts they see in me.

## T<sub>ake Training</sub>

Take advantage of Lakeview's Leadership Community

### **Three Ways God Wants You To Use Your Gifts**

1. Through an ongoing ministry
2. Through short-term projects
3. Through spontaneous situations

**It's easier to discover your gift through ministry than to discover your ministry through your gift.**

## **Unwrapping My Gifts**

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27-31, and Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes. So we've categorized this list of gifts according to Lakeview's Four Purposes.

As you read through this list check off your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have many gifts.

### **Gifts That Communicate God's Word** (to both unbelievers and believers)

**PREACHING (“Prophecy”)**

**1 Cor. 14:3**

The ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**EVANGELISM**

**Acts 8:26-40**

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**MISSIONS**

**1 Cor. 9:19-23, Acts 13:2-3**

The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**APOSTLE**

**Rom. 15:20**

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**Gifts That Educate God's People**

**TEACHING**

**Eph. 4:12-13**

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**ENCOURAGEMENT (“Exhortation”) Acts 14:22**

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**WISDOM 1 Cor. 2:1,6-16**

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.

**DISCERNMENT 1 John 4:1-6**

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

- ☐ I'm pretty sure I have this gift.
- ☐ I may have this gift.
- ☐ I don't think I have this one.