

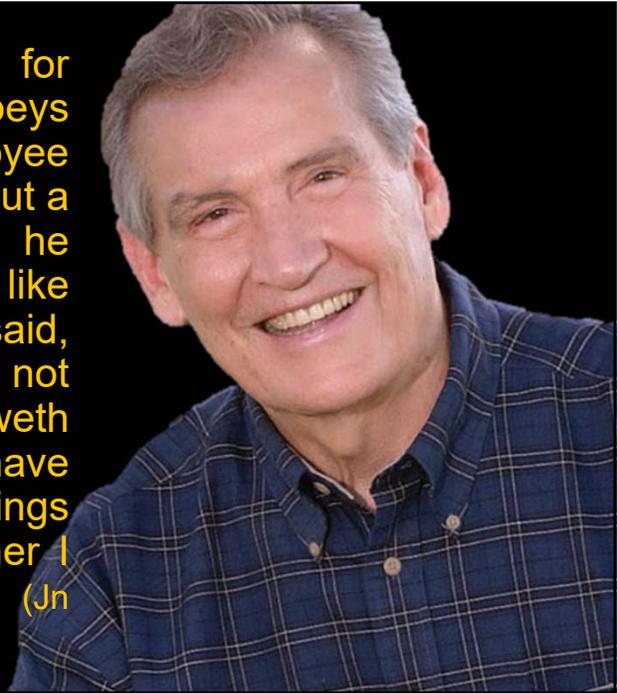
You are SHAPED for ministry



Part 3: Spiritual Gifts
“Discovering my gift(s)”

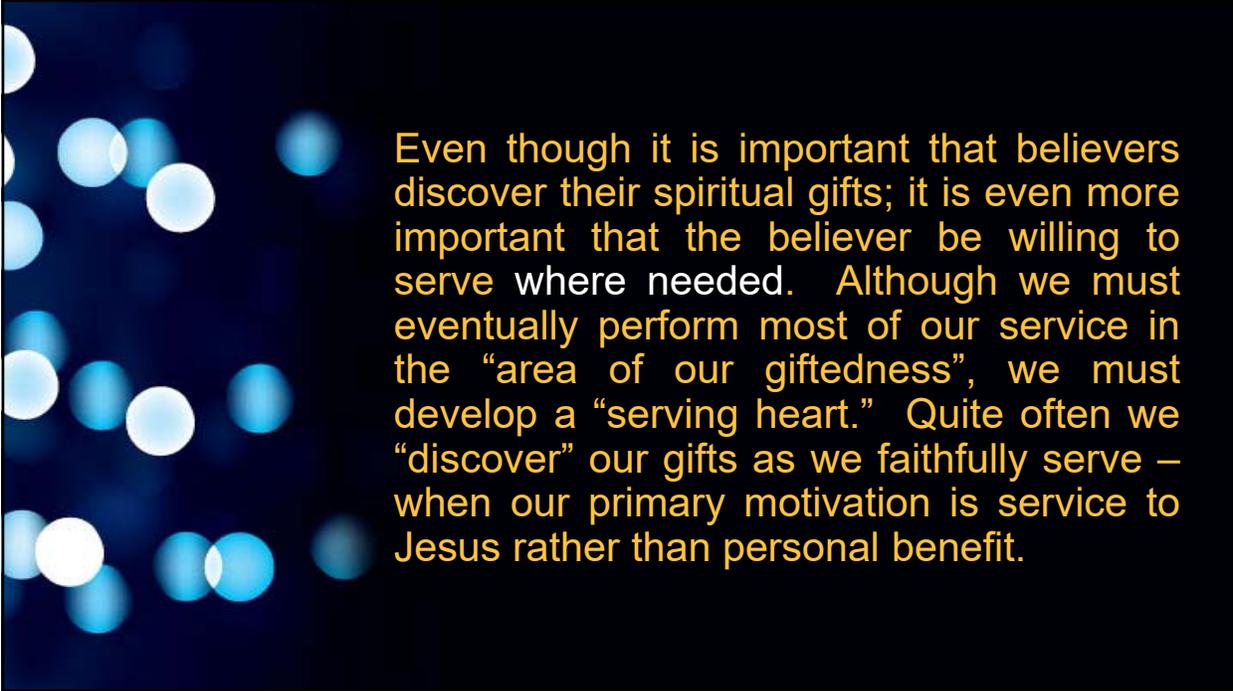


“There are three reasons for obedience. A slave obeys because he has to. An employee obeys because he needs to. But a loving son obeys because he wants to. So many of us live like slaves, when Jesus has said, “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you” (Jn 15:15).” Adrian Rogers

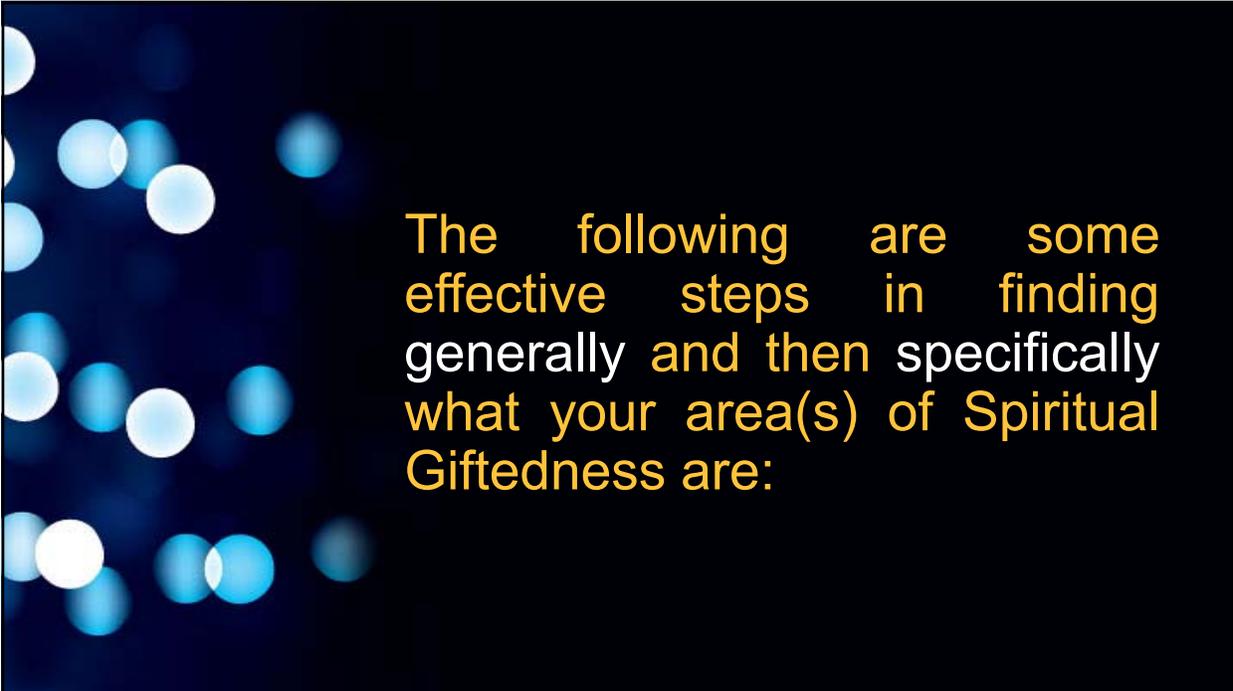


How do I discover my spiritual gift?

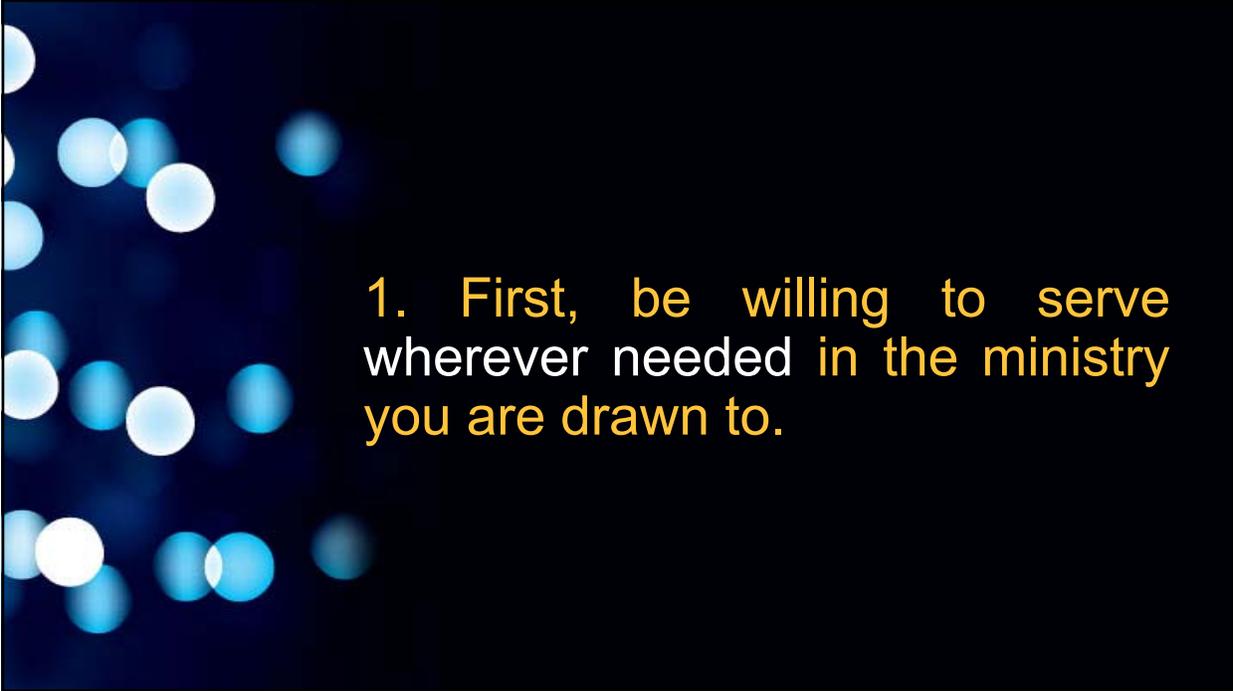
Most get hung up on knowing their *specific spiritual gift*. This generally takes time and assistance (often by trial and error) to finally find what God has specifically gifted us to do. Spiritual gifts are more easily discovered through serving than through searching.



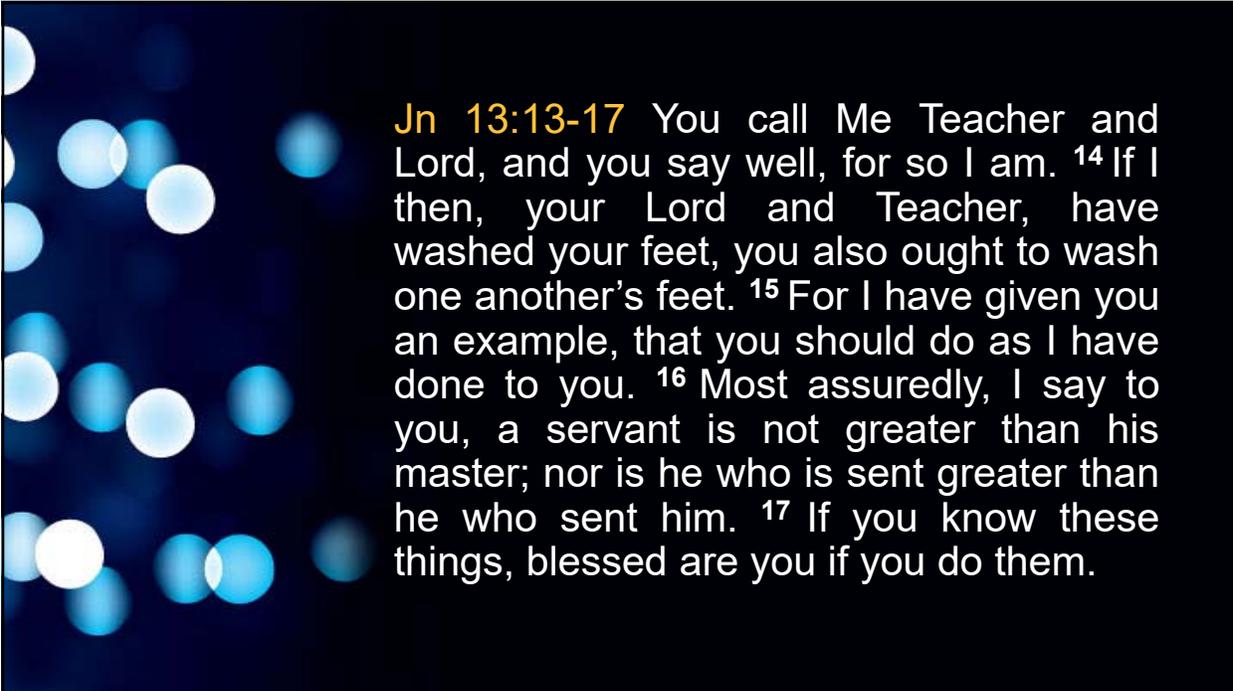
Even though it is important that believers discover their spiritual gifts; it is even more important that the believer be willing to serve where needed. Although we must eventually perform most of our service in the “area of our giftedness”, we must develop a “serving heart.” Quite often we “discover” our gifts as we faithfully serve – when our primary motivation is service to Jesus rather than personal benefit.



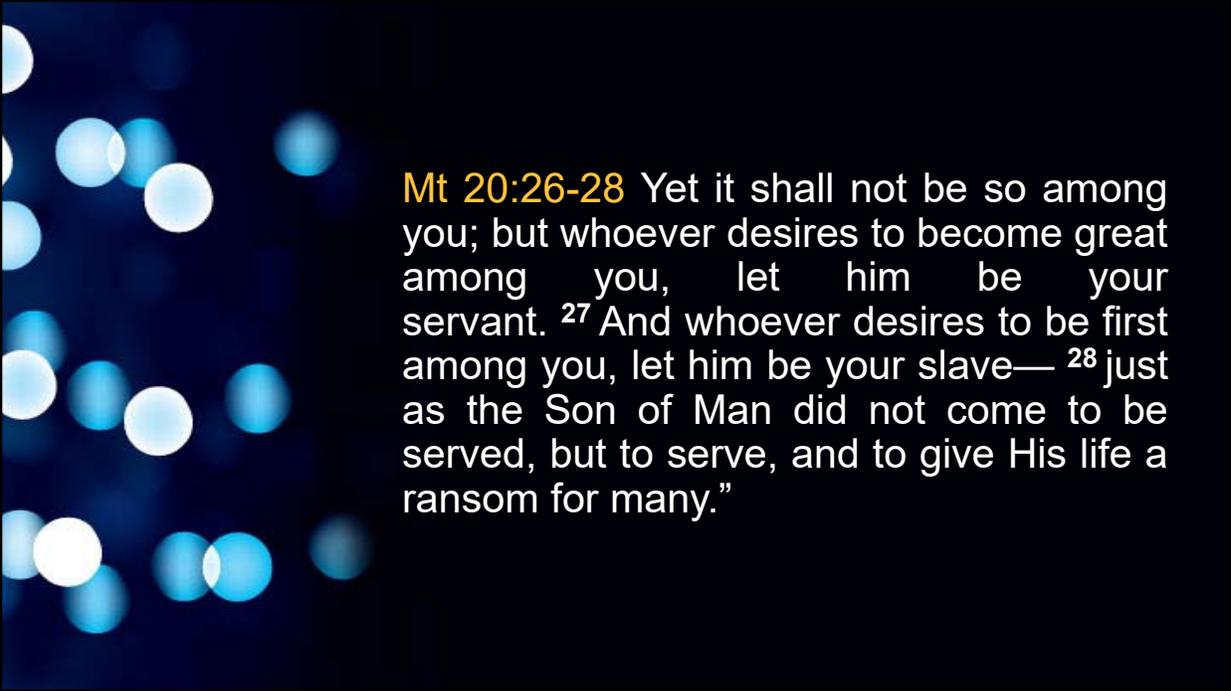
The following are some effective steps in finding generally and then specifically what your area(s) of Spiritual Giftedness are:



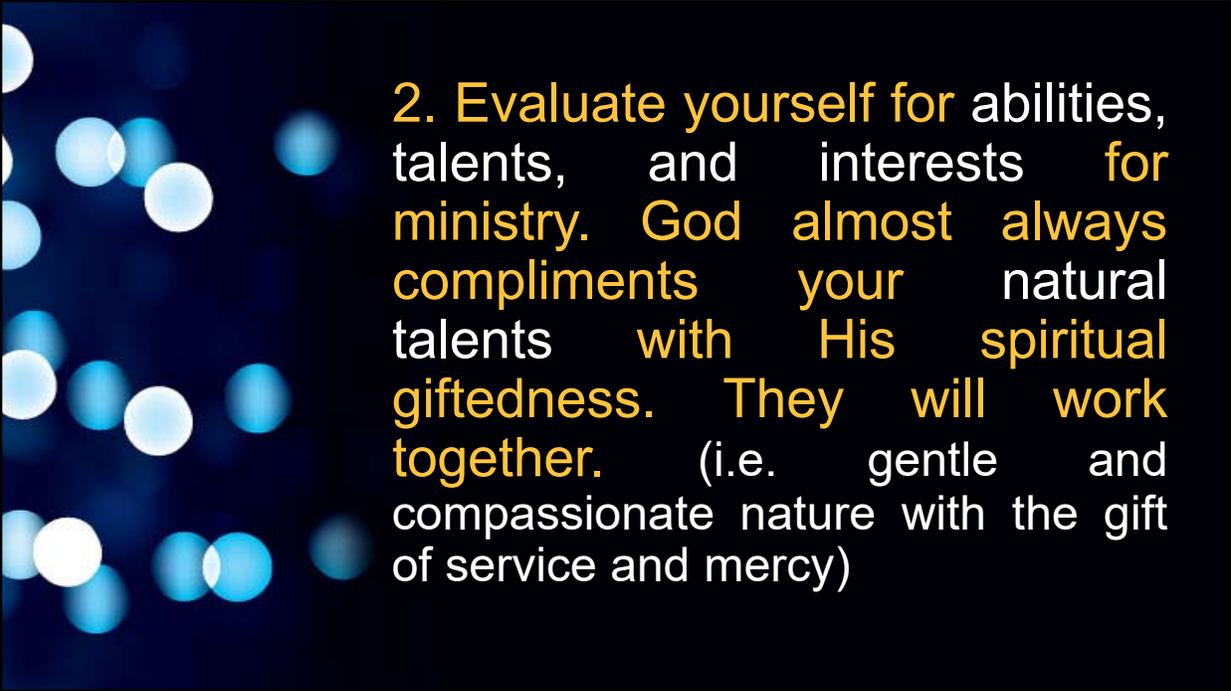
1. First, be willing to serve wherever needed in the ministry you are drawn to.



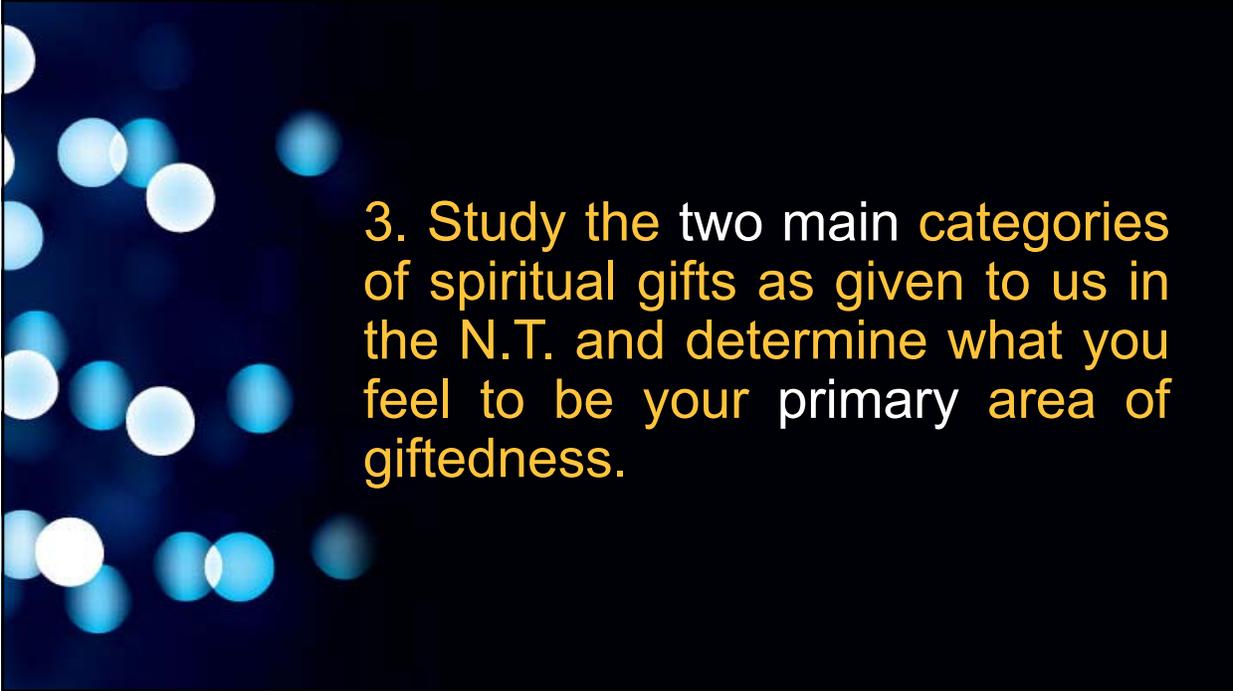
Jn 13:13-17 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.



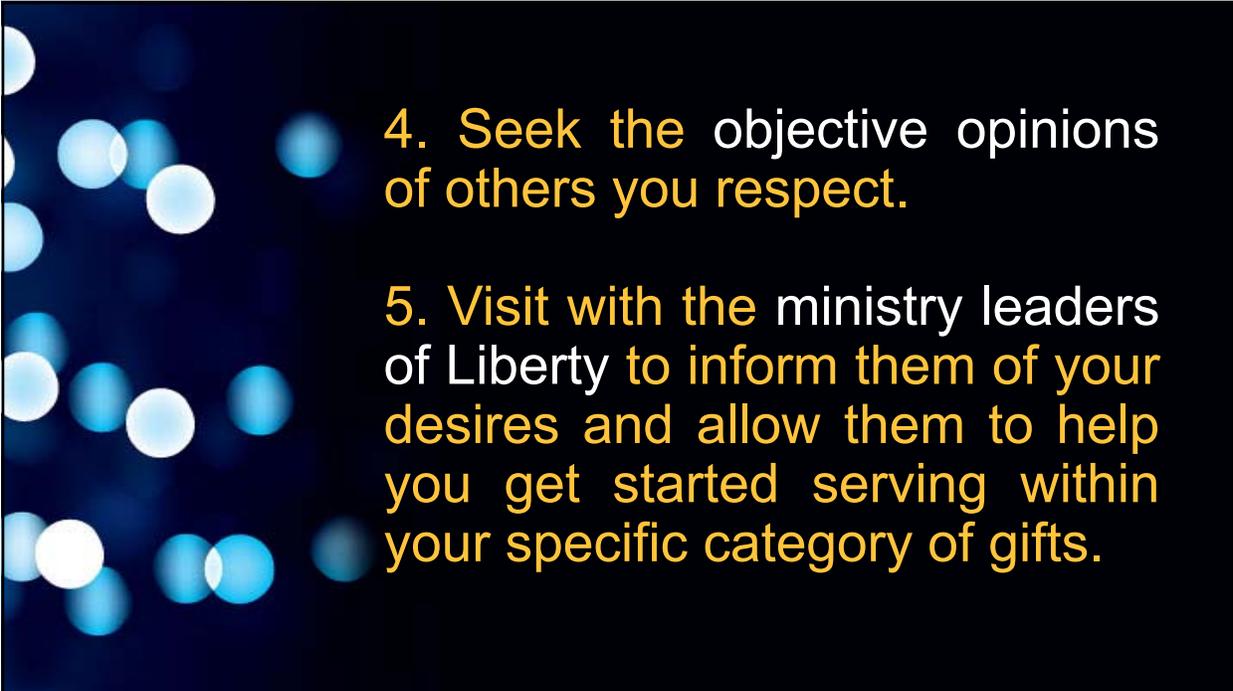
Mt 20:26-28 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”



2. Evaluate yourself for abilities, talents, and interests **for** ministry. **God almost always compliments your** natural talents **with His spiritual giftedness. They will work together.** (i.e. gentle and compassionate nature with the gift of service and mercy)



3. Study the two main categories of spiritual gifts as given to us in the N.T. and determine what you feel to be your primary area of giftedness.



4. Seek the objective opinions of others you respect.

5. Visit with the ministry leaders of Liberty to inform them of your desires and allow them to help you get started serving within your specific category of gifts.



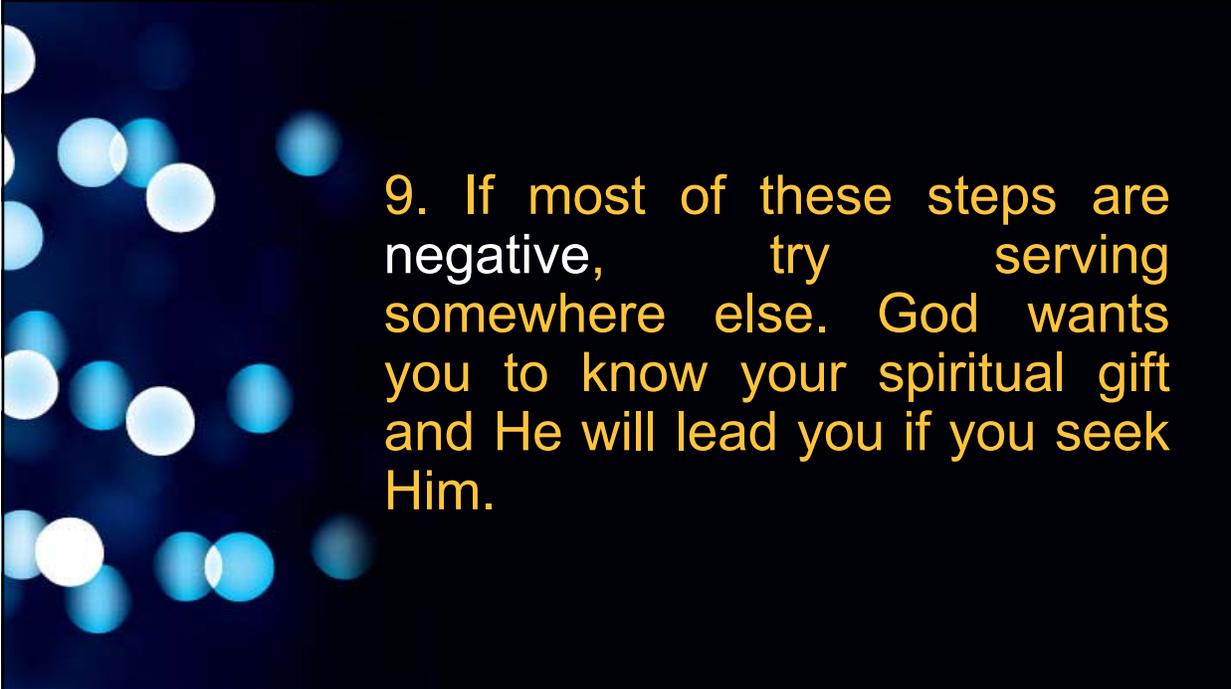
6. Serve in a variety of different places of ministry, using the trial and error method of finding your specific gift.

7. Seek to learn/apprentice/intern with someone who effectively uses the gifts believe you have and allow them to mentor you.

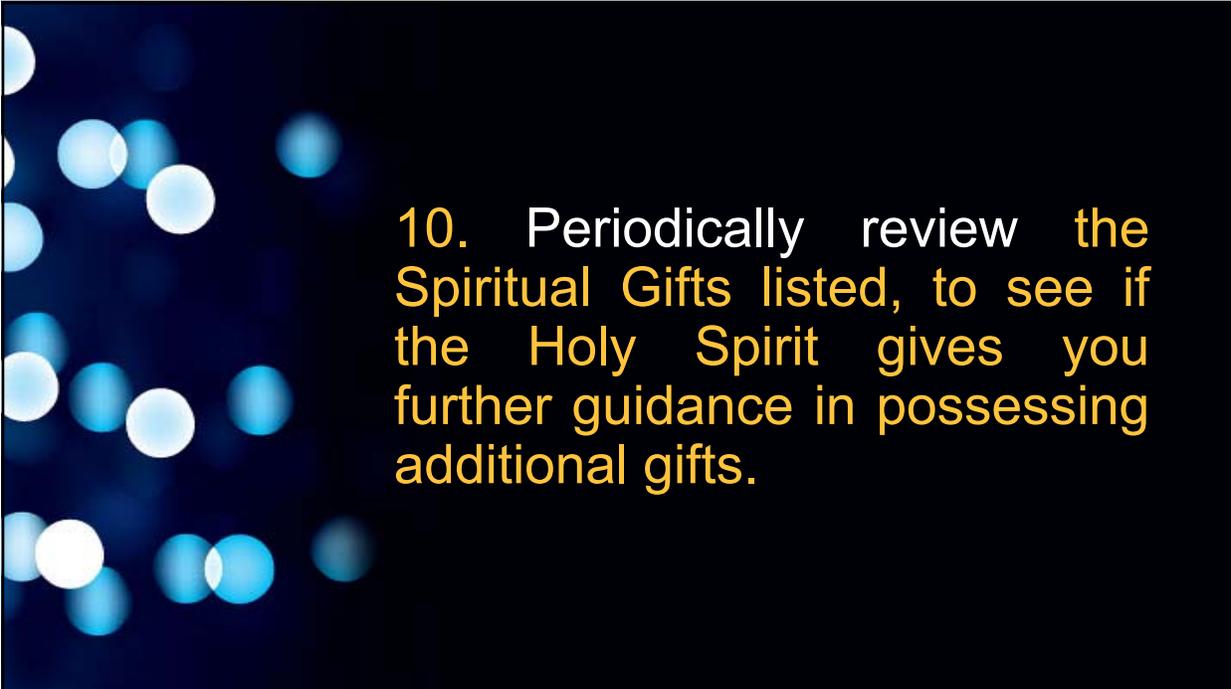


8. Look for outward signs that you have found your primary spiritual gift:

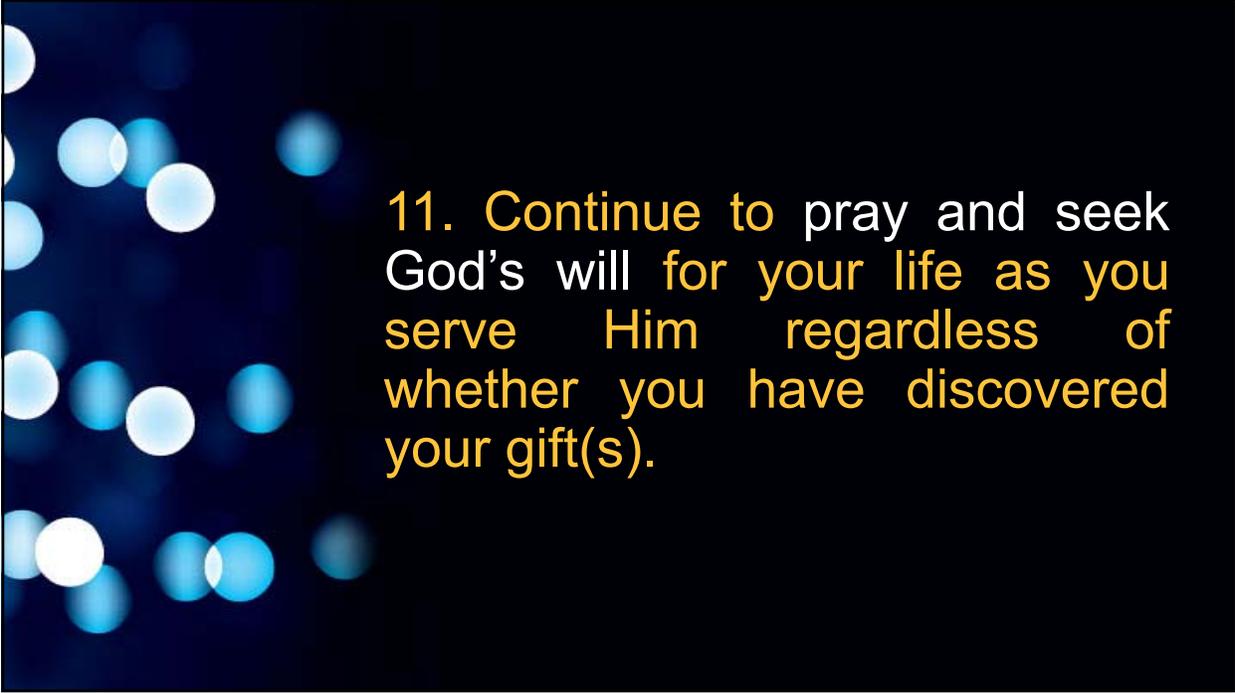
- You are **happy** serving in this area
- You are **energized** serving in this ministry
- You are **effective** serving in this ministry
- **Others recognize** that God is using you in this area of ministry



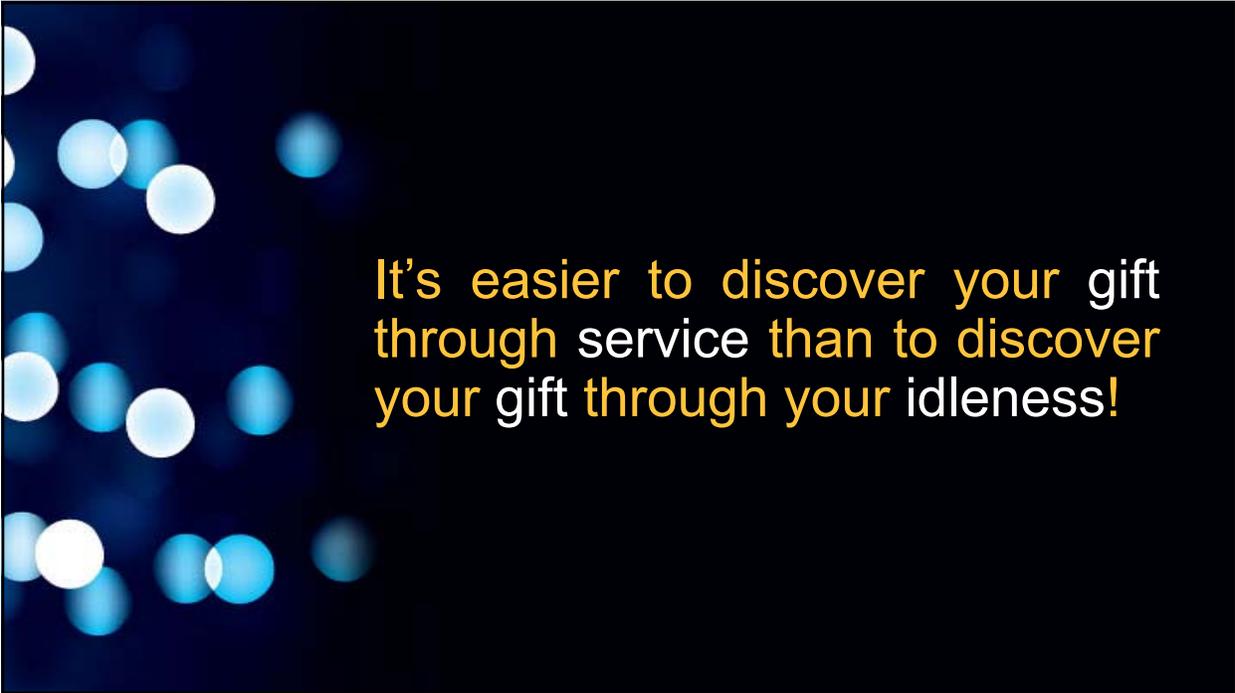
9. If most of these steps are negative, try serving somewhere else. God wants you to know your spiritual gift and He will lead you if you seek Him.



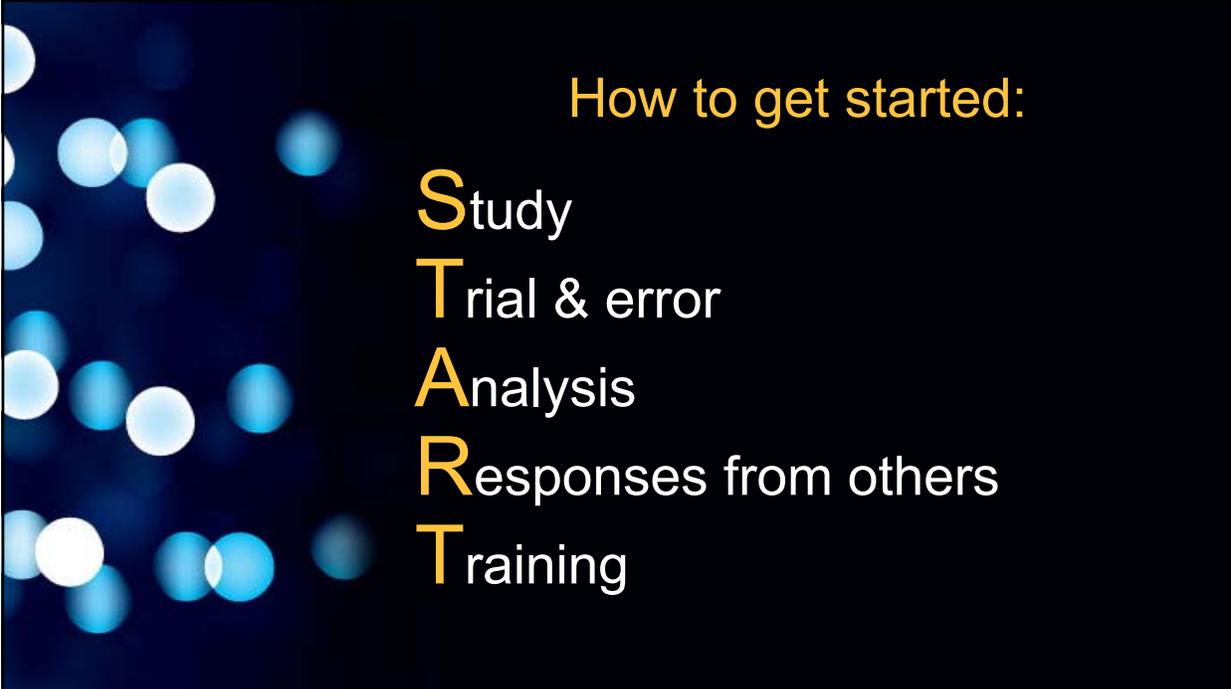
10. Periodically review the Spiritual Gifts listed, to see if the Holy Spirit gives you further guidance in possessing additional gifts.



11. Continue to pray and seek God's will for your life as you serve Him regardless of whether you have discovered your gift(s).



It's easier to discover your gift through service than to discover your gift through your idleness!



How to get started:

Study

Trial & error

Analysis

Responses from others

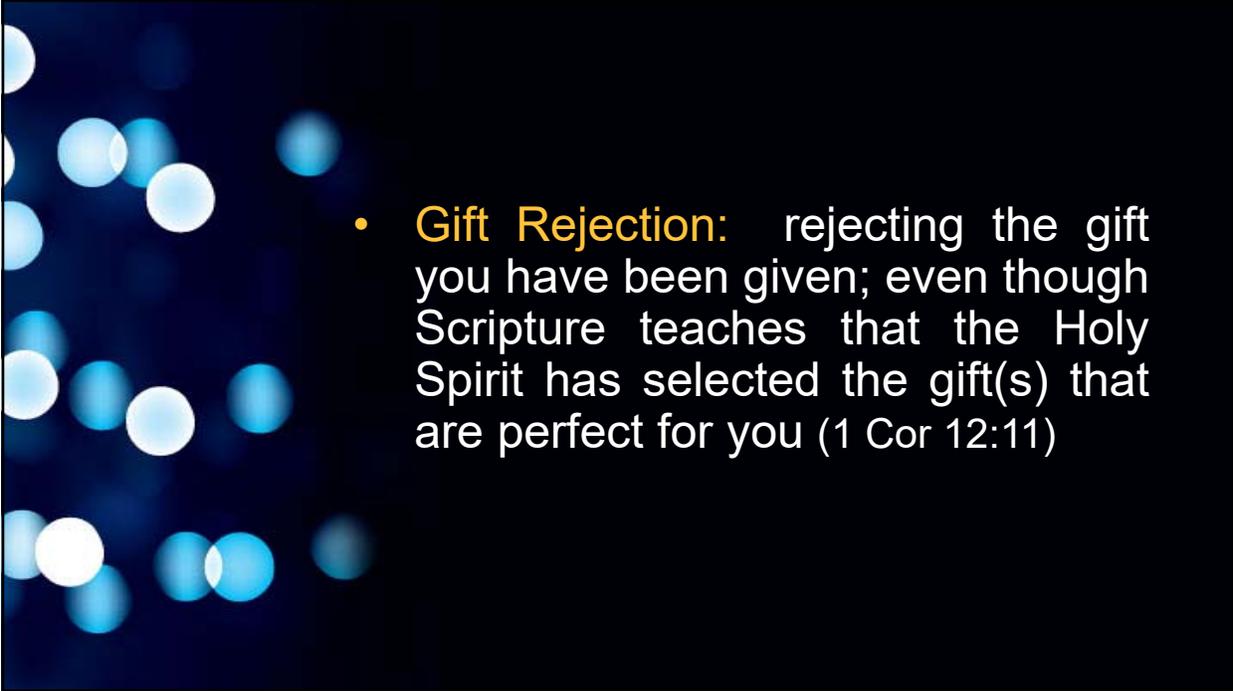
Training

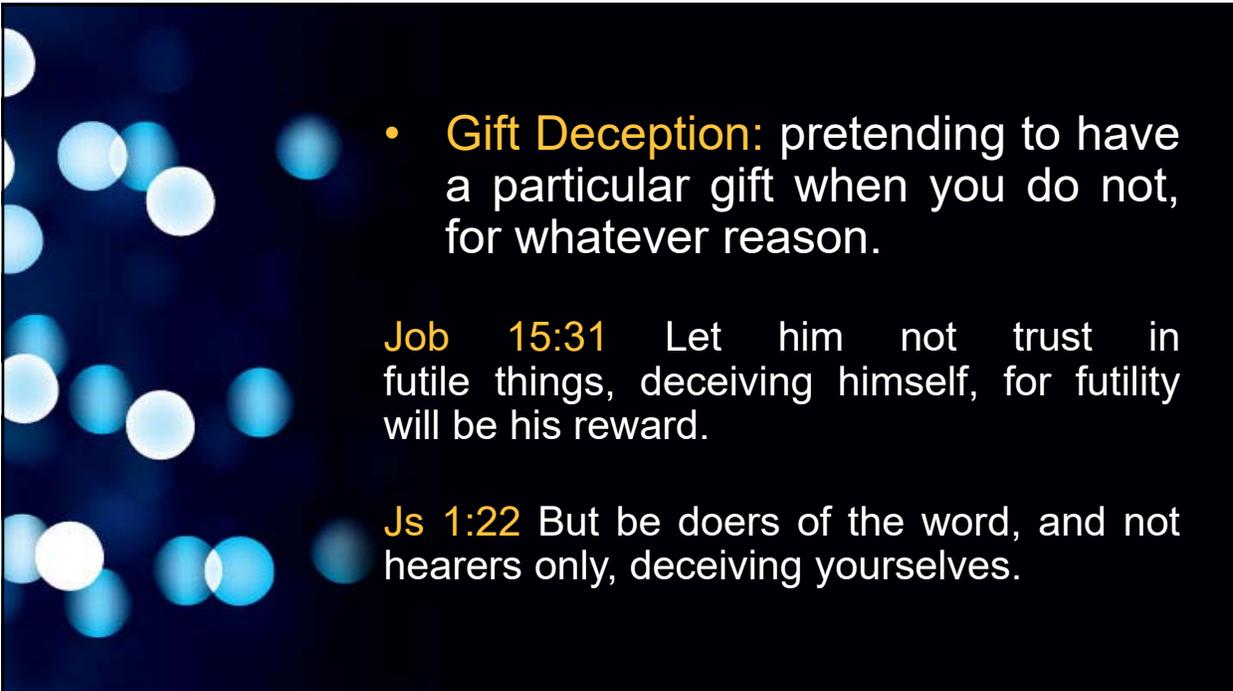


Common mistakes made in
regard to spiritual gifts:

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- **Gift comparison:** comparing yourself to others and expecting your gift(s) to operate in you as they do in others with the same gift(s), or believing others are more spiritual because of the gift(s) they have.

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- **Gift projection:** assuming that others who do not have your gifts are somehow spiritually inferior to you, so you attempt to insist that serious believers seek your gifts.

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- **Gift Rejection:** rejecting the gift you have been given; even though Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit has selected the gift(s) that are perfect for you (1 Cor 12:11)

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- **Gift Deception:** pretending to have a particular gift when you do not, for whatever reason.

Job 15:31 Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, for futility will be his reward.

Js 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

“You are a gifted child of God. Since you are also given an outlet for your gift you are a minister too. For every gift He bestows, the Spirit has planned a sphere of service. Thus, no child should have an inferiority complex. Rather, awareness that he is a gifted child with an area of ministry should meet every child of God’s psychological need to feel wanted and to possess a sense of worth.”

Leslie Flynn, *19 Gifts of the Spirit*

