

Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts

A Way To Look At Spiritual Giftedness

Adapted From: A Self Study Manual By Dr. J. Robert Clinton
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How Do You Connect To God?

Instructions: The following material is meant to help us discover how we connect to God in different ways. Read through the following nine categories and choose two that show your primary and secondary ways you feel closest to God.

The Activist - Loving God through confrontation with evil

- has a tenacious desire to see evil confronted and good prevail, no matter what the personal cost
- is wired to courageously fight for righteousness in the face of evil
- is a prophetic voice in their generation, speaking out against wrong and sometimes causing discomfort
- may go on prayer walks or attend marches
- tends to see issues as "black and white"
- can be unpopular, even in Christian circles
- revels in challenging environments that push them to the edge of their potential

The Ascetic - Loving God through solitude and simplicity

- is usually a hard worker - the word literally means to labor or work
- requires extended times of silence and solitude to recharge their spiritual batteries
- needs quiet places to usher in God's presence more profoundly
- needs a regular "sense of aptness" to be alone with God
- appreciates a low level of sensory input, simple living conditions and environments, as well as simplicity in dress and lifestyle
- may see food as purely "fuel for the body" and values practicing the spiritual disciplines

The Caregiver – Loving God through serving others

- moves toward meeting practical needs-almost before being asked
- is known as a "doer of the word"
- catches their spiritual stride and feels closest to God when quietly laboring in His kingdom
- might volunteer to work at a pregnancy crisis clinic, tutoring kids, running errands, or taking a meal to a neighbor in need
- readily shoulders the burdens of others as a form of worship
- serves Jesus as they serve others and is often content to be in the background working without notice

The Contemplative - Loving God through Adoration

- considers their first work that of adoring God
- needs to spend extended time in God's presence and/or gazing lovingly at God
- talks openly about intimacy with God, using the language of lovers
- tends to be at home with their more mystical side
- can be an extravagant lover of God who appears to "march to a different drummer"

The Enthusiast - Loving God through Mystery and Celebration

- loves God with gusto
- is called the "cheerleader of the faith"
- is often closest to God when gathered with others, singing and worshiping the Lord in the congregation (for them, worship is "party time")
- is inspired by joyful celebration, and is usually comfortable expressing emotion during worship
- is at home with spiritual mystery and living a life of expectancy, prayer, and creativity
- gives merit to dreams as a way of receiving direction from God, and feels the freedom to explore the supernatural

The Intellectual - Loving God through the Mind

- loves God best through using their intellects
- sees faith as something to be understood as much as experienced-for them, right thinking is essential
- loves to learn new things about God and gets bored when their mind is not stimulated
- reads challenging books and gravitates toward taking classes and seminars
- may enjoy discussing church history, the Bible, systematic theology, apologetics, or debating doctrine
- can come across adversely to those who emphasize spiritual experiences or express their feelings readily, -because- to the intellectual-that sort of Christianity may seem "mindless and irresponsible"

The Naturalist - Loving God through Experiencing Him Out-of-Doors

- feels closest to God when surrounded by nature
- has a soul that comes alive when out in God's natural splendor-be it the mountains, deserts, plains, woods, oceans, or beaches
- experiences a dramatic increase in their awareness of God when outside in God's beauty
- can draw spiritual meaning from all facets of creation

The Sensate - Loving God through the senses

- loves being lost in the awe, beauty and the splendor of God
- is drawn to the God of the majestic
- loves grand, intricate architecture or paintings with spiritual themes
- may experience God in classical music, formal language, high church, incense, or stained glass
- sees truth embodied in image, vision, and sacrament, and is moved closer to God through the comeliness of observable beauty-His sounds, fragrance, or sweet savor
- is often tactile, visual, and/or kinesthetic

The Traditionalist - Loving God through ritual and symbol

- feels more connected to the Lord when worshiping or observing an occasion in the same way they have before
- enjoys worship, prayer, communion, Bible reading, and other faith practices used in conjunction with the saints of old
- experiences rituals, symbols, and sacraments as a way of entering into God's glory, giving them a sense of timelessness and a connection with the faith of the past
- sees rituals as bringing continuity, support, heritage, lineage, and accountability

What's Your Spiritual Bent?

INTRODUCTION: It's important to look at your spiritual bent before you look at your giftedness set. Determine which of the following is your natural propensity?

1. THE HARVEST BENT:

Applies to leaders who focus on the expansion of the Kingdom of God. They mobilize the Church to preach the gospel's message and to gather new believers into intimacy with Christ. This type of leader will focus on the outward aspect of the Great Commission -- Go into all the world and make disciples of all people. (Mt. 28:19-20)

2. THE SHEPHERD BENT:

Applies to leaders with a concern for the welfare of Christ's followers. They use their energy to manage believers so they develop in the Kingdom. This type of leader will focus on the inward aspects of the Great Commission -- to teach to obey all that I commanded you. (Mt. 28:19-20)

3. THE SERVANT BENT:

Applies to sacrificial leaders who serve God by serving others. This type of leader leads by what they do. They model an incarnational style of service to the poor and oppressed. They set the pace and expectation for other believers by how they love and minister to others. They teach others to know God's rule in their lives and hence bring God's righteousness to society. This type of leader focuses upon the Great Commandment and being good news. (Mk. 16:15-18)

4. THE STEWARDSHIP BENT:

Applies to leaders who are accountable for launching specific visions, resources, and new ministries into uncharted waters. These leaders focus upon unleashing faith upon the Church and motivating it to apply God's truth. This type of leader directs people into gospel neglected places to be witnesses to the unreached people groups. (Acts 1:8)

INSTRUCTIONS: Using the four bents, rank your answers below from the most to least. Be prepared to explain which two bents dominates your life experiences.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Definitions: The Giftedness Set refers to the threefold collection of gifted elements: natural abilities, acquired skills, spiritual gifts.

Natural Abilities refer to those capacities, skills, talents or aptitudes which are innate in a person and allow them to accomplish things. Examples: analytical bent, intuition, and relational aptitude.

Acquired Skills refer to those capacities, skills, talents or aptitudes which have been learned by a person in order to allow them to accomplish something. Example: writing, motivational skills, piano, and any skills learned over time.

A Spiritual Gift is a God-given unique capacity imparted to each believer for the purpose of releasing Holy Spirit empowered acts upon the Body of Christ. Example: Discerning spirits, Healings, teaching as word gifts, love gifts, power gifts, and leadership gifts.

INSTRUCTIONS: On the next four pages you will find a definition, and a list of characteristics under each gift. Check any characteristic you know to be a part of your regular ministry behavior. Then record your results on the back pages and finish the questions provided

Spiritual Gifts

Word Gift

APOSTOLIC

The gift of apostleship refers to special leadership capacity to move with authority from God to create new ministry structures, churches and para-church, to meet needs and to develop and appoint leadership in these structures.

Central Thrust: Creating New Ministry

- You have a call by God to send pastors out pioneering new churches
- You have a reputation for being an influence the influencers
- You have a forceful personality which can trust God to do what is necessary in unusual ways so that the Kingdom of God is expanded
- You teach with a clear understanding about the nature of church and its purpose to multiply
- You can sense what God wants to do and you are not afraid to appoint new leaders
- Strong leaders follow you and relocate to be with you
- You have influenced area senior pastors to follow your vision

Power Gift

PROPHECY

The capacity to deliver truth publicly, either of a predictive nature or as a situational word from God. This gift is used to exhort the community, edify or comfort believers, or convince non-believers of God's truth.

Central Thrust: To Provide Truth And Direction

- You are not afraid to speak out publicly or take strong stands on issues
- You tend to see the needs of the group as a whole and are willing to take stands on biblical standards
- When you speak publicly, people are convicted by the truth that you give
- You receive direct words for others when the Holy Spirit speaks to you
- You are often impressed that God has by His Spirit given you a message to deliver to others
- You're often used to correct by exhorting others of God's truth
- You edify others with God's perspective upon issues they face

Word Gift

EVANGELIST

The gift of evangelism refers to the capacity to preach the gospel to the lost and to challenge them to respond by taking the next initial steps in Christian discipleship.

Central Thrust: Introducing Others To The Gospel

- You have the ability to preach the gospel to strangers
- You introduce people to Christ in both small or large groups
- You have an intense sense of unrest with the thought of people being lost for eternity
- You have freedom and joy in talking about Christian themes in a bold way
- People actually make discipleship commitments as a direct result of your influence
- You pray for the lost and see them come to Christ on a regular basis
- You have the ability to insert truth into normal conversations with the unsaved

Word Gift

PASTOR

The capacity to exercise concern and care for members of a group so as to encourage them in their growth in Christ. This involves modeling maturity, protecting them from error and disseminating truth.

Central Thrust: Caring For The Growth Of Followers

- People usually look to you to make decisions
- People feel you have authority in things concerning spiritual matters
- You are usually picked as the leader in committees, groups, or meetings
- You seem to influence the action of groups by what you preach
- You have the ability to maintain order and discipline among people
- You structure your ministry so people grow in relationship building experiences of unity
- You see the problems of a group that you are relating to and accept responsibility to help them through it

Word Gift

TEACHING

A person who has the gift of teaching is one who has the ability to instruct, explain, or expose biblical truth for clear understanding.

Central Thrust: To Clarify Truth

- You study to understand truth in the original languages for accuracy
- You have a drive within you to research and explain truth
- You discipline yourself to study related subjects of various topics
- You find yourself concerned about the meaning of issues and will not be satisfied with unclear explanations
- You are considered more of a teacher than a preacher
- You feel called to help others learn how to study and find truth on their own
- People know God in ever increasing depth because of your ability to explain biblical truth

Spiritual Gifts

Word Gift

LEADERSHIP

One who demonstrates influence and direction over a group so as to lead it toward a purpose. They lead with a particular emphasis to make decisions and keep moving forward.

Central Thrust: Influencing Others Toward Vision

- You have an ability to create direction and vision from God for churches to grow
- You're a leader of leaders who sets new direction
- You organize and build structures that allow layleaders to reproduce their ministry
- You train leaders to fill empty positions and clarify their tasks
- You network others towards strategic resources
- You have organization skills for developing new ministries and recruiting volunteers
- You see what needs to be done and clarify the critical path to it

Word Gift

EXHORTATION

The capacity to encourage others towards biblical truth, and to comfort people through the application of God's Word to their needs.

Central Thrust: To Apply Biblical Truth

- People react strongly for or against what you say
- You frequently find yourself giving advise to guide others through difficult issues
- You find that you have timely words to share with others to encourage them
- People frequently confide in you because of your sound mind and biblical knowledge
- You often sense divine urgency to get something done and are willing to communicate that urgency to others
- You are not satisfied with a superficial truth because you want people to use that truth in their lives
- You love to encourage others to grow

Power Gift

WORD/WISDOM

The word of wisdom refers to the capacity to know the mind of the Spirit in a given situation and to communicate clearly the application of truth to it.

Central Thrust: Applying Revelatory Information

- You have sensitivity to the prompting of the Spirit which allows you to recognize that God is speaking into a situation
- You have the quicknes to transfer concepts into application for a situation
- You have an ability to see where principles of truth need to be applied
- You grasp situations intuitively and see solutions almost simultaneously -- further analysis often confirm your intuition
- When a word of wisdom is given in a group setting you usually sense if it's authentic
- You see how life applies to other aspects of issues
- You fit things together and connect things

Power Gift

DISCERN SPIRITS

The ability given by God to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or Satanic.

Central Thrust: A Sensitivity To Truth and It's Source

- You have a keen sense for recognizing evil and have prayed to expell demons from others
- You have supernatural insight to figure out what is wrong with a situation and how to improve it
- You grasp God's direction in order to thwart Satan's attack against other believers
- You cannot rest when you know people are being given half-truths or controlled by false teaching
- You have an unusual intuition to grasp when people are demonized
- You see physical symptoms that lead you to know something is wrong
- You see what others do not see through mental pictures or visions

Power Gift

KNOWLEDGE

The capacity or sensitivity of a person to supernaturally perceive knowledge from God which otherwise could not or would not be known, and to apply it to a given situation.

Central Thrust: Getting Revelatory Information

- You're sensitive to the Spirit's prompting. This allows you to recognize certain impressions from God
- You receive knowledge that could not have originated with you
- The knowledge you receive helps release the activity of God in others lives
- You have an awareness when God is releasing knowledge and information supernaturally
- You hear God speak messages that are for someone else
- You receive pictures or words for other people in your mind's eye
- Strong counsel will flood your mind that you are to share with a specific person as you pray silently

Spiritual Gifts

NOTES

Use this space to jot down notes from your study.

Power Gift

MIRACLES

Miracles refers to the releasing of God's supernatural power so that the miraculous intervention reveals God's purpose and intent.

Power Gift

FAITH

The gift of faith refers to the unusual capacity of a person to recognize, in a given situation, that God intends to do something and to trust God for it until He brings it to pass.

Power Gift

TONGUES

The gift of tongues refers to a spontaneous utterance of a word from God in an unknown language to an individual and/or a group of people.

Power Gift

HEALING

The gift of healings refers to demonstrating the gospel through the supernatural releasing of healing power for curing all types of illnesses.

Central Thrust: Releasing God's Power and Message

- God puts you in places to demonstrate His power in order to reveal His purposes
- You risk your reputation and trust God for the supernatural events of faith
- You pray often so God releases His Power upon others with great results
- You can discern what God wants to do in a given situation
- You see the spiritual realities of a situation and discern the power encounter that's happening
- God uses you to do things which supernaturally demonstrate the power of the gospel
- You're breaking into new frontiers for the gospel's advancement

Central Thrust: Trusting God For The Impossible

- You accept God's promises at face value and wait until God fulfills them
- You are looked upon by others to sustain a vision and it's direction
- You sense when God is going to do something unusual even though others don't have that assurance
- You have a desire to know God in His fullness and Him alone for solutions to your problems
- You know that God is real because He has specifically intervened on your behalf
- You see the future and can take people to it
- You inspire others in times of weakness with the assurance of God's character

Central Thrust: Speaking Divinely Appointed Messages

- You speak to God in tongues you never learned when you don't know what to pray for others
- You give public words in tongues and have interpreted other divine languages
- A leader imparted this spiritual gift to you by the laying on of hands
- You receive revelatory words from God for others after you speak in tongues
- During worship you speak in tongues and even sing in tongues
- You speak to God in a prayer language that you have never learned
- You hear God's voice when you speak in tongues and worship as He directs

Central Thrust: Releasing God's Power To Heal

- You become full of joy and laughter and have been drunk in the Spirit
- You have an unusual ability to sense the power of God when it is present for healing
- You take risks for God and anoint others with oil and pray for them
- You have the ability to trust God and believe He wants to heal publicly
- People are drawn around you because you believe and see the results of answered prayer
- You have gone down under the Spirit and been out cold before God
- Releasing God's healing power has given you authority and opportunity to preach the gospel

Spiritual Gifts

Love Gift

ADMINISTRATION

The gifts of administration involves a capacity to manage details of service functions so as to support and free other leaders to prioritize their efforts.

Central Thrust: To Support Organizational Abilities

- You have a knack for organizing things
- You like to create standardized methods for doing things
- You think in terms of helping people reach their goals
- You have a concern for the good of the whole group
- You like to do things that support other people
- You organize things and carry out the detailed plans
- You find the steps necessary for plans to come into reality

Love Gift

SERVING

The gifts of serving/helps refers to the capacity to unselfishly meet the needs of others through very practical means.

Central Thrust: To Assist Others In Their Work

- You desire to help others physically move or in building things they need
- You share God's love by fixing a car or doing work someone cannot do
- You have an unselfish desire to come alongside others in need
- You have a bent towards working with the disabled
- You're generous with your time and assist others in their hands-on needs
- You prefer serving others anonymously
- You see your gift as freeing up others to preach the gospel

Love Gift

MERCY

The gift of mercy refers to the capacity to both feel sympathy for those injured or in need, and to manifest care in some practical way to encourage and comfort.

Central Thrust: Empathetic Care For The Hurting

- Tears come easily as you hear or see others pain
- Most people think of you as an empathetic listener
- You reach out and touch or hold people who are suffering
- Your care for people in need gives you a sense of divine purpose
- People like to have you around when they are in pain
- You give but don't receive well from others
- You're the first one on the scene and the last to leave when someone is overcome with grief

Love Gift

GIVING

The gift of giving refers to the capacity to give liberally to meet the needs of others and to do so out of a pure motive simply as an act of love and obedience.

Central Thrust: To Channel God's Resources To Others

- You feel called to financially support God's work
- You are quick to assume responsibility for meeting the needs of others
- Your generosity is well known by others around you
- You create systems and find the means to give to God's work
- You have the ability or blessing to amass financial resources
- You're careful in handling resources and desire to live with integrity
- You love to teach others how to save and tithe their resources

Power Gift

INTERCESSION

The gift of intercession is the special ability that God gives to certain people to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis, and sees frequent answers to prayer.

Central Thrust: Praying for Others

- You spend more time praying for the needs of others than your own
- You often spend extended periods of time in prayer
- You often have specific answers to your prayers
- You have lists of people and places that you pray through on a regular basis
- You often get a sudden urge to pray for a specific person, place, ministry, etc.
- You have an assignment from God to pray for a specific person, place, ministry, etc.
- You view prayer as a sacred obligation and privilege

Giftedness Survey Checklist

Word Gift Cluster . . .		
Apostolic	_____	of 7
Evangelist	_____	of 7
Pastor	_____	of 7
Teaching	_____	of 7
Leadership	_____	of 7
Exhortation	_____	of 7
Power Gift Cluster . . .		
Prophecy	_____	of 7
Words of Wisdom	_____	of 7
Discerning of Spirits	_____	of 7
Words of Knowledge	_____	of 7
Miracle	_____	of 7
Faith	_____	of 7
Tongues	_____	of 7
Healing	_____	of 7
Love Gift Cluster . . .		
Administration	_____	of 7
Serving	_____	of 7
Mercy	_____	of 7
Giving	_____	of 7
Intercession	_____	of 7

Ranking Your Gifts Strengths

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Which cluster dominates?

Love Gifts | Power Gifts | Word Gifts

Spiritual Gifts Questionair

1. What does your “word gifts”set say about you?
2. What does your “love gifts”set say about you?
3. What does your “power gifts”set say about you?
4. What passion gives you energy to serve endless hours just for the joy of it?
5. Like attracts like -- Who in ministry do you wish you could be like? What gifts do they demonstrate that you like
6. What do others say are your natural abilities?
7. What skills from work or life have your developed that could be used to serve God’s purposes?
8. What learned skills now dominate your service?
9. What have others taught you about what your spiritual gifts?
10. What life experiences do you have that could be used to contribute to the spiritual growth of others?
11. What skills have you learned in life that could be an offering to God?
12. When you think of your timelines as a running journal of how you discovered your natural abilities, acquired skills and observed spiritual gifts, what do you notice about yourself?