

The Spirit, the Body, and the Gifts: How Do I Discover My Spiritual Gifts?
1 Corinthians 12:1-31

I. Previous Question: What is a spiritual gift?

A. Answer

1. A spiritual gift is a supernatural empowerment given to every genuine believer that enables them to participate in God's mission as fully integrated members of Christ's body.
2. The work of the Holy Spirit filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD through you.

B. Precedent

1. Jesus baptized by the Holy Spirit
 - a. Why, if Jesus is God, would you be filled with the Spirit?
 - b. Because Jesus, in His human body and human nature, does ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit
2. Jesus:
 - a. Greater works
 - (1) **John 5:36 (ESV)** *But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.*
 - (2) **John 14:12 (ESV)** *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*
 - b. Greater works?
 - (1) How so?
 - (2) Through the Holy Spirit who is in and with us

II. Today's Question: How do I discover my spiritual gifts?

A. Five Actions You Can Take Toward Discovering Your Spiritual Gift

1. Seek God
 - a. Necessary reality
 - (1) Every advance in personal spiritual maturity, every attempt at public spiritual ministry depends on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - (2) **You are not seeking a gift, you are seeking God!**
 - b. Provisional promises
 - (1) **Acts 1:8 (ESV)** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
 - (2) **Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)** *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*
 - c. Seek God through
 - (1) Study of His word

- (2) Prayer
 - (3) Devotion/faithfulness
 - (4) Acts of service and worship
2. Search for Understanding: Know what the gifts of the spirit are and how they function.
- a. Gifts and Passages
 - (1) 19/20 gifts mentioned in the New Testament
 - (2) 4 Primary passages
 - (a) **Romans 12:6-8**
 - (b) **1 Corinthians 12:8-11**
 - (c) **1 Corinthians 12:28-30**
 - (d) **Ephesians 4:7-12**
 - b. You are much more likely to find what you are looking for if you know what you are looking for.
 - c. **Spiritual Gifts Inventories**
3. Sample a few activities
- a. The Holy Spirit wants you to use your gift and will encourage and support your search
 - b. Some gifts will appeal to you in ways others won't
 - c. Try one or two for a time
4. Size up the Results
- a. Do the results
 - (1) Honor God?
 - (2) Edify the church?
 - (3) Draw sinners to Christ?
 - b. Do you find yourself
 - (1) Spiritually energized
 - (2) Abounding in joy in Christ?
 - (3) Drawn closer to Jesus
 - (4) Awed at God's grace and glory
5. Surrender to Confirmation
- a. God intends spiritual gifts to build up the church in His mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory
 - b. Do other believers confirm or support that your work has the nature, purpose, and outcomes characteristic of the Holy Spirit?
 - c. Examples
 - (1) Exhausted and resentful? Either not a spiritual gift, or an effort made in the limited power of the flesh and not in the unlimited power of the Spirit
 - (2) No evidence of transformation in the gifted or the served? Probably not your spiritual gift
 - (3) Sense that your only doing this because no one else is?
 - (a) Probably a real need for which you are not gifted.
 - (b) Lots of things can be done in the church, but when we are operating in our spiritual gifts, we have an

internal sense that what we are doing is a personal act of worship and faith for the sake of Christ's glory, more than just a task that needs to be done so the church can function.

(c) E.g.>

- i) When Fern and Bernice played the organ.
- ii) When I preach, when Linda teaches
- iii) When Pat Scully cooks
- iv) When Jean Perkins organizes

B. Today is the day to find your place in God's plan to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory!