

A chart to help you find and develop your **unique** ministry



Discovering
your ***basic gift***

Points to ponder before attempting to discover your basic gift.

1. When you consider that Paul's listing of the seven basic gifts in Romans 12, follows on from his earnest appeal "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice", it suggests that we ought to approach the whole subject in an attitude of prayerful expectancy.

Dedication must precede revelation.

Approach the matter after a period of quiet prayer and meditation, asking God to help you find and develop your unique ministry.

2. Remember that our natural talents and aptitudes are often the natural wrapping in which a spiritual gift may be deposited. God's gifts are often in line with a natural ability, and this is why our natural faculties often point the direction in which a spiritual gift may be used.
3. The absence of any particular gift does not excuse us from obedience to other Scriptural commands. If a person does not feel he has a gift of 'giving' he is still expected to support the Lord's work financially. Similarly if a Christian does not possess the gift of 'sympathy' he is still expected to show mercy and comfort the feeble-minded (1 Thessalonians 5:14). This may raise the question: *'If we are all expected to do so much where is the need for specific gifts?'* In some ways the Church is like a football field in which although the players each have a separate function, all are expected to try and get a goal. Each one of us have a responsibility to work for Christ, but the major part of our work must be along the line of the spiritual gift (or gifts) which we have been given.
4. Confirmation that you have a certain basic gift will also come through the discernment of other believers. In fact, other Christians may see a gift in you long before you yourself are aware of it. It helps to prayerfully share with other Christians your conclusions before attempting to develop your gifts.
5. Just a deep settled peace pervades our beings when in the centre of God's will, so a feeling of great joy arises when exercising a basic gift. This inner joy is often a clue to the presence of a gift, and this is often unconsciously communicated to those on the receiving end of your ministry.
6. Once you discover you have a basic gift, don't go around telling everyone, but adopt the attitude described by Paul in Philipians 2:3 *'Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing'* (TLB). Watch for opportunities to minister your basic spiritual abilities and be quick to close in with what God is showing you.

All God's children have gifts

1. I enjoy presenting God's truth in an inspired and enthusiastic way.
2. I am always ready to overlook my own personal comfort in order that the needs of others may be met.
3. I find great delight in explaining the truth of a text within its context.
4. I am able to verbally encourage those who waver and are spiritually troubled.
5. I am able to manage my financial affairs efficiently so that I can give generously to the Lord's work.
6. I find it easy to delegate responsibility and organise others towards spiritual achievement.
7. I readily find myself sympathising with the misfortune of others.
8. I am conscious of a persuasiveness of speech when encouraging people to examine their spiritual motives.
9. I have the knack of making people feel at home.
10. I delight in digging out facts concerning the Bible so that I can pass them on to others.
11. I have a deep concern to encourage people toward spiritual growth and achievement.
12. I am cheerful about giving material assets so that the Lord's work can be furthered.
13. I am able to effectively supervise the activities of others.
14. I enjoy visiting those in hospital, or the shut-ins.
15. I am able to present the Word of God to a congregation of people with clarity and conviction.
16. I am happy when asked to assist others in the Lord's work.
17. I am concerned that truth should be presented in a clear fashion with proper attention to the meaning of words.
18. I am at my best when treating those who are spiritually wounded.
19. I have no problem in joyfully entrusting my assets to others for the work of the ministry.
20. I am able to plan the actions of others with ease and supply them with details which will enable them to work efficiently.
21. I have great concern for those involved in trouble.
22. I find myself preaching for a commitment whenever I present the truths of the Word of God.
23. I delight in providing a gracious haven for guests.
24. I am diligent in my study of the Bible and give careful attention to necessary research.
25. I am able to help those who need counselling over personal problems.
26. I am concerned over the question of financial assistance being available for all sections of the church.
27. I am deeply sensitive to the need of a smooth running administration so that every phase of activity is carried out decently and in order.
28. I work happily with those who are ignored by the majority.
29. I find my preaching brings people to a definite point of decision.
30. I enjoy taking the load from key people so that they can put more effort in to their own particular task.
31. I am able to explain well how the Bible hangs together.
32. I am acutely aware of the things that hold people back in their spiritual development and long to help them overcome their problems.
33. I am careful with money and continually pray over its proper distribution in the work of the Lord.
34. I know where I am going and am able to take others with me.
35. I am able to relate to others emotionally and am quick to help when help is needed.

Alongside are 35 statements which may help you discover your basic gift or gifts. Rate yourself with the following scale by writing the appropriate number in the corresponding number square. Ask yourself: "Is this statement true in my spiritual life and experience?" Indicate your score in the appropriate number square on the following scale.

Greatly 3 Some 2 Little 1 Not at all 0

After you have completed the text by rating yourself for each of the 35 statements, add the scores in each horizontal row. Record the number in the Total column. Your total score for each row indicates your level of interest in that particular gift. The highest scores may lead you to a clearer understanding of the basic spiritual gift or gifts which God has deposited in your life.

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Row A	1	8	15	22	29	Total	Gift
						(Please fill in after test is completed)	
						_____	_____
Row B	2	9	16	23	30	_____	_____
Row C	3	10	17	24	31	_____	_____
Row D	4	11	18	25	32	_____	_____
Row E	5	12	19	26	33	_____	_____
Row F	6	13	20	27	34	_____	_____
Row G	7	14	21	28	35	_____	_____

Key to your spiritual gift

Row A-Prophecy; **Row B**-Serving; **Row C**-Teaching; **Row D**-Stimulating the faith of others; **Row E**-Giving; **Row F**-Ruling or Co-ordinating; **Row G**-Sympathy.

Once you have discovered your basic gift – what next? Ask God to flood your life with His Holy Spirit so that you will become inwardly sensitive to the best gifts to expand and amplify your ministry. These Gifts of the Spirit are described and defined in 1 Corinthians 12. If God, in His sovereignty has ordained you to function in the role of an apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher or evangelist then this will become apparent to you through the recognition of those of your own local body, and by a spiritual witness to your own heart. Don't be over concerned with aiming at being an apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher or evangelist. Concentrate on the depth of your ministry, and God will concentrate on the breadth.

Definition	Explanation	Dangers
Gifts of God		
1. Prophecy – or the God-given ability to present truth.	A persuasiveness and power in speech which brings to light things previously concealed.	a. Proud of rhetoric or persuasive speech. b. Dependent on ability to speak rather than on the Holy Spirit to convict. c. Seeing people as groups – not individuals. d. Judgmental and a sharp tongue without love.
2. Serving or demonstrating love by meeting practical needs so that others can be free for service.	An ability to detect personal needs; to overlook personal comfort so that the needs of others can be met. Romans 12:10.	a. Proud of good deeds. b. Pushy or premature in attempting to meet the needs of others before they themselves realise what those needs are. c. Bitter when good deeds are not appreciated. d. Over emphasis on practical – neglect of spiritual.
3. Teaching or clarifying truth by ensuring the accuracy of context, etc.	An ability to research and unearth facts from Scripture. Romans 12:11. This involves diligence, fervency in study and careful research.	a. Boasting of knowledge one has accumulated. b. Concentration on details rather than principles. c. Captivated by research rather than responses. d. Believing truth is discerned through intellect.
4. Stimulating the faith of others in specific action toward definite goals.	An ability to counsel others and encourage them toward spiritual growth. Romans 12:12.	a. Boasting about personal results. b. Discouraged when progress is slow. c. Indiscretion in sharing results. d. Giving too much time to the wrong people.
5. Giving or joyfully entrusting personal assets or possessions to others for the work of the ministry.	An ability to organise personal business; able to wisely invest and make quick and sound decisions about the right use of money.	a. Becoming proud of one's generosity. b. Measuring spiritual success by material gain. c. Attempting to buy influence with money. d. Overlooking long-range goals.
6. Ruling or co-ordinating the activities of others for the achievement of a common goal.	An ability to preside or lead; seeing future consequences of one's actions; able to distinguish major objectives and help others visualise them.	a. Proud of power over people. b. Using people to accomplish goals. c. Overlooking character faults in those who can be useful to reaching goals.
7. Empathising by an ability to identify with and comfort those in distress.	An ability to sympathise deeply with the misfortunes of others; mentally and emotionally relating and giving aid.	a. Proud of ability to sympathise. b. Resenting others who are not sympathetic to needs. c. Failing to be firm – guided by emotions, not logic.
Gifts of the Holy Spirit		
1. <i>Tongues</i> – the ability to speak supernaturally in a language never learned.	Used in (a) congregational worship to bring a message from God or (b) privately as a devotional exercise.	a. Regarding “tongues” as a mark of maturity. b. Proud of the prominence the gift inevitably brings.
2. <i>Interpretation of Tongues</i> – the ability to supernaturally interpret a message given in tongues.	Used to interpret the Mind of the Spirit as given through a message in other tongues.	a. Dependency on initiative. b. Over zealousness in failing to develop sensitivity.
3. <i>Prophecy</i> – the ability to supernaturally convey God's message for the moment in the language of speaker and hearers.	Used to convey a message of edification, exhortation or comfort to God's people at specific times.	a. Interjecting personal feelings. b. Extending the ministry beyond limits. (Judgmental and harsh.)
4. <i>Word of Knowledge</i> – a supernatural revelation to meet an emergency or crisis.	Used to supernaturally impart to a person or group a fact of knowledge which at that moment is otherwise unknown.	a. Hesitancy in communicating due to no logical explanation. b. Failure to exercise reason.
5. <i>Word of Wisdom</i> – a supernatural revelation showing how to apply the right solution.	Used to supernaturally impart to someone the right procedure to take in a difficult situation.	a. Over-dependency on gifts. b. Lack of prayer and spiritual exercise.
6. <i>Faith</i> – the supernatural ability to visualise and witness spiritual achievement.	Used to supernaturally empower a person to “believe” beyond their own natural faith.	a. Fear of being proved wrong. b. Ignoring other's feelings.
7. <i>Discerning of spirits</i> – supernatural ability to discern the source of supernatural manifestations.	Used to detect the presence of evil spirits or to examine the source of manifestation which is dubious.	a. Seeing the problem not the person. b. Acting harshly – not firmly.
8. <i>Gifts of Healing</i> – supernatural ability to bring God's healing power to the sick.	Used to bring deliverance to those bound in disease, infirmity, affliction etc.	a. Moving on one's initiative. b. Failure to develop sensitivity.
9. <i>Working of Miracles</i> – supernatural ability to suspend natural laws.	Used to bring God's power to bear upon a situation where natural means fail.	a. Pride in experience. b. Lack of prayer and devotion.
Gifts of Christ		
1. <i>Apostle</i> – the gift of pioneering new territory for the Gospel of Christ (example – a modern missionary)	This is a person in whom the Gift of Christ dwells for the express purpose of making major in-roads with the Gospel message.	a. Holding attention by virtue of one's position. b. Being proud because of personal selection.
2. <i>Prophet</i> – the gift of directing vision toward matters of vital concern in relation to immediate goals.	This is a person in whom the Gift of Christ dwells for the purpose of elevating spiritual vision in the Body of Christ.	a. Attempting to move people by demand rather than love.
3. <i>Evangelist</i> – the gift of being able to point men and women to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.	This is a person in whom the Gift of Christ dwells for the purpose of attracting large numbers of people to salvation in Christ.	a. Failure to recognise other related ministries. b. Relinquishing concern once converts have made a decision.
4. <i>Pastor</i> – the gift of being a shepherd to the flock of God.	This is a person in whom the Gift of Christ dwells for the purpose of developing a group of believers into spiritual maturity.	a. Seeing only the needs of the local fellowship. b. Attempting to meet every need by personal effort.
5. <i>Teacher</i> – the gift of being able to expound the truths of God's Word in context and to make profound truths simple.	This is a person in whom the Gift of Christ dwells for the purpose of edifying the Body of Christ in relation to the basic concepts of successful Christian living.	a. Expounding truth without applying principles. b. Becoming more interested in principles than people.