

## WHAT ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

In Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-30; Ephesians 4:11-12; and 1 Peter 4:11, the Bible talks of spiritual gifts given by God to individual believers in accordance with his will. The purpose of these gifts isn't to help us build our careers and find success. The gifts are given for one purpose: "So that the body of Christ [the church] may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12).

Christians are most fulfilled when they're serving using their spiritual gifts. When we understand our spiritual gifts, we're better able to understand ourselves and how God has uniquely empowered us.

How do we determine our spiritual gifts? The best way to find your gifts is to serve and see what God blesses. There are at least two other ways. We will call them the checklist approach and the inventory approach. You may want to do both to see if they're consistent.

Before beginning this evaluation, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and make you aware of your God-given gifts.

### The Inventory Approach:

Take one of the more standardized spiritual-gift inventories available in most Christian bookstores. The following are two sources:

Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins, and Bill Hybels. *Network: The Right People, In the Right Places, For the Right Reasons: Participant's Guide* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), see especially pages 46-71.

Peter Wagner. *The Wagner-Modified Houts Questionnaire: Finding Your Spiritual Gifts* (Gospel Light, 1995). This is a small booklet.

### The Checklist Approach:

Look over the following list. Put a check next to those that seem to describe you.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apostleship            | <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsmanship          | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherding     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discernment            | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement          | <input type="checkbox"/> Healing*        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism             | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faith                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Miracles*       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongues*        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helps                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling**    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Celibacy**      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intercession           | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving**       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge              | <input type="checkbox"/> Music**         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership             |  |

Next go back over the items you have checked and give each a number: 1 if this is very strong in your life and descriptive of you; 2 if this is somewhat strong and descriptive of you; 3 if this is one of the least descriptive of the items you checked. Then ask three people who know you well to do the same. List the items that were ranked number 1 on all the lists. Probably these are your spiritual gifts.

\*These gifts are not included in some lists because they are more easily identified.

\*\*These gifts are not listed in Scripture but are identified by some Christians as spiritual gifts.