



# Discovering My Gifts



*Serving God, Serving Others*

## **Discovering My Gifts**

### ***Introduction***

The bible makes it clear that *all* Christians are given "gifts" by the Holy Spirit which they can use to serve God and minister to others. See 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12:1-8 for some of the clearest statements on the subject.

This booklet is intended to help you discover what your gifts might be. It is not foolproof, but it can be a helpful guide. Pray over the results and chat them through with another Christian who knows you well - perhaps your home group leader. Then think about how you are going to use your gifts.

This booklet is not intended to explain in detail what the gifts are and how they are to be used - nor is it an exhaustive list of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives - but we hope it will help those with some knowledge to discover ways in which God has equipped them for service. To learn more we recommend David Pytches book, *Come Holy Spirit*.

### ***How To Use This Form***

1. Do not turn to the response chart and definitions until you have completed the questions.
2. Read each statement carefully and ask yourself how true it is of you. Give yourself a mark out of 5. Try to answer fairly quickly. Your first reaction is usually the most accurate.
  - 0 - Never True
  - 1 - Seldom True
  - 2 - Sometimes True
  - 3 - Often True
  - 4 - Usually True
  - 5 - Almost always True

**It is important to answer according to how far the statement is actually true of you now, not how you would like it to be, nor how you think it ought to be.**

3. When you have put a number next to each statement, turn to the chart at the back of the booklet and transfer the numbers into the boxes. Total each column. Read the explanation sheets for the three areas you scored most highly, and write them in the space provided - along with your name and the date.
4. Use the result to:
  - Pray about your ministry and what you should be doing.
  - Start a discussion with a church leader about things you could do.
5. Remember that realising the ways God has gifted you does not make you the finished article! You will need to look for opportunities for training in the areas you conclude you should be ministering in.

**How True?** 0 = Never, 1 = Seldom, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often, 4 = Usually, 5 = Almost Always

1. I am very good at listening		16. Sometimes, when a person speaks in tongues, I get an idea about what God is saying.	
2. I enjoy explaining things to others from the Bible		17. I feel deep compassion for poor and needy people and actively do what I can to alleviate the source of their problems	
3. I love talking about Jesus to a congregation or a group		18. I make helpful relationships with others easily	
4. I am often used to bring others to Jesus		19. Others are helped when I teach them things	
5. I enjoy administrative work		20. I love the study and work in preparing a message	
6. I feel a deep, caring love for those who are ill, and feel a call to help them get well		21. God has given me a great love for others and a longing to win them for him.	
7. I am handy at most things and adaptable		22. I can organise well, clearly and efficiently	
8. I am deeply concerned about the world and social affairs		23. Others find my presence soothing and healing	
9. I am usually looked to for a lead		24. I like helping other people	
10. I have an ability to pray for extended periods of time		25. I am active in service in the community	
11. I provide open house for people		26. In a group I am often elected chairperson or leader	
12. I am able to see the specific need a person has for encouragement		27. I see frequent and specific answers to prayer	
13. I have believed God for the truly impossible and seen it happen in a tangible way		28. I am happier having guests in my house than not.	
14. I have applied the truths of the Bible effectively in my own life		29. I will go to great lengths to seek out a person to encourage them	
15. When I share an insight God has given me, people have become aware of their behaviour and have changed		30. I find that God regularly gives me a deep trust that he will answer my prayers	

**How True?** 0 = Never, 1 = Seldom, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often, 4 = Usually, 5 = Almost Always

31. I have been able to give understanding that has resolved conflicts and relationship problems		45. I am not embarrassed by the state of my home when people call unexpectedly	
32. I sometimes have a strong sense of what God wants to say to people in response to a particular situation		46. I have a greater desire to affirm the good in someone than to show them their mistakes	
33. I have prayed that I may interpret if someone begins speaking in tongues		47. I am often able to go on believing God will act in a situation, despite evidence to the contrary	
34. I can patiently support those going through painful experiences		48. When a person has a problem, I can frequently guide them to the best godly solution	
35. I can encourage others and help bear burdens		49. People have told me that I have communicated timely and significant messages which must have come from the Lord	
36. I love study and finding out facts		50. I have interpreted tongues in a way that has helped others	
37. People tell me they find my sermons a blessing		51. I do what I can behind the scenes to show God's love to those who are suffering	
38. I find my life is full of opportunities to witness for Christ		52. I really care about other people	
39. I love doing office work and doing it thoroughly		53. I have patience in helping others understand Christian things	
40. I have sometimes laid hands on the sick and they have been helped		54. I feel a clear call to preach	
41. I am a practical type		55. I love to talk to others about Jesus	
42. I am very aware of the needs of society today and feel called to do something about them		56. I am painstaking about details in organisation	
43. When leading something I put a lot of preparation into it		57. I spend time praying with and for sick people	
44. I enjoy spending time in prayer		58. I spend much time helping others in practical ways	

**How True?** 0 = Never, 1 = Seldom, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often, 4 = Usually, 5 = Almost Always

59. I feel God is at work in the world today and I must work along with him		64. In specific cases God has given me assurance that he would do a miracle – and he has!	
60. I am good at delegating work to others in a team setting		65. In confusing group discussions, I have been able to give a clear and helpful understanding of the way forward	
61. I identify with or experience the pain involved in situations for which I pray		66. When I share my understanding of God’s feelings for someone, I often find they are strengthened and comforted	
62. I find it easy to welcome strangers into my home for food or accommodation		67. God sometimes gives me an understanding of what I have prayed in tongues	
63. People have come to me in their trouble and discouragement and told me that they have been helped and encouraged		68. I feel drawn to spend time with lonely, shut-in people, or those in prison	

Write into each space the score you gave for each number question.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>

Write under each letter the total for each column.

Look in the explanations section and write the three gifts which scored the highest number in the spaces below.

1 ..... Score: ..... Date: .....

2 ..... Score: ..... Name: .....

3 ..... Score: .....

## **Explanation of Gifts**

- A Pastoral:** Pastoral gifts are those abilities the Holy Spirit gives to care for people and build relationships with them. Important in areas of ministry such as visiting and welcome teams, but also used in home groups, community projects etc. Look for training in things such as listening skills.
- B Teaching:** Teaching gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to enable God's Truth to be passed on in clear and relevant ways that others can understand and act upon. Think of areas of ministry such as leading bible studies or Sunday School groups. Look for training specific to the area you end up ministering in, and read good Christian books to increase your understanding.
- C Preaching:** Preaching is slightly different from teaching, not only in the manner of delivery, which is usually as a talk to a group, but also because preaching is to have a prophetic edge, pertinent to the group concerned. The Holy Spirit gives ability to study the bible, receive a message for the building up of a congregation and deliver it so that God can speak to people. Training in both the Bible and communication skills needs to be significant and lifelong.
- D Evangelism:** We are all called to witness to what God has done in our lives, but some are gifted especially as evangelists. Evangelists are not only particularly good at witnessing, but have that anointing from the Holy Spirit that causes people to respond to what they say. Often used as the last person in a chain of witnesses who have helped the unbeliever come to know Jesus. Look for people to talk to and read relevant books. Look out for training courses in church on Personal Evangelism.
- E Administration:** Administrators are gifted by the Holy Spirit to enable an organisation to work well and thus release many others in their giftings. This could vary from being an office based administrator for the church, to being an organiser of events such as Socials or Alpha meals, to helping ensure that church finances are well organised and looked after.
- F Healing:** All of us can pray for others to be healed by God, but some are especially anointed to be God's instruments of physical, emotional and mental healing. There is a basic level of training required to be able to join the ministry teams, and ongoing training evenings.
- G Practical Help:** The Holy Spirit gifts people in very practical things enabling them to serve him. See the story of Bezalel and Uri in Exodus 31 for an example. When done for God there is spiritual meaning in cutting a neighbour's lawn, taking meals to the sick, cleaning the church, doing maintenance on the church buildings etc.
- H Service to Society:** Not all our service to God has to be in church organisations. Some are called and gifted to work for God's Kingdom to be built through secular authorities: for example in local government, hospitals, schools, daily

work etc. Jesus talked of us being salt and light in our society, not just to it.

**I Leadership:** The Holy Spirit gifts some with the ability to recognise what God is wanting to do, and accomplish it through the motivation and direction of a group of people. Leadership is needed at many levels within the church. Without it, others cannot be effectively released in their ministries.

**J Intercession:** All of us are called to pray, but the Holy Spirit equips some with a special ability to pray for his kingdom to come, usually on behalf of others, and often for extended periods of time. Intercessors develop a special confidence that God will answer and are likely to see specific and frequent answers to prayer. If this is you, then as well as setting aside time to pray on your own, make attending church prayer meetings a priority.

**K Hospitality:** Some are especially gifted by the Holy Spirit to enable others to feel welcome and accepted in their home and elsewhere. Think about how you can use your home to bless others and build our community. Can be invaluable for people on church welcome teams.

**L Encouragement:** The Holy Spirit gifts some with especial abilities to come alongside others and affirm, strengthen and support them so that they feel built up. Look for opportunities to encourage others.

**M Faith:** This is not the general "I believe in God" faith, but special gifts of faith to be able to believe God for things that seem impossible. May be linked with gifts such as Healing or Intercession. Can be an encouragement to others.

**N Wisdom:** The Holy Spirit gives some people insight and understanding into situations, making it possible for God's way forward to be found. Important for leaders.

**O Prophecy:** We can all hear God speak to us personally, that is part of being his children. The Holy Spirit gives some increased ability to receive and communicate things that God is wanting to say to an individual or group. Such messages touch the hearts of the hearers and bring conviction and change or encouragement and comfort. All prophecies need testing, interpreting and applying. Talk to a minister if you think God has said something to you for the church so we can apply these biblical principles.

**P Interpretation of Tongues:** When someone speaks a message from God in "tongues", another (often more than one person) is usually given an understanding of what was said and is able to relate that in the local language.

**Q Mercy:** Kindness and goodness are part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit that is to grow in all Christians. However, some people are given an especial ability to respond compassionately and cheerfully to the needs and suffering of others, in a way that reflects God's love. Think of ministries of caring to the poor and vulnerable.