

PATHWAY: SPIRITUAL GIFTS HANDOUT

HOW TO DISCERN MY SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

Prayer - Jesus referred to the Spirit as Counselor. Above all else, the most important tool in discerning your spiritual gifts is to seek the Spirit's counsel.

Church community and discipler -The church is uniquely gifted to help a member understand their design. Having a strong sense of the rest of the body, we will be able to tell if you're an eye, or an ear, or a mouth, to use Paul's language. Your pastors, small group leaders, and ministry partners will be able to help identify how you build up the body of Christ. This is especially true for your discipler. Take time during your meeting to reflect on how the Spirit of God is manifested in your life.

Experiment - Like anything else, you may need to try a number of things before you find your unique spiritual gift(s). Along the way, answer these questions:

- *Do people appear to experience God when I do this?*
- *Does this bring me joy?*
- *Does this come easy to me? This doesn't mean your gift(s) doesn't require work and development. However, you do seem to be a "natural" at it without draining you like other tasks.*

Take a spiritual assessment test - These are a couple of helpful ones:

<https://spiritualgiftsassessment.org/quiz>

<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts-test-landing>

LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Consider Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, regarding spiritual gifts. Fifteen gifts are named below, but do not consider this a complete list.

Leadership - Leaders are the ones who inspire and coordinate everyone, making sure all are moving in sync toward shared objectives.

Administration - These are the organizers, the ones who keep the church's engine running smoothly. They are the project managers, ensuring that every task aligns with the church's big mission.

Teaching - Teachers in the church are like the go-to guides for interpreting all things biblical. They're there to boost spiritual understanding, unity, and growth within the community.

Wisdom - Wisdom is about tuning into the Holy Spirit's direction and applying it to what the church needs right now. Those with this gift are especially discerning in understanding God's will for a situation.

Prophecy - The gift of prophecy is used to perceive future events, forewarn, and/or encourage others. This is not only about predicting the future; it's about boldly speaking God's truth despite opposition, like the prophets of old. It's about stirring people to bring home some hard truths through preaching.

Discernment - Those with the gift of discernment are especially intuitive, able to read situations accurately and perceive someone's motives and true intentions. Generally, a person with the gift of discernment can perceive unknown things in people.

Exhortation - These folks are keenly able to motivate others, those who get people excited about doing God's work. They're great at giving advice and firing up enthusiasm for serving.

Faith - Those with the gift of faith have an incredible confidence in God. They are always ready to encourage others in their faith and remind the church that when the odds seem totally against us, God is still on our side.

Shepherding - Those who care for others' spiritual journeys have this gift; this is not merely a gift for vocational pastors. It's about being a spiritual guiding light for others.

Evangelism - Think of evangelists as the church's outreach agents. They're passionate about introducing people to Christ. Their energy and effectiveness are all about growing the church family by welcoming new folks.

Apostleship - These are the leaders who take the gospel message into the world. Whether they're starting new churches, parachurch organizations, or mission agencies, apostles inspire everyone to think beyond their comfort zone and pursue the Great Commission.

Service - Have a practical problem? Those with the gift of service are your go-to people. They see a need and jump to help, usually without seeking any spotlight. They are the ones who make sure everything runs smoothly.

Mercy - Those with this gift are the church's empathy experts. If someone is going through a tough time, these individuals are there with open arms and compassionate hearts. They play a huge role in keeping the church a tight-knit and caring community.

Giving - These generous souls are all about supporting the church's mission, often financially. They give without hesitation, making them key players in fueling the church's work.

Hospitality - Have you ever met someone who makes you feel instantly at home? That's this crowd. They're fantastic at making guests and new members feel welcome, often hosting and making sure everyone is included.

Dig Deeper

Erik Rees, *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*, 2008.

Thomas Schreiner, "The Gifts of the Spirit," *Gospel Coalition*. Available at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-gifts-of-the-spirit>.

Andrew Wilson, "Are you Open to Spiritual Gifts," *Desiring God*, January 17, 2019. Available at <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/are-you-open-to-spiritual-gifts>.

Brittany Yesudasan, "What Are Spiritual Gifts?" *Cru*. Available at <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/spiritual-gifts.html>.

