

## Appreciating the Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 12:8-11

### On Finding Your Gift/s<sup>1</sup>:

1. How are you burdened to love people? Note that every passage on gifts (I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, I Peter 4) is followed by a discourse on love. It seems that our gifts will develop naturally as we move out to love. You might be able to discover your gifts also by the type of people for whom you especially have a burden.
2. Stay in the Scriptures! Almost every gift is related on how you delight in imparting knowledge and love for God to others. Therefore, if you are actively studying the Scriptures and imparting truth to others, then you will be both exercising and developing your gift/s.
3. Don't be timid! Gifts take a while to develop and to find an arena in which you can thrive for God's glory and for the church's good.
4. Get input from others. Ask others who know you what gift/s they see in you.
5. Look for patterns of fruitfulness. As you exercise your gift/s you'll begin to see fruit in a particular area. When you do, key in on it and develop it.
6. Once you've discovered your gift, **NEVER** cease from using it. Your gifts are given for life! Remember Romans 11:29 and I Timothy 4:14-16.
7. In the upcoming Network series beginning October 10th, we'll focus on spiritual gifts in greater detail. Just for a start, why not take the following spiritual gifts test. Check the answers (at the end, upside down) to determine what gifts you should especially consider examining.

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<sup>11</sup>These suggestions and the "Discovering Your Spiritual Gift" profile are from Network, a spiritual gifts inventory book.

## *Discovering Your Spiritual Gift*

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. What a joy it is to be a Christian - so much so that you are rarely bogged down by the anxieties and worries which come from living in this world. This attitude then many times reflects itself in a committed prayer life through which you've seen results; or in your initiation of a project which seems impossible to others, or in your participating in a project which others may have given up, and again you've seen results.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. You seem to put a great emphasis on analyzing motives or determining attitudes in order to assess the truth or error being presented. You would have a great desire to identify in the most difficult of situations, from which source the power is coming. This might take the form of being able to really see the potential of those around you, or a certain uncomfortableness which you sense when you hear error in doctrine being spoken in an apparently truth-like manner.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. In this instance you find yourself doing things that don't attract much attention or acclaim to you personally. This may involve carrying out duties and functions which have been decided upon by others. It may manifest itself also in your being particularly attracted to assist those who are either temporarily or permanently unable to do so for themselves. Along with this, you've possibly experienced great frustration because of a lot of "red tape" which may encumber you. However, you may still find you have difficulty in saying, "no."

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. You often find yourself either with individuals or in group situations wondering "Now how would God see this?" and/or thinking "It seems the Lord would look at this problem in this way." Perhaps even on occasion you have had an inner urge to say something which you feel is from the Lord and would specifically resolve a conflict. You may even find yourself relatively quiet in the midst of much discussion waiting for the right time and the right way to speak to complex questions in a short, concise way which results in the spontaneous agreement of others to your scriptural insight.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. You have had occasion with a group of Christians speaking in a known foreign language that was previously unknown to you before its first occurrence. At this time there has also been someone present to interpret your speech for the edification of those present because the content of this was praise and worship of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. You seem to be attracted to people who are experiencing tremendous emotional or spiritual conflicts, people for whom others seem to shy away. You also seem to be able to sense another's feelings by non-verbal communication more than other people do. This may seem to reflect itself in your being able to distinguish between the person and his actions; in other words, you would find it easy to forgive the person without condoning the act, resulting in people feeling accepted by you despite what their performance is.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. In reading the Word, you realize that you have a great desire to understand theological concepts clearly and thoroughly and that you want to put in order the facts in Scripture that make those theological notions more readily understandable to others. Maybe you have even noticed that you will take these concepts and translate them into modern thinking without changing their meaning so that these ideas may communicate to others. Your experience might even be that people talk with you about these theological precepts of the faith and that your answers seem to enlighten them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. In this situation you seem to notice particularly how projects or events are carried out with a desire that they run smoothly and efficiently. You might be thinking about ways in which meetings could be run better and/or you might be especially sensitive when things get "off course" or distracted from what the original intent was. You seem to be able to see beyond all the details that bog others down by giving clear responses to certain people while you watch the overall progress. You may even sense a joy in seeing others grow from the responsibilities you have given them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. You have had the experience of being with a group of believers when someone spoke in a known foreign language and found yourself able to explain its meaning although prior to that event, you did not know the language.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Repeatedly you find yourself thinking about how certain events fit into God's overall plan for humanity or what certain Scripture passages, which have seemed hidden or vague to others, reveal to you about God's will for man. In your daily life you might have encountered several times, people asking you if a certain solution to an issue is God's will or not. This may also have exhibited itself in an interest in politics, debate, or being asked to speak to groups of people.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. When you listen to teaching or read the Word yourself, you find yourself particularly looking for ways in which principles will be applicable to life. This emphasis leads you to want to set an example of right living for those around you, and others may have even told you that your example strengthens and encourages them. When you share with people, you enjoy using personal experience to illustrate Biblical truths. Others may often come to you when discouraged and the advice you give causes them to commit to new levels of obedience.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. You've discovered that you're very free with your possessions (they don't seem to possess you) and your viewpoint is really that everything belongs to God. So whatever resources you have, you enjoy putting at His disposal for the furtherance of His work here on earth. You find yourself responding freely to individuals or situations in need and experience joy in doing so - you don't need to be asked. Surprise gifts for others may be one expression of this.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. When you study the Word, you find yourself absorbed with accurate word definitions, historical settings, contextual problems, and Biblical principles which all explain truth. From this you draw illustrations about right living for the believer. Both your explanation of Biblical truth and contemporary applications result in others understanding the character and work of God and His Son Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Possibly because of some deep hurt in your own life, you find it easy to identify with those who are also hurting. People seem to feel free in talking with you about their low self-images, feelings of guilt or worthlessness, and you are able to communicate with them how God sees them, resulting in a healthier view and a new freedom never before experienced.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. You notice that when you speak, people listen. When and where you move, people follow. What is more, your words, your timing, and your direction consistently are proved to be generally right. You have the ability to facilitate decisions among people where they share an ownership not only for the process, but for the product.

(Answers to test: - Note - not all the gifts were listed)

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|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Faith       | 8. Administration            |
| 2. Discernment | 9. Interpretation of tongues |
| 3. Helps       | 10. Prophecy                 |
| 4. Wisdom      | 11. Exhortations             |
| 5. Tongues     | 12. Giving                   |
| 6. Mercy       | 13. Teaching                 |
| 7. Knowledge   | 14. Healings                 |