

WILD WEST

Iconium

The Kingdom's Third Law of Motion: every gospel action causes an equal and opposite reaction...

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings – what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... (2 Tim. 3:10-12)

In the Wild West town of Iconium...

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. (Acts 14:1a)

- ***Gospel impact: Paul and Barnabas' effective preaching – “There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.” (v. 1b)***

‡ ***Question: are your spiritual gift(s) in the holster or are they engaged? – “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit...Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Cor. 12:4, 7)***

- ***Counter-reaction: defiance and polarized resentment – “But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.” (v. 2)***
- ***Ministry boldness: despite the defiance, God's still on mission – “So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.” (v. 3)***

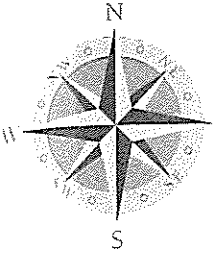
‡ ***Question: Which of these is your reflex-response when God gives you an opportunity to share the gospel with someone? 1) Who me? 2) Not me! 3) Why me? 4) Use me!***

- ***Expect one of two responses: openness or opposition – “The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them.” (vv. 4-5)***

*He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.
(Matt. 12:30)*

- ***God takes worldly opposition and turns it into kingdom expansion – “But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the good news.” (vv. 6-7)***

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. (Matt. 10:14)



IDENTITY

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THE LEADER'S GIFTS AND STRENGTHS

GOD BLESSES HIS PEOPLE WITH UNIQUE STRENGTHS that may be used to make a significant impact for the cause of Christ in the world. These abilities come in two primary ways: Some are spiritual gifts; others are special natural talents.

Our natural talents are those special abilities we are born with. They come by heredity and are ours from birth. Both believers and nonbelievers have natural talents, for God has built these into the human race because we are created in His image. Some people have special talents in the area of physical skills or coordination; others have musical or artistic talents; still others have special facility with mathematics or scientific studies. Our lives are enriched in many ways by the special talents that people possess.

THE MEANING OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts, on the other hand, are given only to believers. The Scripture describes spiritual gifts as being sovereignly given by God the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11). They are apparently bestowed at the time a person becomes a believer in Christ. Every biblical passage which deals with spiritual gifts emphasizes in some way that every believer receives at least one spiritual gift. (Note the "every" and "each" statements in Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10.)

The purpose of spiritual gifts is clearly to bring glory to God (1 Peter 4:11) and to build up the church, the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11–16; 1 Peter 4:10). Spiritual gifts are not for our private use or for building us up. Rather, they are intended to be used to build up the church by adding to its number (cf. the



gift of evangelism), bringing its people to maturity (cf. the gifts of teaching, leading, and exhorting), or ministering to the needs of its people (cf. the gifts of helps, hospitality, and showing mercy).

A spiritual gift is therefore simply a special, God-given ability to serve others for the benefit of the church of Jesus Christ.

THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Several passages give lists of spiritual gifts, and not all of the lists are identical. You can find lists in these passages:

- ✦ Romans 12:4–8
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 12:4–10
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 12:28–30
- ✦ Ephesians 4:11
- ✦ 1 Peter 4:11

The differences in the lists are partly accounted for by the different purposes and emphases of the individual biblical authors. Depending on their purpose, they highlighted some and ignored others. Or, as in 1 Peter 4:11, the author's purpose was to give a simple summary of all the gifts in two categories in order to emphasize that whatever is done should be done for the glory of God.

In order to determine your spiritual gift, we will use the instrument *DISCovering Your Spiritual Gift*. The “Introduction to Spiritual Gifts,” “A Spiritual Gifts Inventory,” and the “Glossary of Inventoried Spiritual Gifts” are all from *DISCovering Your Spiritual Gift*, ©1994, C. Gene Wilkes and used by permission of C. Gene Wilkes.

ABOUT YOUR GIFTS

Once you have completed the spiritual gifts questionnaire labeled “DISCovering Your Spiritual Gift” (including the “Gifts Inventory”), consider what you have learned about your gift(s) by answering the following questions.

1. Indicate which gifts most intensely describe you. Then read the appropriate descriptions of your gifts in the “Glossary of Inventoried Spiritual Gifts.” Do the gifts you identified as yours seem to fit? In what ways do they fit or not fit?

THE LEADER'S GIFTS AND STRENGTHS





DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are the key to understanding the church and how God intends the church to function. The church is the visible body of Christ, and Scripture describes it as a living organism, unified in purpose while diverse in its parts. Each member has its place of service in the body, and every part belongs to the body (1 Cor. 12:12–26). The church is many members gifted by God and united for service. Spiritual gifts are part of God’s gift of grace (Rom. 12:3, 6; Eph. 4:7, 11). To receive God’s grace for salvation is to receive God’s gifts for service in Christ’s body. . . .

A diversity of gifts means variety of ministries (1 Cor. 12:14), and different roles mean various ways to serve the body (Eph. 4:11). God gives the gifts for service to the church (1 Cor. 12:7). Spiritual giftedness, not tenure or expertise, is the basis for spiritual usefulness in the church. The church functions best when its members know how God has gifted them and when they are in a place of service motivated by that giftedness.

The goal of understanding spiritual gift(s) is to discover your place of service in the body. You may match your gift(s) with a place of service that already exists within your church; for example, you may match your gift of teaching with a need for Bible teachers. Or, you may match your gift(s) with a ministry that exists outside your local church. Your gift(s) may also motivate you to find places of ministry that do not yet exist in your church. God gifted you to serve His body. The adventure is discovering both the gift and place of service for the good of all (1 Cor. 12:7).

The number of gifts you will inventory have been limited to gifts listed in the three primary biblical lists. You also will not inventory the “sign” gifts of miracles, healings, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.¹ The ultimate goal is to understand and incorporate those gifts directly related to service in your church.

A unique feature of this inventory is “corresponding body parts” for each gift. In 1 Cor. 12, Paul used the metaphor of a foot speaking to a hand, “because I am not a hand, I don’t belong to the body” (v. 15). Paul did not equate a particular part with a corresponding gift, but the analogy is consistent with how he described the church’s similarity to a human body. For example, someone with the gift of service or helps serves the body as a hand. Another example is that a member with the gift of apostleship serves the body as a foot that carries the body into missions.

The corresponding body parts to spiritual gifts in this inventory are only aids to memory and application. The questions take into account your personal perceptions of your giftedness as well as what others in the body have said about how you serve the church.

Please complete the inventory before you read the glossary of gifts at the end of this inventory.

THE LEADER'S GIFTS AND STRENGTHS



TALLY BOX					TOTALS	GIFTS/MINISTRIES
1	16	31	46	61	▶	Prophecy
2	17	32	47	62	▶	Service
3	18	33	48	63	▶	Teaching
4	19	34	49	64	▶	Exhortation
5	20	35	50	65	▶	Giving
6	21	36	51	66	▶	Leadership
7	22	37	52	67	▶	Administration
8	23	38	53	68	▶	Mercy
9	24	39	54	69	▶	Apostle
10	25	40	55	70	▶	Evangelist
11	26	41	56	71	▶	Pastor
12	27	42	57	72	▶	Wisdom
13	28	43	58	73	▶	Knowledge
14	29	44	59	74	▶	Faith
15	30	45	60	75	▶	Discernment

Circle your three highest totals. Note the corresponding gift/ministry and record below:
 List the three gifts with the highest numbers:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

My DISC temperament is:



GLOSSARY OF INVENTORIED SPIRITUAL GIFTS²

Prophecy (Mouth)

The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly, leading to conviction of sin and building up the body. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching. (See 1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6.)

Service/Helps (A hand)

Those with the gift of service or helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meet those needs. Those with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes. (See 1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7.)

Teacher/Teaching (Mind)

Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body. (See 1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11.)

Exhortation (Arms)

Exhortation is encouraging members to be about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry. (See Rom. 12:8.)

Giving (A hand)

Members with this gift give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of this gift. (See Rom. 12:8.)

Leadership (An eye)

Leadership aids the body by leading and directing others to accomplish the goals and purposes of the body. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals. (See Rom. 12:8.)

Administration (An eye)

Those with this gift lead the body by steering others to stay on the intended direction of the body. Administration helps the body to organize for action according to long-term goals and purposes. (See 1 Cor. 12:28.)

Mercy (Heart)

Those with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members in order to



keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the body. Cheerful acts of compassion characterize this gift. (See Rom. 12:8.)

Apostle (A foot)

The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. An apostle motivates the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission. (See 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11.)

Evangelism (A foot)

God gifts His church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship. (See Eph. 4:11.)

Pastor (Knees)

This gift looks out for the spiritual welfare of those in its care. Shepherding is not limited to a pastor on staff. Pastors, like shepherds, care for members of the church. (See Eph. 4:11.)

Word of Wisdom (Right brain)

Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies its teachings and actions to the needs of the body. (See 1 Cor. 12:28.)

Word of Knowledge (Left brain)

Knowledge is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the truths of God's Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth. This gift manifests itself in teaching and discipleship training. (See 1 Cor. 12:28.)

Faith (Temperament)

Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others by trusting in the face of apparently insurmountable odds. (See 1 Cor. 12:9.)

Discernment (Ears)

This gift aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests the messages and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body. (See 1 Cor. 12:10.)

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2. *Look back over your Life Story (chapter 3). You may see instances in your Life Story in which you exercised those gifts you discovered in your questionnaire.*

a. *If you are aware of times you used these gifts, what were the instances and what were the results?*

b. *How did you feel in those instances in which you exercised your gifts?*

3. *To verify the possession of a particular spiritual gift, you should be able to identify times in your life when you exercised that gift. You should also have received feedback from others that confirms your possession of the gift.*

a. *Show your spiritual gift results to your spouse and/or close friend and ask them whether the gifts you identified fit you. What are their comments?*

b. *What comments have you received from others indicating your possession of a particular spiritual gift (or gifts)?*

If you have an agreement among the results of your “DISCovering Your Spiritual Gift,” your own experiences in ministry, and the responses of others to you, you can feel confident that you possess the gifts involved. No spiritual gifts questionnaire is sufficient in itself to identify your gifts without substantiation from actual opportunities to exercise the gifts.