

Identifying Your Spiritual Gift

God designed the discovery of our spiritual gifts to happen in the context of real life and community. Taking a spiritual gifts quiz can be fun and somewhat helpful, but it can also produce artificial or untested results. True discovery comes as several real-life factors work together to reveal how God has uniquely gifted us. Here are some key factors that help us discern our spiritual gifts:

Obedience to the commandments

Many of the spiritual gifts listed in Scripture are also general commands for every believer. As you walk in obedience to these commands, you begin to discover the kinds of service and ministry that energize you, bear spiritual fruit, and contribute to making disciples.

Passion

What do you care deeply about? What motivates you? What do you dream about? What vision has God placed in your heart for yourself, others, your church, your community, or the world? What burden or need consistently captures your attention and stirs you to respond?

Calling

God has given you a specific work of service, or calling, within the general mandates to LOVE and GO (*Ephesians 4:12; John 13:34-35; Matthew 28:18-20*). The intersection of your passion and what others in the Body of Christ consistently seek from you often helps identify your specific work of service.

A calling is accompanied by a deep sense of peace and joy, even in the midst of challenges and sacrifice. When you walk in your calling, there is spiritual fruit in both your life and the lives of others. People are strengthened, blessed, and drawn closer to Christ, and the Kingdom of God advances through your obedience, whether you always see the results or not.

Natural ability

What are you naturally good at? What abilities, talents, and aptitudes has God given you? While natural abilities are not the same as spiritual gifts, God often uses them as channels through which your spiritual gifts are expressed and developed.

Life experiences

The experiences that have shaped your life (*pain, hardship, upbringing, culture, ethnicity, relationships, successes, and failures*) influence how your spiritual gifts are expressed through you. God often uses your unique experiences to give you compassion, insight, and opportunities to minister to others in ways that are distinctively yours.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Gifts are not distributed equally. Some people have one gift; others have more than one.

Gifts are not given based on knowledge, experience, or God's favor.

Every gift has equal value and worth in God's sight.

A gift may be effective or ineffective depending on its use or misuse.

Gifts cannot be created, earned, or produced by human effort.

The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts. You do not choose them, but you are responsible for stewarding them.

All gifts are manifestations of the Spirit given for the common good and the edification of others.

