



1

“...what we’re ‘here for’ is to become genuine human beings, reflecting the God in whose image we’re made, and doing so in worship on the one hand and in mission, in its full and large sense, on the other; and that we do this ...by ‘following Jesus.’”

N. T. Wright, After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters, pg 26.

2

“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.”

1 Peter 2:9 MSG

3

“Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we’re a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. *Abundantly* free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.” Ephesians 1:7-10 *MSG*

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Romans 12:1-8

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Ephesians 4:1-16

1 Peter 4:10-11

The church’s twofold ministry:

-To minister to itself for health and wholeness.

-To minister to *all* people in mission and service.

5

Principles to Understand the Spiritual Gifts

1. The gifts are for service. They enable us to do effective service for the body of Christ, the church, and through the church, the world.

1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Corinthians 12:7

Ephesians 4:12

6

Principles to Understand the Spiritual Gifts

2. God assigns and empowers the gifts. God, not the individual or the community of Christians, chooses our gifts. God alone knows what we need for “building up the body of Christ” and the “common good” of the church (Ephesians 4:12, 1 Corinthians 12:7).

1 Corinthians 12-14

Romans 12:6

7

Principles to Understand the Spiritual Gifts

3. All Christians are included. Everyone is gifted for special ministries. All Christians have spiritual gifts that carry extraordinary powers and responsibilities.

8

Principles to Understand the Spiritual Gifts

4. Only God knows the limit to the variety of spiritual gifts.

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Principles to Understand the Spiritual Gifts

5. The use of gifts determines health and growth. The purpose of the gifts is to bring the church to full maturity in Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-16

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God designs and commissions us for ministry through the gifts. Mutual interdependence undergirds these ministries.
The Holy Spirit energizes and directs these gifts toward wholeness in Jesus Christ.
This vital spiritual fellowship is only possible through an every-member participation, as members live and serve by the standard of *agape* love.

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1. The gifts are a basic part of the plan of salvation. We are saved by grace and gifted by grace.

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2. The purpose of spiritual gifts are for ministry. The gifts are not for personal advancement or to feel pride. They are practical resources for doing God’s work by God’s power working in and through us.

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3. The gifts are not mysterious or exotic. You do not need any prior experience. The results of using our gifts are not ours to own; it is God’s work and for God’s glory.

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4. All the gifts are equal in value. God uses them all to achieve his purpose.

15

5. No single gift or set of gifts can be used as a test of Christian achievement or commitment. There is no hierarchy of value; we are each a full minister of Christ and a full member of his body.

16

6. The call to use the gifts is not necessarily dramatic or difficult. Discovering your gift serves to enhance and grow it in new ways.

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7. The discovery of our gifts will not always bring us immediate happiness and gratification. Sometimes we do not even know what God is calling us to do; sometimes we don't want what he shows us! Pray and wait on God.

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8. The gifts are not limited to, nor defined by, those listed in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. God's gifts are as varied as God's people.

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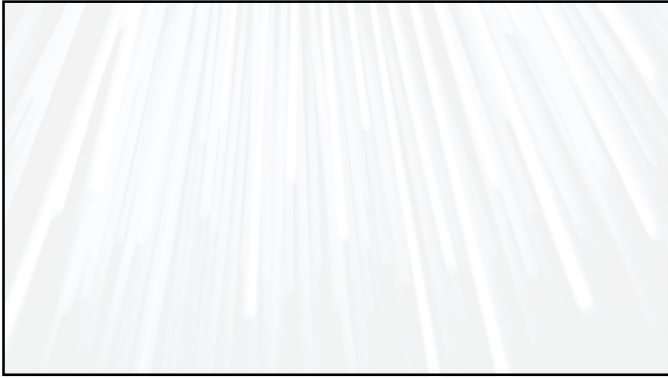
9. The search for your gift and the call of God to use it is valuable. You draw closer to God as you prayerfully learn about your gift, and you will be able to serve God's people and do God's work on earth in ways that are beyond your expectation or imagination.

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HOMEWORK: Complete your inventory.

- 1. Don't worry about zeroes; that might mean you haven't had opportunity for that experience, or you do not have that gift.**
- 2. Look for groupings of close numbers; may indicate a specific call. We will get to those groupings later.**
- 3. Don't be freaked out over anything! Don't jump to conclusions.**
- 4. Where are you already serving God and the church?**
- 5. With your top five, read the descriptions and the scripture. Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more to you.**

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