

## Knowing and Operating in Your Spiritual Gifts

**MISSION / PURPOSE:** To be of Kingdom Service, we "seek first the kingdom of God" and then strive to make a real difference in other people's lives.

*Finding Your Place In God's Purpose for Your Life*

### Session #1: Uniquely You and Designed for a Purpose

**Course Format:** Weekly: Lesson, Discussion, Interaction, and Challenge; along with Hands-on opportunities, This is your class! Be comfortable. Be on time. Attend all 6 sessions. Ask for an audio recording if you miss a session. Who's teaching?

**Goals:** What would you like to personally see happen in your life and ministry as a result of participating in this course?

**Session Focus:** Don't be uniformed about your spiritual gifts! (1 Cor. 12:1)

**Prayer:** Lord, help us understand the importance of spiritual gifts and how you've designed them to help us accomplish the purpose and plan you have for our lives.

**Background:** Over time, discussions about spiritual gifts have led to terrible church controversies and confusion. It can be a mine field, so be aware!

Maturing in our Christian walk requires an understanding of what spiritual gifts are, what they are not, and how to grow in them in a balanced and biblical way.

### You Are Unique! and Uniquely Designed • Created with a Purpose

**READ Psalm 139:13-16** and **Jeremiah 1:5** Study Points:

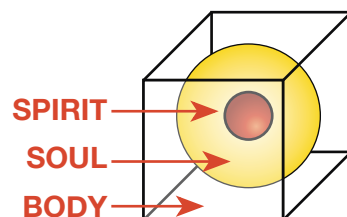
• God has personally designed you. Your design is intricate and it includes many ingredients. As a born-again believer, Spiritual Gifts are part of God's recipe. And to understand them, it's important to understand how God made us.



### ESSENTIAL TRUTHS (about who we really are)

**READ 1 Thessalonians 5:23**

- We are not H \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ having a spiritual E \_\_\_\_\_.
- We are S \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ having a human experience. (**Psalm 119:19**)



(A Thinking Model)

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE ...

- 1) NOT natural talents, but can complement them.
- 2) NOT given to just the elite.
- 3) NOT signs of spiritual maturity.
- 4) NOT the fruit of the spirit. **READ Gal. 5:22-23**
- 5) NOT something to be afraid of.

Natural talents and personality traits are important human resources we all have. These are not the same as spiritual gifts which are given by sovereign choice, by the Holy Spirit:

- at the time we become Christians, as well as
- when God wants to accomplish a new work.

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE ...** Powerful, supernatural enablements given so we may serve God more effectively in the world and in the church.

• Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift, many receive more than one gift. In the New Testament, there are no distinctions between "professional ministers" (clergy/priest) and "regular people" (laity).

• Spiritual gifts must be employed in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in the self-energy of the flesh in order to please God and bring positive results. (We work with God rather than just for God.)

• Evidence you may be operating in a spiritual gift: you can experience great joy, deep satisfaction, and a bit of excitement

**Surveys & Assessments:** How they fit in... Has anyone done the PLACE Assessment yet?

**What spiritual gift(s) do you think you already operate in?**

**Are there any spiritual gifts you wish you had? Are there any gifts you hope you never have?**

**Do any spiritual gifts scare you, or you would like to know more about? (Circle in side bar at right.)**

## MEMORY VERSE

### God's Great Plan for Your Life

**Jeremiah 29:11** (NIV)  
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### Spiritual Gifts Listed in the Bible

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1-14

- 9 gifts, by verse -
- (v.8) wisdom
- (v.8) knowledge
- (v.9) faith
- (v.9) healing
- (v.10) working of miracles
- (v.10) prophecy
- (v.10) discernment of spirits
- (v.10) various kinds of tongues
- (v.10) interpretation of tongues

#### Romans 12:6-8, 13

- 9 gifts, by verse -
- (v.6) prophesy
- (v.6) faith
- (v.7) ministry in ministering (gift of serving, helping)
- (v.7) teacher in teaching
- (v.8) exhorter in exhortation (strongly encourage along a godly line of action)
- (v.8) giver in generosity (gift of giving)
- (v.8) leader in leading
- (v.8) compassionate in cheerfulness (gift of showing mercy)
- (v.13) hospitality

#### Ephesians 4:11

- 5 Fold Ministry -
- There are Apostolic\*, Prophetic\*, Evangelical, Pastoral, and Teaching\* Ministries.
- \*also see, 1 Cor. 12:28-29

Q: Intercession? 1 Timothy 2

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fold

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