

Knowing and Operating in Your Spiritual Gifts



Session #10: Going Deeper to Find Your Place In God's Purpose

Ministry Moments: Have you had any ministry moments where you experienced a Holy Spirit gift at work? Either working through you to others, or others to you?

Session Focus: **Where will you put your hand to the plow?** (Luke 9:62)

Prayer: Lord, help us see where we can be a kingdom "difference maker." Help us know Your will and grant us the strength to carry it out, in Jesus' name.

Follow Up: **Are you getting a sense of how God might be calling you to serve, or what might be holding you back?** (*Is your faith being challenged?*)

Investigation: Word of Knowledge, Pastor / Shepherd, Prophecy, Wisdom

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE: The special ability to master God's revealed truths in Scripture. May also manifest as a Holy Spirit revelation, about people or circumstances, which was previously unknown to the person operating in the gift. The gift may also manifest in the ability to accurately quote passages of scripture without memorizing. **Active Ideal:** Influence lives, rather than impress others. **Trap to Avoid:** Making others feel inferior or unknowledgeable. **Verses:** 1 Corinthians 12:7-8; 1 Corinthians 8:1-2; Mark 2:6-8; John 1:45-50

PASTOR / SHEPHERD: The special ability to effectively guide, feed, and protect a flock of followers in Christ – also known as "pastoring" or "shepherding." It is likely exercised in today's church office of Pastor. **Active Ideal:** Strong leadership without the use of manipulation or guilt. **Trap to Avoid:** Taking advantage of others' trust or vulnerability. **Verses:** Eph. 4:11; 1 Peter 5:2-4

PROPHECY: The special ability to cause the authoritative word of God's truth to shine. It may be expressed in both preaching and extemporaneous utterances to explain and apply God's revelation for correction and edification. **Active Ideal:** Bold declaration of God's truth, without causing division. **Trap to Avoid:** Becoming a fighter. **Verses:** Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 14:1-3; 2 Peter 1:19-21

WISDOM: A special ability to use knowledge effectively for the building up of the body of Christ. The reverential awe and healthy-fear of God is its true foundation. **Active Ideal:** Be perceptive and consistently seek truth. **Trap to Avoid:** Speaking down to other people. **Verses:** 1 Cor. 12:7-8; James 3:13-18

fold

WE CAN EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES WHEN SERVING ALONGSIDE OTHERS



Conflicts
(1 Cor. 11:16-19)

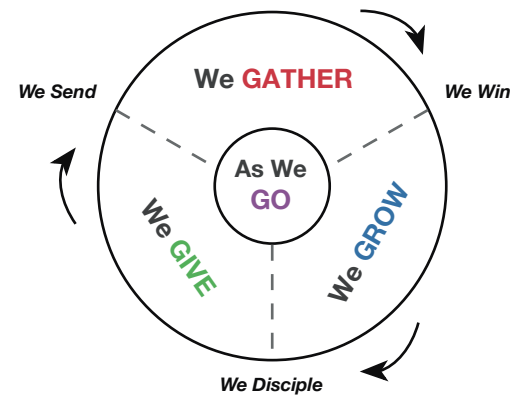
READ James 4:1-10 **How are you drawing close to converse with the Lord? How do you know you're hearing His voice?**

Hearing From God **READ Job 33:14; John 8:47**

How Have You Heard From God? **

- ___ 1) Audible voice you hear with your ears.
- ___ 2) God's voice in your mind.
- ___ 3) God speaking in your mind, but using your voice.
- ___ 4) Physical manifestations or circumstances – often called 'divine appointments'.
- ___ 5) Living-word insights – you come to the Bible in faith and it speaks personally (and often profoundly) to you.
- ___ 6) Dreams – when you're asleep.
- ___ 7) Visions – when you're awake.
- ___ 8) Insights and impressions – a sense of the rightness of something.
- ___ 9) Prophetic words spoken by another believer.
- ___ 10) Angelic visitation

**** REMEMBER:** It's very important to "test the spirits" of any word you think may be from God. (1 John 4:1) That testing should absolutely include verifying what you hear against holy scripture; i.e. the Bible. God will never contradict His Word. For example, if a person insists God said to divorce their spouse, that's just a lie heard from the pit of hell. Jesus makes it clear what God intends for our marriage covenants. (Matthew 19:3-8; Malachi 2:16)

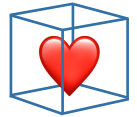


How can you serve God where you are right now? Where can you commit yourself to grow through service in your Life Bible Study group?

MEMORY VERSE

God's Great Plan

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.



Christian Spirituality: Is the framework from within which we allow God's Holy Spirit to have His creative and transforming action on our soul.

Imagine 12 core values we can step into or "put on." – Eph. 4:22-24 [lines of the framework]

1. *Rely on God's Way*
2. *Be Obedient*
3. *Be Forgiving*
4. *Be Truthful*
5. *Be Faithful, Trustworthy*
6. *Be Courageous*
7. *Be Giving, Generous*
8. *Be Humble, Meek*
9. *Be Hopeful, Helpful*
10. *Be Compassionate*
11. *Be Just, Righteous*
12. *Be Patient, Kind*

Imagine 6 sides of the framework represent the active dimensions of a growing spiritual life.

1. *We Worship*
2. *We Pray*
3. *We Study*
4. **We Serve**
5. *We Witness*
6. *We Fellowship*