

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The person is wearing a grey, textured sweater. The background is a dark, solid blue color. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Identify Your Spiritual Gift

Discover how God wants
to use you

Utilize the following process and the list of gifts starting on page 4 to identify your “primary” spiritual gift. You probably have talent in multiple areas, but should aim to incorporate your strongest gift directly into your personal ministry.

1. Eliminate the Obvious

Eliminate the gifts that feel overwhelming or you do not feel suited for. This should be the easiest part (i.e. I am terrible at Administration, so it’s not going to be my spiritual gift). You can do this by putting an “X” next to these gifts.

2. Identify Your “Natural” Talents

All of us carry inherent talent in any number of things, especially as we mature spiritually. Which talents come naturally to you? Which gifts align with your default behavior? You can do this by putting a checkmark next to these gifts.

3. Which Gifts Have You Been Recognized For?

This would be when someone took the time to compliment or recognize you for exhibiting a particular gift. Someone walks up to you and says, “You did a really good job at teaching that lesson. You’re really good at explaining things in a way that’s very relatable.” That would point to Knowledge or Teaching as being potential spiritual gifts. Mark these with a checkmark.

4. Get It Down to 3

Of the gifts that have checkmarks, begin comparing them one-to-one. Compare your ability to lead with your heart to be hospitable. Compare your skill in preaching to your effectiveness in encouraging others. Eliminate gifts until you arrive at your final 3.

5. Identify Your Primary Spiritual Gift

Ask others for input on your top 3. Is there one that has a consensus from those that know and interact with you? Is there one that inspires you or makes you feel connected to your identity? Has God made it clear that He wants you to serve in a certain capacity that aligns with one of these 3?

Once you identify your spiritual gift, given to you by God through the Holy Spirit to build up your church, seek to use it and grow it as much as possible. Knowing is half the battle, but it is when you use your gift to serve others that you honor God.

Spiritual Gifts

- Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)
 - The ability to manage or govern people and tasks
- Encouragement/Exhortation (Romans 12:8)
 - The ability to inspire action in others, primarily as it pertains to pursuing Christ/holiness
- Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11)
 - You consistently call and persuade others to respond to the message of grace and the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)
 - The ability to trust God wholeheartedly and help others walk by faith
- Generosity (Romans 12:8)
 - You share your material resources (time, money, possessions, etc.) freely with others with cheerfulness and without expecting anything in return
- Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-10)
 - You warmly welcome people, even strangers, into your home or church in order to serve those in need of food, lodging, or fellowship
- Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)
 - You seek to learn as much about the Bible/God as possible by gathering and analyzing information so that you can share that knowledge with others

- Leadership (Romans 12:8)
 - The ability to move people towards God's vision for their lives
- Mercy/Healing (Romans 12:8)
 - The ability to be empathetic towards those who are suffering and care for them with acts of love to help alleviate their distress
- Pastor/Shepherd (Ephesians 4:11)
 - You take personal responsibility for guiding and protecting people's physical, emotional, and spiritual lives
- Preaching (Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10)
 - The ability to speak the message of God to His people and persuade them to live in accordance with His will
- Serving (Romans 12:7)
 - You identify undone tasks in God's work, no matter how small, and use the resources available to you to get the job done
- Teaching (Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28)
 - The ability to take Biblical principles and communicate them in a relatable way to help other grow in their own understanding
- Wisdom/Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:8)
 - The ability to apply knowledge to life and make spiritual truths relevant and practical for making decisions and daily life situations

Miraculous Gifts/Apostleship:

The following gifts/roles identified in the early church are claimed by some as a means to elevate their “spirituality” or “authority.” But when investigated, the person claiming these gifts often does not bear fruit in keeping with the indwelling Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26), thus calling in to question their authenticity and true motives. These are included in order to give a thorough, honest look at spiritual gifts as seen in the New Testament.

- Apostleship (Acts 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29)
 - Consisted of the original 12 apostles appointed by Jesus, Matthias chosen in Acts 1 to replace Judas, and Paul
 - Designated to teach with divine authority to build the early church
 - Role no longer needed after canonization of the New Testament
- Miraculous Healing (Matthew 10:1)
 - Gift given directly to the apostles and a select few others to help establish their authority to teach and instruct as being from God (Acts 14:3)
 - Different than praying for healing and God intervening
- Speaking/Translating Other Languages (1 Corinthians 14:1-40)
 - Used by God to draw attention to a certain message or messenger
 - Speaking in or translating a language you have no previous knowledge of as enabled directly by the Holy Spirit to bring the direct Word of God to others
- Prophecy (Acts 11:27-28, 1 Corinthians 12:10)
 - Predicting a future event through the Spirit of God
 - *Note: True prophets are correct 100% of the time. If not, they are false prophets and the penalty from God is death (Deuteronomy 18:20)