

# PASSION

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*God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These reveal the nature of your heart...*

***The Purpose Driven Life*** by Rick Warren

Our passion is what drives us, what stirs our souls when we hear or talk about a particular issue or cause. It is what moves us, what excites (or breaks) our hearts. It is what or who we truly care about, what we see and are naturally drawn to, and what makes us cry. Our passion is our deepest desire (our deepest dream) which reveals our deepest calling, the great adventure God has for us. It is that area that, if money, time, and the opinion of others were not factors, you would invest your life.

Our passion is one of the primary ways we identify **where** God wants us to give and serve.

The following questions are designed to help you identify more clearly what your heartbeat or passion is, in order that you may be released to fulfill your deepest calling.

## Who do you love to serve?

- With which group of people do you most easily connect?

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- What age range do you feel most led to minister to or serve?

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## What needs do you love meeting the most? Check your top two.

- Spiritual Needs:** helping people discover Christ and reach their fullest potential in Him.
- Physical Needs:** using your resources to help people with physical needs through practical expressions of love – food, clothing, shelter, and other simple necessities.
- Relational Needs:** helping people develop authentic, Christ-centered relationships with others, connecting people, and helping them find and build satisfying relationships.
- Emotional Needs:** helping people in pain go through their life situations with Christ, by counseling, encouraging, and listening to them.
- Educational Needs:** finding special joy using your teaching gift/ability to help others learn how to live life to its fullest potential.
- Vocational Needs:** training, coaching, and consulting others to help them overcome barriers, reach their goals, and maximize their personal and professional potential.

# PASSION: *CONTINUED*

**What cause(s) or issue(s) stir your heart the most?** Check your top three.

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion/sanctity of life            | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminally ill             | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage/family issues     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults with Adult Children in Crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> Illiterate                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment/conservation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Believers married to unbelievers     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministers                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Christ-centered parenting  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business men/women                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministers' spouses         | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty/hunger             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Stay-at-home mothers       | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial stewardship      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster-to-adopt children             | <input type="checkbox"/> Working mothers            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deafness                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/teenagers                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen mothers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality/gender issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College students                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Unwed pregnant women       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually abused            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single adults (under 35)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Widows/widowers            | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single adults (over 35)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Missionaries               | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce/Grief              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged couples                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbors                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse/violence             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young married couples                | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool Children         | <input type="checkbox"/> Law/justice system         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couples with teenagers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Children        | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational issues         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior adults/couples                | <input type="checkbox"/> Children of ministers      | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/government        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empty-nesters                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Children of single parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/ethnic groups               | <input type="checkbox"/> At-risk children           | <input type="checkbox"/> Compulsive behavior issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ex-convicts                          | <input type="checkbox"/> New Christians             | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/fitness             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families of prisoners                | <input type="checkbox"/> New church members         | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability support         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexuals                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Christians             | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual apathy           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoorsmen                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug abuse/recovery        |   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcoholism                 |   |

## Notes:

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# ABILITIES

Every person has natural abilities and acquired skills. Whether a person has creative, cognitive, physical, or relational skills and abilities, God desires for you to excel in these areas for His sake and purposes. In fact, our strengths and abilities are given to us explicitly to reveal His greatness and glory. What is required of us, as followers of Jesus Christ, is to be available and aware of how God wants to use our skills and abilities in particular ways. Rick Warren, in *The Purpose Driven Life*, writes:

*...the abilities you do have are a strong indication of what God wants you to do with your life. They are clues to knowing God's will for you...God doesn't waste abilities; he matches our calling and our abilities.*

In the creation of the Old Testament tabernacle – a place of worship in the presence of God for the Israelites after their mass exodus from Egypt – God gave specific people skills necessary to design and to build the tabernacle as He had commanded.

*He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work...all of them master craftsmen and designers (Exodus 35:35).*

Below is a list of abilities (with a brief description) to help you identify which abilities and skills you may have. Please mark each skill or ability as being either *definitely you, sort of you, or not you at all*. Remember to be as honest as possible; the goal is to embrace the things you love and enjoy, not just the things you can do.

Abilities	Definitely Me	Sort of Me	Not Me At All
<b>Accounting/Computing:</b> adding, estimating, totaling, calculating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Adapting:</b> adjusting, changing, altering, modifying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Administering:</b> governing, running, ruling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Analyzing:</b> examining, investigating, probing, evaluating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Building:</b> constructing, making, assembling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Challenging:</b> implementing new thoughts & ideas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Classifying:</b> systematizing & filing books, data, records	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Coaching:</b> preparing, instructing, training, equipping, developing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Communicating:</b> sharing, conveying, imparting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Connecting:</b> linking & involving people, helping others find relationships & community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Consulting:</b> advising & discussing, conferring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Cooking:</b> preparing, serving, catering food for large or small groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Coordinating:</b> organizing, matching, harmonizing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Counseling:</b> guiding, advising, supporting, listening, caring for people in need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Competing:</b> contending, battling, winning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Composing/Artistic:</b> writing or creating works of music or art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Abilities</b>	<b>Definitely Me</b>	<b>Sort of Me</b>	<b>Not Me At All</b>
<b>Decorating:</b> beautifying, enhancing, adorning facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Defending:</b> standing for right & opposing wrong even in the face of opposition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Delegating:</b> empowering others to complete tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Designing:</b> drawing, creating, picturing, outlining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Developing/Creating:</b> making something new that is not in existence; expanding, growing, advancing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Directing:</b> overseeing, managing, supervising others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Editing:</b> correcting, amending, altering, improving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Encouraging:</b> cheering, inspiring, supporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Engineering:</b> planning, designing, constructing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Evaluating:</b> analyzing data & drawing conclusions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Facilitating:</b> helping, providing aid, assisting, making possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Forecasting:</b> predicting, calculating, seeing trends & patterns, recognizing themes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Graphic Designing:</b> creating images & layouts for websites or publications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Implementing:</b> applying, executing, making an idea happen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Improving:</b> making something/someone better, enhancing or enriching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Influencing:</b> being effective to sway, shape, or change something/someone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Interviewing:</b> discovering what others are truly like	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Landscaping:</b> gardening, planting, maintaining foliage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Leading:</b> moving a group of people in a certain direction; directing or paving the way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Learning:</b> studying, gathering information, understanding new or difficult concepts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Managing:</b> running, overseeing, handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mentoring:</b> advising, guiding, teaching others less mature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Motivating:</b> provoking or prompting others to action	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Negotiating:</b> discussing, consulting, helping to settle matters with consensus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Operating:</b> running mechanical or technical things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Organizing:</b> simplifying, arranging, fixing, classifying, coordinating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Perfecting:</b> doing things in an excellent manner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Abilities	Definitely Me	Sort of Me	Not Me At All
<b>Performing:</b> singing, acting, dancing, speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pioneering:</b> bringing about something new or ground-breaking, to implement something original	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Planning:</b> arranging, mapping out, preparing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Promoting:</b> selling, sponsoring, endorsing, showcasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Recalling:</b> remembering names and faces easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Recruiting:</b> enlisting, hiring, engaging others for needed roles or positions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Repairing:</b> fixing, mending, restoring, healing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representing:</b> handling complaints and unhappy customers with care, grace, & courtesy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Researching:</b> seeking, gathering, examining, studying information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Resourcing:</b> furnishing, providing, delivering what is needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Serving:</b> helping, assisting, giving for the sake of others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strategizing:</b> thinking ahead, calculating, planning for the best possible results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Teaching:</b> explaining, instructing, tutoring others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Translating:</b> interpreting, decoding, explaining, speaking a different language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Traveling:</b> journeying, visiting, exploring other places	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Visualizing:</b> picturing, imagining, envisioning, conceptualizing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Welcoming:</b> entertaining, greeting, embracing guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Writing:</b> composing, creating, recording documents in written form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Notes:**

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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS: ANSWER SHEET

Select the value from 0-4 for the degree each statement is true in your life.

**Answer according to who you are, NOT what you would like to be.**

0=Not at all 1=Little 2=Moderately Some 3=Considerably-Most 4=Strongly-Consistently

**INSTRUCTIONS:** When you have finished answering all 150 questions, add your scores across (i.e. 1 + 26 + 51 + 76 + 101 + 126) and check your highest scores with the key.

Answers						Total	Gift
1.	26.	51.	76.	101.	126.		A
2.	27.	52.	77.	102.	127.		B
3.	28.	53.	78.	103.	128.		C
4.	29.	54.	79.	104.	129.		D
5.	30.	55.	80.	105.	130.		E
6.	31.	56.	81.	106.	131.		F
7.	32.	57.	82.	107.	132.		G
8.	33.	58.	83.	108.	133.		H
9.	34.	59.	84.	109.	134.		I
10.	35.	60.	85.	110.	135.		J
11.	36.	61.	86.	111.	136.		K
12.	37.	62.	87.	112.	137.		L
13.	38.	63.	88.	113.	138.		M
14.	39.	64.	89.	114.	139.		N
15.	40.	65.	90.	115.	140.		O
16.	41.	66.	91.	116.	141.		P
17.	42.	67.	92.	117.	142.		Q
18.	43.	68.	93.	118.	143.		R
19.	44.	69.	94.	119.	144.		S
20.	45.	70.	95.	120.	145.		T
21.	46.	71.	96.	121.	146.		U
22.	47.	72.	97.	122.	147.		V
23.	48.	73.	98.	123.	148.		W
24.	49.	74.	99.	124.	149.		X
25.	50.	75.	100.	125.	150.		Y

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS: QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

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1. People have told me that I have communicated timely and urgent messages which must have come directly from the Lord.
2. Others listen and enjoy my teaching of scriptures.
3. I am able to perceive what a person really wants to communicate by what they are saying or not saying.
4. I find fulfillment in singing or playing a musical instrument.
5. I enjoy encouraging and giving counsel to those who are discouraged.
6. When I share the Gospel, people desire to know more about a relationship with Jesus Christ.
7. I enjoy entertaining guests and making them feel "at home" when they visit.
8. People respect my opinion and follow my direction.
9. I feel compassion for people who are hurting and lonely and like to spend considerable time with them to cheer them up.
10. I enjoy working with people, and I desire to help them be the best person they can be for the Lord.
11. When a group I am in is lacking organization, I tend to step in to fill the gap.
12. I find satisfaction in doing things like woodworking, crocheting, sewing, metal work, stained glass, etc.
13. I enjoy giving money for serious financial needs.
14. I enjoy relieving others of routine tasks so they can get special projects done.
15. Other people respect me as an authority in spiritual matters.
16. I can tell with a fairly high degree of assurance when a person is afflicted by an evil spirit.
17. I trust in God's faithfulness for a bright future even when everything looks bad.
18. I have seen people healed when I prayed for them.
19. I have heard someone speak in tongues and was able to interpret their message to the group without ever having learned the language.
20. Praying in tongues is personally meaningful to me in my prayer life.
21. People often seek my advice when they don't know what to do.
22. I have ability to gather information from several sources to discover the answer to a question or learn more about a subject.
23. I have spoken to evil spirits and they have obeyed me.
24. Whenever I hear reports on the news or in conversation about needy situations, I am burdened to pray.
25. I have been used by God to do supernatural acts which authenticated the message of Christ.
26. Sometimes I have a strong sense of what God wants to say to people in response to a particular situation.
27. I am organized in my thinking and systematic in my approach to presenting lessons to a group of people.
28. I have a deep longing to help people lead a holistic and balanced life-style.
29. In conversation with others, they often say to me, "I have never thought about it in that way."
30. I feel a need to challenge others to better themselves, especially in their spiritual growth, without condemning them.
31. I look for different ways to effectively share my faith.

## QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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32. I would like to use my home as a place to minister to people in need.
33. I usually step forward and assume leadership in a group where none exists.
34. I am able to empathize with suffering people and involve myself in their healing process.
35. I prefer long-term, stable relationships in which I can model servant leadership for believers.
36. I have the ability to help make projects or organizations more efficient.
37. I feel fulfilled in meeting people's needs by making something for them.
38. I am fulfilled in sharing my money and possessions without expecting anything in return.
39. I am very dependable for getting things done on time, and I don't need much praise and thanks.
40. I would be willing and excited to start a new church.
41. I can recognize whether a person's teaching is from God, from Satan, or of human origin.
42. I am able to pray knowing that God hears and will answer my prayers.
43. I enjoy praying for God to heal those who are physically and emotionally ill.
44. I have enjoyed interpreting for the body a message given in tongues.
45. I have been overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit during prayer or worship, and began to speak in tongues.
46. God enables me to make appropriate application of Biblical truth to practical situations.
47. I enjoy studying the Bible in such a way as to be able to clarify its truth for others.
48. I have actually heard a demon speak.
49. I believe prayer is the most important thing a Christian can do.
50. People have become Christians because of the gospel and the miracles God did through me.
51. I sometimes feel that I know exactly what God wants to do at a specific point in time.
52. When I teach others, I feel comfortable responding to questions.
53. I have given practical guidance to others which led to the healing of broken relationships.
54. I like the challenge of communicating with others so that there is variety and creativity.
55. I look for those who are confused or troubled in order to encourage them.
56. My conversations with unbelievers seem to include spiritual matters.
57. I spend time with visitors in order to make them feel comfortable and cared for.
58. I am able to effectively motivate and organize people to achieve specific goals which I perceive to be clearly God's plan.
59. I look beyond a person's deformities and lingering problems to see a life that matters to God.
60. I would enjoy providing general oversight for Christians, guiding them in their growth.
61. When I think about an event, I am able to visualize it so that potential problems are solved before they happen.
62. I can visualize through my mind's eye how something is to be constructed before I make it.
63. I often give to help meet an individual's or ministry's financial needs.
64. I enjoy helping people in any type of need, and feel a sense of satisfaction in meeting that need.

## QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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65. I am accepted as a spiritual authority in other parts of the country or world.
66. Others come to me to clarify a teaching or a situation's rightness or wrongness.
67. When I sense God's direction, I will press on even with the objections or opposition of others.
68. God regularly speaks to me concerning people's illnesses so that I can pray for them.
69. I have desired to interpret a message given in tongues.
70. I have spoken in a language unknown to me that when interpreted brought a blessing to those who heard.
71. I have felt an unusual presence of God and personal confidence when important decisions needed to be made.
72. I regularly research topics and read books to gain a better understanding.
73. Others call on me when they suspect that someone is demonized.
74. Many of my prayers for others have been answered by the Lord.
75. The power of God has miraculously changed or altered the natural order of things through me and my prayers.
76. I feel compelled to expose sin in the culture, church or an individual's life in order to have them walk consistently in the truth.
77. Christians have told me that I have really helped them to better understand some Biblical truth or personal issue so that they are now living differently.
78. People tell me things they have not told others and say that I am easy to talk to.
79. I enjoy developing my skills in the arts: music, crafts, drama, photography, etc.
80. I reassure those who need to take some courageous steps in their faith, family or life.
81. I like those I am around to know that I am a Christian, in the hope that they will ask me about my relationship to Christ.
82. I like to greet, welcome and create a warm atmosphere for those who attend various functions.
83. I can adjust my leadership to motivate a wide variety of people to work together in order to meet a goal or accomplish the task at hand.
84. I do what I can to show God's love "behind the scenes" to those who are suffering.
85. I provide guidance for the whole person – relationally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, etc.
86. I enjoy learning about management issues and how organizations function.
87. I am handy and good when working with my hands.
88. I am confident that the resources I share with others were for that purpose, and whether they are replenished is not a concern to me.
89. I like to find things that need to be done and do them even without being asked.
90. I gently, but firmly, challenge others to live a life of greater obedience.
91. In spiritual matters, I am able to distinguish between truth and error.
92. I have such a peace about God's care and provision for me and others that Believers have commented about my faith and trust.
93. I feel as a result of my prayers, God has restored people to social and relational wholeness.
94. Sometimes when a person speaks in tongues, I get an idea about what God is saying.

## QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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95. I have spoken an immediate message of God to His people in a language I have never learned.
96. People seek my advice about matters that confuse them.
97. I love to share with others the insights I have found in God's Word.
98. Other people have been delivered from demonic oppression when I have prayed for them.
99. Prayer is my favorite ministry in the church, and I spend a great deal of time at it.
100. Others have said that God has used me to bring about some impossible changes in their lives or circumstances.
101. I challenge Believers to confront and turn from their sin, even in the face of rejection, pressure or accusations of being narrow-minded.
102. I have a deep concern to relate God's truth to life so that Christians develop healthy attitudes and values.
103. When someone has a spiritual or relational struggle, I care for them in such a way that over time they are able to practically work through their problems.
104. I need to regularly get alone to reflect and use my imagination.
105. I strengthen those who are wavering in their faith by directing them to God's promises and truth.
106. I am attracted to non-believers because of my desire to win them to Christ.
107. I feel free to open my home to those who need physical or emotional support.
108. I usually know where I am going and can influence others in that direction.
109. I understand the emotional and spiritual swings of those going through painful experiences, and I patiently support them.
110. I would feel unafraid of giving spiritual guidance and direction to a group of Christians.
111. I am an organized person who sets goals and makes plans to reach them.
112. I can form, develop or adapt material to best meet a need.
113. My giving records show that I give considerably more than 10 percent of my income to the Lord's work.
114. When I see so many needs within my church, it is hard for me to say "no".
115. I have had positive responses in confronting people who were wandering from the truth.
116. I can determine and expose a person's deception before others recognize it.
117. I have believed God for the hard or impossible and seen it accomplished in a tangible way.
118. I believe God has used me to miraculously heal people without the aid of medicines or treatment.
119. I have interpreted tongues with the result that the body of Christ was edified, exhorted or comforted.
120. When I speak in tongues, I believe it is edifying to the Lord's body.
121. In the midst of much conflict, I can offer an acceptable and simple plan for resolution.
122. To a large degree, I could say that I have "felt or experienced" the truth I have discovered, which gives me a passion to see it communicated and applied in the lives of others.
123. I have cast out demons in Jesus' Name.
124. When I hear a prayer request, I pray for that need several times.

## QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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125. God has used me to make things happen which were far beyond human means.
126. I am willing to personally suffer or have others suffer if it will yield a more obedient and faithful walk with God.
127. I feel I can communicate Biblical truths to others and see resulting changes in knowledge, attitudes, values or conduct.
128. I can disagree with someone without making them feel judged or rejected.
129. I enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument, and people say I am good at it.
130. People have come to me in their afflictions or suffering and told me that they have been helped, relieved and healed.
131. I find it easy to invite a person to accept Jesus as their Savior.
132. When people come to our home, they indicate that they "feel at home" with us.
133. I am able to clarify a vision decisively, managing people and resources to fulfill it.
134. People have told me that I get too personally and emotionally involved in helping needy people.
135. I have helped fellow believers by guiding them to relevant portions of the Bible and praying with them.
136. I have the ability to organize ideas, people and projects to reach a specific goal.
137. I am able to design, build and mold things that help or encourage people.
138. When I am moved by an appeal to give to God's work, I usually can find the money I need to do it.
139. I enjoy working behind the scenes, taking care of little details.
140. I have a strong sense of God's calling to serve in new areas of ministry.
141. I can sense when demonic forces are at work in a person, situation or teaching.
142. There have been times when I have felt sure I knew God's specific will for the future growth of His work even when others have not been so sure.
143. Through my prayers, I have been able to see emotionally confused people experience the peace, understanding and healing of God.
144. I have prayed that I may interpret if someone begins speaking in tongues.
145. I speak in tongues for personal worship and prayer.
146. I feel I have more common sense than most people.
147. I have had insights of spiritual truth which others have said helped bring them closer to God.
148. I have a desire to see demonized people set free.
149. When I pray, God frequently speaks to me, and I recognize His voice.
150. God uses me to work miracles for the glory of His kingdom.

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS: DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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- A. Prophecy:** The divine enabling to proclaim God's truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for correction, repentance or edification. This is a divinely anointed utterance from God given as an immediate message to certain members of the body or the whole body. Some characteristics of many who exercise this gift are independence, boldness, bluntness, openness to truth, sober and little mercy. This isn't an easy gift, be careful about the following traits: lack of sympathy and sensitivity, pride, judgmentalism and discouragement. Christian prophecy will be orderly, positive and edifying to the church. Prophecy will bring inspiration but never new revelation.
- B. Teaching:** The gift of teaching equips one to impart truth to others in a relevant way so that the Gospel can be understood and applied to life. Teachers bring clarity and unity. Through them we receive help, edification, truth and life. They exhibit good communication skills, are usually organized and good listeners. Some have an inward struggle with the desire to study in lieu of prayer and relationships. Guard against being rigid, impatient, more interested in facts than people and being too detailed. A good teacher (even in lifestyle) is learner-oriented as well as content-oriented.
- C. Counseling:** Counseling is the divine enablement to effectively listen and assist someone in their quest for psychological and relational wholeness. Gifted counselors (including non-professional) are those in the body who exhibit the following characteristics: compassionate, approachable, good listeners, show "tough" love, encourage the faint-hearted, and supportive in prayer. Saints with a counseling gift need to guard against being overly sympathetic and carrying people's problems rather than trusting the Lord with them.
- D. Creative Communication:** The divine enablement to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms. This gift is expressed in descriptive art, words or music. Saints with this gift love to present truth in creative ways. They are usually global thinkers (see the whole) and are visual learners. They need to guard against leaving too much to the senses and being shallow. Also they need to guard against confusing speculations with the truth. The art form, whether vocal or printed, should never become more important than Jesus to these gifted individuals.
- E. Encouragement/Exhortation:** The divine enablement to reassure, strengthen, and affirm those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith. This gift enables one to help others to develop ways of growing spiritually. This gift is usually exercised in private conversation although it may be sometimes exercised publicly. Those exercising this gift need to be watchful for feelings of superiority or the desire to dominate. It will be important to respect the dignity and integrity of others even when they are discouraged.
- F. Evangelism:** The divine enablement to effectively communicate the message of Christ to unbelievers that they respond in faith. The word evangelism stems from a Greek root meaning "to proclaim the good news." All Christians are called to be Christ's witnesses, but the gift of evangelism is given to some to endow them with an unusual capacity to lead others into a saving relationship with Jesus. Evangelism may take the form of public speaking or one-to-one witnessing. Saints with this gift need to be careful to respect other areas of ministry.
- G. Hospitality:** The divine enablement to care for new or needy people by providing fellowship, food, or shelter. Hospitality is an attitude. These gifted people are concerned about people more than the house or circumstances. Most saints with a gift of hospitality are friendly, flexible, calm, open and comfortable. They need to be sure and make time for themselves and be cautious about when they open their doors or give time.

# DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS - CONTINUED

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**H. Leadership:** The divine enablement to instill vision, to motivate and to direct people to accomplish the work of ministry. A leader usually sees the big picture. They are motivators and are usually outspoken and make wise plans. An active, strong leader may have difficulty delegating. A godly leader will listen for God's directions and listen to others. They need to guard against manipulating others to get what they want.

**I. Mercy:** The divine enablement to feel genuine empathy for individuals with problems and to transfer this compassion into deeds which reflect Christian love. Saints with a gift of mercy are usually less judgmental and give unconditional love. Paul states in Romans 12:8 that mercy is to be exercised cheerfully. They may have difficulty giving "tough love" if they become emotionally involved. It is important to seek discernment and let God do His work in people.

**J. Shepherding:** The divine enablement to lead, care for, and nurture individuals or groups in the Body of Christ as they grow in faith. The gift of shepherding is not limited to clergymen. Some saints who possess the gift of shepherding perform the vital ministry by feeding and guarding others in Christian discipleship. In John 10:1-18, Jesus says that the shepherd sacrifices for His sheep; He goes before them and He protects them. Saints with this gift like people and gain satisfaction in helping encourage people to mature. A godly shepherd will desire to help people grow and not make them dependent upon the shepherd.

**K. Administration:** The divine enablement to understand what makes organizations or projects function and the ability to plan and execute procedures that increase effectiveness. Administration is a serving gift. Administrators should serve in humility and wisdom, always seeking to coordinate the gifts and ministries of others for the common good. Different from leadership, administration works with the details that bring the overall vision to a successful completion.

**L. Craftsmanship:** The divine enablement to facilitate ministry through creative construction. Exodus 36:1-4 tells us that those with this gift are still needed to fulfill the needs of ministries in the sanctuary. This gift functions so often behind the scenes, but the saints with this gift need to guard against staying hidden behind the scenes. Gifts of craftsmanship are needed to help choir performances, stage sets, construction, mission trips, widow ministries, etc.

**M. Giving:** The divine enablement to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and a cheerful heart. The gift of giving empowers one to understand the material needs of others and to meet those needs generously. Often the one possessing this gift will discover that his giving harmonizes with the prayers of those needing help. This gift requires wisdom for there is godly timing involved, a time not to give, ways to give and what to give. Those with a gift of giving typically give much more than a normal tithe.

**N. Helps/Service:** The divine enablement to attach spiritual value to the accomplishment of practical and necessary tasks which support the body of Christ. In Acts, the Christian community chose Spirit-filled laymen with wisdom to serve the temporal needs. The gift of helps/service usually leads one to supply temporal services to the Christian community. Helps and service lead to a kind of ministry to others that relieves them of burdens and enables them to better serve. People with this gift have a difficult time saying "no" and can get burned out if they are not careful.

**O. Apostleship:** The divine enablement to start a church or ministry and to have the authority to oversee its development and spiritual growth. New Christians look to apostles for leadership and wisdom. Paul and John warn of false apostles; therefore, this is considered a continuing gift needed in the church. The gift of apostleship is given to the church today for its instruction, correction and nurture. This gift is seen most often in missionaries and church planters.

## DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS - CONTINUED

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- P. Discerning of Spirits:** The divine enablement to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic. The gift of discernment is concerned with truth and error even if motives are pure. The operation of the gift of discernment will give approval to teaching and preaching that brings fresh truth from God. The discerning individuals work well with intercessors but need to be careful to distinguish between personal taste and true discernment.
- Q. Faith:** The divine enablement to trust God's will and act on it with belief in God's ability and faithfulness. The Christian who possesses this gift of the Spirit has a supernatural conviction that God will reveal His power in response to the prayer of faith. The gift of faith takes Biblical principles, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, applies them to the current situation. The common way this gift is exercised is through prayer. The saint with this gift should be careful never to put down others for a lack of faith.
- R. Healing:** The divine enablement to be God's agent or human intermediary through whom God will restore health. In scripture, we are encouraged to place faith in Christ's ability to heal. This gift applies to all healing God chooses to perform – physical, emotional and inner healing. Some look upon this gift as a specialized part of the gift of miracles, although scripture lists them separately. The function of this gift doesn't do away with God's healing through natural means such as diet, rest, doctors or medicine. The saint with this gift should place his faith in God's power and leave the results to Him. Pride and self-deception are things to guard against.
- S. Interpretation:** The divine enablement to make known to the body the divine message of one who speaks in tongues.
- T. Tongues:** The divine enablement to speak in a language never learned for the purpose of private prayer or public messages of God to His people.
- U. Wisdom:** The divine enablement to apply knowledge effectively. The saint with this gifting is given the ability to discern a situation and share the wisdom of God for clarification and encouragement. All Christians may receive wisdom when in need of it, but when the gift of wisdom is operating, wisdom is given for a specific issue in a relevant fashion. A gift of wisdom often helps discern the root of the problem. All wisdom given is for God's glory.
- V. Knowledge:** The divine enablement to accumulate and analyze information effectively. This gift is needed to effectively mediate the grace of God to human need. Many in the body who have this gift are at home with research and sometimes have a low need for people, depending upon the other gifts they have. This gift is often mixed with the gift of teaching. The Greek term is two words translated "word of knowledge" or "the ability to speak with knowledge." This gifting also needs to guard against pride.
- W. Deliverance:** The divine enablement that God gives to certain members of the body to cast out demons and evil spirits. This gift works well with the gift of discernment. Deliverance isn't a gift to be used without discerning of spirits and prayer. Persons called to this gifting must walk in holiness for pride and the desire for power can be a stumbling block. Deliverance isn't always a confrontational ministry. It can be a gentle leading of others in forgiveness and healing. Other times it may require calling out specific demonic influences.





# EXPERIENCES

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**There is purpose in your past.** God never wastes a hurt. Paul makes this abundantly clear in his letter to the believers in Rome:

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).*

Our greatest life messages, the stories where we encounter the grace and love of our Heavenly Father the most, come out of our weaknesses and struggles, not our strengths. How the Lord has sustained us, how He has worked to heal and restore and how He has set us free, testify to His goodness and mercy. From our experiences of heartache and pain, the Lord lovingly crafts the masterpiece of our lives, and He desires to take all of our experiences – the good and the ugly – and use them for His glory.

In the Old Testament, Joseph is a great case study. After being betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and thrown into prison, Joseph eventually becomes the second most powerful man in Egypt. In his high position, he literally saves the lives of millions from the perils of drought and famine. In his own words, Joseph recognizes the redeeming hand of God at work in his life:

*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives (Gen. 50:20).*

God wants to use your experiences to help others. Without question, many others within the church and in our community are going through similar struggles and hardship that you have already faced. Because of your experiences, and how God has brought you through them, you have the amazing opportunity to offer hope, sympathy, and encouragement to those in the heat of the battle. Paul writes:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Cor. 1:3-4).*

## Notes:

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