

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS: GIFTED TO SERVE

By Dr. H. E. Anderson, Sr.

### I. WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS? (*The Gifts*)

Spiritual gifts are abilities given to each Christian by the Holy Spirit enabling them to serve in the body of Christ for the profit of all (*1 Corinthians 12:7*).

Therefore, we can say that a spiritual gift works through the life of a believer in Christ bringing glory to God and enabling the believer to serve effectively.

#### NEW TESTAMENT LISTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

1. *Romans 12:6-8*; Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading and Showing Mercy
2. *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*; Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healings, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues
3. *1 Corinthians 12:28-30*; Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Miracles, Healings, Helps, Administrations, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues
4. *Ephesians 4:11*; Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers
5. *1 Peter 4:8-11*; Hospitality, Speaking Gifts and Serving Gifts

### II. WHO GIVES SPIRITUAL GIFTS? (*The Giver*)

The Spirit of God gives the spiritual gifts.  
(*1 Corinthians 12:8, 9, 11, 28*)

The Spirit gives the spiritual gifts of His preference to each Christian.

### III. WHO HAS SPIRITUAL GIFTS? (*The Gifted*)

Each believer in Christ has received at least one spiritual gift.  
(*1 Corinthians 7-11*)

When anyone invites Christ to be their personal Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into their life to live and gives that person a spiritual gift to serve in the body of Christ. Therefore, the Holy Spirit gives each believer spiritual gifts as He desires.

### IV. WHAT WILL SPIRITUAL GIFTS DO? (*The Goal*)

Spiritual gifts allow the body of Christ to work in unity. When there is unity in the body of Christ at least three things will happen:

1. There will be *effective communication* in the body.

2. There will be *effective coordination* in the body.
3. There will be *effective cooperation* in the body.

Effective communication, coordination and cooperation in the body of Christ takes place because:

1. The feeling of inferiority has been resolved  
(1 *Corinthians 12:14-20*)
2. The attitude of superiority has been removed  
(1 *Corinthians 12:14-20*)

Spiritual gifts make room for diversity in the body without division, unity without uniformity and contributions without competition (1 *Corinthians 12: 7, 11-13*).

#### V. HOW TO DISCOVER SPIRITUAL GIFTS? (*The Guidelines*)

Five Steps to help in the discovery of spiritual gifts

- Step 1:** Christians must *Explore* the New Testament's list of spiritual gifts.
- Step 2:** Christians must *Experiment* with the spiritual gifts.
- Step 3:** Christians must *Examine* their personal preference of the spiritual gifts.
- Step 4:** Christians must *Evaluate* their personal effectiveness in usage of spiritual gifts.
- Step 5:** Christians must *Expect* personal confirmation of spiritual gifts from the Body of Christ.

#### VI. MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS? (*The Guidelines*)

Spiritual gifts are misused whenever:

1. The focus is shifted from the Giver to the gifted.
2. The aim of the gift is not for the building up of the Body of Christ.
3. Love is not exercised by the gifted while using the gift.
4. The title of the gift becomes more important than the expression of the gift.
5. The gifts are not used to glorify God.



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## VII. TRUTHS CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Each Christian has at least one spiritual gift.

*(1 Corinthians 12:7)*

2. Spiritual gifts are not earned nor merited.

*(1 Corinthians 12:7, 18)*

3. A spiritual gift is not a natural talent.

*(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)*

The difference between a spiritual gift and a natural talent is that Christians and non Christians have natural talents, but only Christians have spiritual gifts.

4. God can choose to gift us spiritually in the area of our natural talent.

5. Spiritual gifts can be neglected.

*(1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6)*

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

### DIRECTIONS

This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers. The *Spiritual Gifts Survey* consists of 80 statements. Some items reflect concrete actions; other items are descriptive traits; and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Your response choices are:

- 5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me
  - 4—Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me
  - 3—Frequently characteristic of me/true for me—about 50 percent of the time
  - 2—Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25 percent of the time
  - 1—Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me
- 

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I enjoy studying.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I am a cheerful giver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. I spend time digging into facts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other lands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. I am a generous giver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. I am able to discover new truths.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seem impossible.

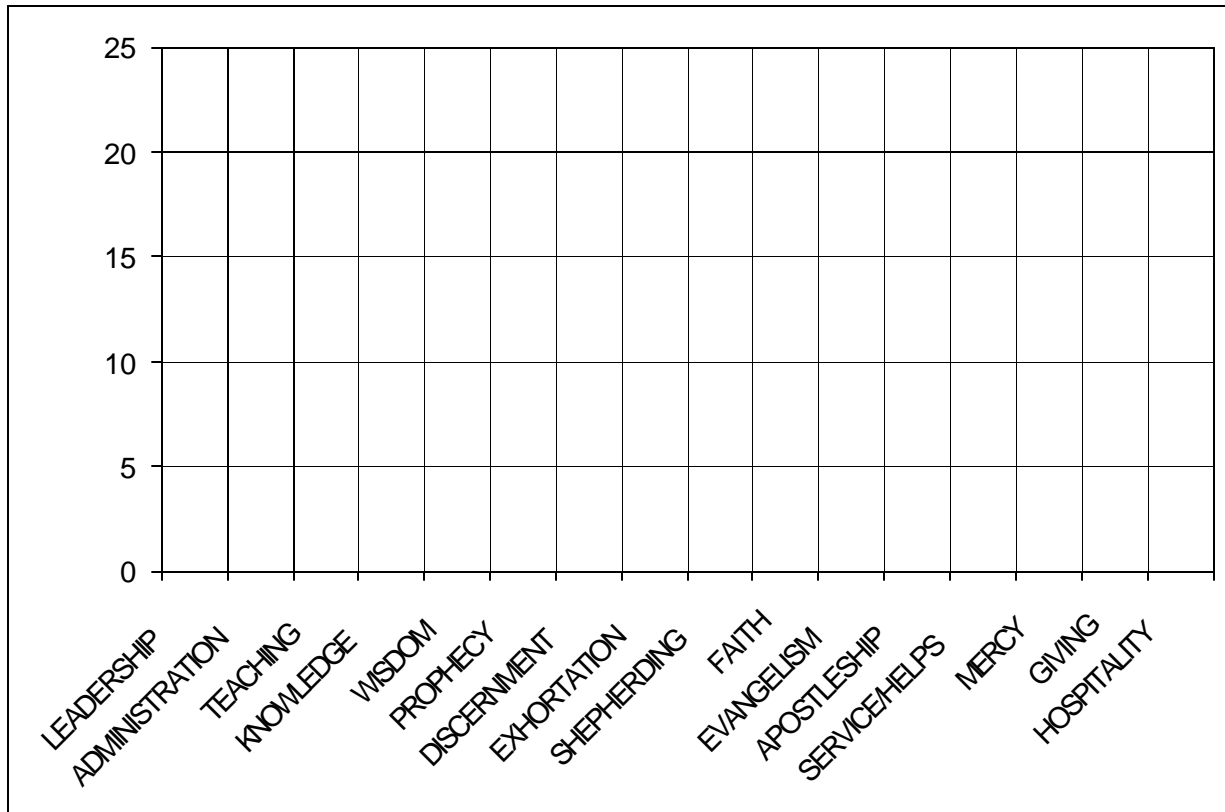
## SCORING YOUR SURVEY

Follow these directions to figure your score for each spiritual gift.

1. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the box.
2. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 6		Item 16		Item 27		Item 43		Item 65		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 1		Item 17		Item 31		Item 47		Item 59		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>TEACHING</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 2		Item 18		Item 33		Item 61		Item 73		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 9		Item 24		Item 39		Item 68		Item 79		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>WISDOM</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 3		Item 19		Item 48		Item 62		Item 74		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>PROPHECY</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 10		Item 25		Item 40		Item 54		Item 69		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>DISCERNMENT</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 11		Item 26		Item 41		Item 55		Item 70		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>EXHORTATION</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 20		Item 34		Item 49		Item 63		Item 75		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SHEPHERDING</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 4		Item 21		Item 35		Item 50		Item 76		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>FAITH</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 12		Item 28		Item 42		Item 56		Item 80		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>EVANGELISM</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 5		Item 36		Item 51		Item 64		Item 77		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>APOSTLESHIP</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 13		Item 29		Item 44		Item 57		Item 71		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SERVICE/HELPS</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 14		Item 30		Item 46		Item 58		Item 72		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>MERCY</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 7		Item 22		Item 37		Item 52		Item 66		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>GIVING</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 8		Item 23		Item 38		Item 53		Item 67		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 15		Item 32		Item 45		Item 60		Item 78		<b>TOTAL</b>

**GRAPHING YOUR PROFILE**



1. For each gift place a mark across the bar at the point that corresponds to your TOTAL for that gift.
2. For each gift shade the bar below the mark that you have drawn.
3. The resultant graph gives a picture of your gifts. Gifts for which the bars are tall are the ones in which you appear to be strongest. Gifts for which the bars are very short are the ones in which you appear not to be strong.

***Now that you have completed the survey, thoughtfully answer the following questions.***

The gifts I have begun to discover in my life are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- After prayer and worship, I am beginning to sense that God wants me to use my spiritual gifts to serve Christ's body by \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am not sure yet how God wants me to use my gifts to serve others. But I am committed to prayer and worship, seeking wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts I have received from God.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.