

SESSION
TWO



UNWRAPPING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS

GOD'S GIFTS ARE THE KEY
TO KINGDOM PURPOSES

SHAPE

CATCHING UP

- Tell the group what that *one thing* is you've identified as your goal for this study.
- Share a thought about what you learned in the first session.
- Talk about a gift you received that you considered perfect. What made it perfect in your eyes?

KEY VERSE

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)



Watch the Session Two video now and fill in the blanks in the outline in this guide. Refer back to the outline during your discussion time.

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Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

(1 Corinthians 12:1 NIV)

God's gifts are the key to the Kingdom Purpose he has set aside just for us.

In order to serve effectively, we need to understand the nature of spiritual gifts.

What spiritual gifts are *not*:

1. Your spiritual gifts are *not* your personality traits. (Your personality *can* provide a natural vehicle for expressing your gifts.)
2. Your spiritual gifts are *not* your natural talents.
3. Your spiritual gifts are *not* the same as the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5).

A spiritual gift *is*:

- A God-given _____
- _____ to every believer at conversion by the Holy Spirit
- To _____ God's love
- To _____ the body of Christ

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

(1 Peter 4:10 NLT)

Why *does* God give spiritual gifts?

A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

(1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT)

Spiritual gifts are *not for* you or *about* you. They are for the specific purpose of _____ the body of Christ—the church.

Every believer receives them.

... each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

(1 Corinthians 7:7b TNIV)

God has given you a gift! If you're a believer, the Bible says you have the Spirit living in you, and gifts to use for his glory.

The key to discovering your gifts is two-fold:

1. Determine what gifts you think you may have.
2. Serve in various roles to see which ones bring the greatest fulfillment for you and the greatest results for God.

Allow Scripture to guide you to those gifts that are uniquely yours. Ask God to reveal how he wants you to use your gifts to accomplish his work in the world.

Many people discover their gifts as they minister to others. The more you serve, the more clearly you will see your gifts.

The ultimate goal is using your gifts to love and bless others.

'If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 'If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 'If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NIV)

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Are you serving to benefit others—or yourself?

Three common traps:

1. _____

God's Word says that all parts of the body are needed.

"The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you.'" "In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary.

(1 Corinthians 12:21–22 NLT)

2. _____

Encourage everyone to be who God created them to be.

3. _____

Lack of position is not necessarily a lack of a gift.

Don't wait for God to fill in all the blanks before you start serving. Your group is a great place to begin!

Closing Thought: The key is to serve in areas that best match your giftedness, and to start as soon as possible. When you do this you'll experience greater fulfillment and see greater fruitfulness for God. You were made by God to serve others.

We are better together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. While all spiritual gifts are given variously by God to be used for building up the body of Christ and for reaching the world with his message of hope, why do you think Paul tells us, in 1 Corinthians 13, that love is greater than these gifts? Explain.
2. Why is it important for us to learn to recognize our spiritual gifts? How is a spiritual gift different from a personality trait, a talent, or a characteristic? If you're not sure, this is a great opportunity to clarify your understanding with your group.
3. What can we do to avoid the traps Erik talked about: comparison, projection, and rejection? Which do you see yourself most easily falling into?
4. Do you already know your spiritual gifts? If so, share them with the group and how you've been using them in ministry.
5. Discuss how God might want to use your spiritual gifts to benefit the other members of your group. Is there a way you can serve one another?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

The best way to discover your spiritual gifts is by serving the Body of Christ.

1. If you are not currently involved in serving, where do you think you could begin?
2. Take a few minutes to discuss ideas for serving your church or small group. How might these areas of service help you discover your spiritual gifts? Here are a few examples to start your conversation:
 - Providing child care during church services
 - Greeting worshipers as they arrive
 - Passing out information packets to new believers
 - Helping clean up after church services
 - Organizing teams of volunteers
 - Leading worship by singing or playing a musical instrument
 - Proofing, folding, or stuffing bulletins for weekend services
 - Taking meals to families in need
 - Driving people without transportation to church for worship services
 - Helping out part-time in the church office; doing whatever is needed
 - Think of others that might fit your area of giftedness—be creative!

PRAYER DIRECTION

Thank God for giving you spiritual gifts to unwrap over the course of this study. Ask him to reveal to each group member, individually, his or her unique area of giftedness through service to the body of Christ. Pray for one another to avoid and be kept from the traps of comparison, projection, and rejection.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

As you read the list of spiritual gifts and their definitions below, think back on your own serving experiences. Then indicate “yes” if you feel you have the gift, “maybe” if you feel you might have the gift, or “no” if you think you don’t have the gift. If you can, meet with your spiritual partner or your ministry champion this week to validate what you believe God is showing you.

Administration: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by effectively organizing resources and people in order to efficiently reach ministry goals. yes maybe no

Apostleship: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by launching and leading new ministry ventures that advance God’s purposes and expand his kingdom. The original Greek meaning of the word is “sent one” (literally, one sent with authority, or as an ambassador). yes maybe no

Discernment: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by recognizing truth or error within a message, person, or event. yes maybe no

Encouragement: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by helping others live God-centered lives through inspiration, encouragement, counseling, and empowerment. yes maybe no

Evangelism: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by sharing the love of Christ with others in a way that draws them to respond by accepting God’s free gift of eternal life. yes maybe no

Faith: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by stepping out in faith in order to see God’s purposes accomplished, trusting him to handle any and all obstacles along the way. yes maybe no

Giving: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by joyfully supporting and funding various kingdom initiatives through material contributions beyond the tithe. yes maybe no

Healing: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by healing and restoring to health, beyond traditional and natural means, those who are sick, hurting, and suffering. yes maybe no

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Helping: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering others assistance in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ. This aptitude is sometimes referred to as the gift of “helps” or “service.” yes maybe no

Hospitality: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by providing others with a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship. yes maybe no

Interpretation: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by understanding, at a specific time, God’s message when spoken by another using a special language unknown to the others in attendance. yes maybe no

Knowledge: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating God’s truth to others in a way that promotes justice, honesty, and understanding. yes maybe no

Leadership: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth, applying strategies, and achieving success where God’s purposes are concerned. yes maybe no

Mercy: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally. Their actions are characterized by love, care, compassion, and kindness toward others. yes maybe no

Miracles: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ through supernatural acts that bring validity to God and his power. yes maybe no

Pastoring: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives. Shepherding is another word used for this particular gift. yes maybe no

Prophecy: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth. The original Greek meaning of this word is “to speak forth the truth.” The gift of prophecy includes both “forth telling” (preaching), and “foretelling” (revelation). yes maybe no

SHAPE

Teaching: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by teaching sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education yes maybe no

Tongues: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating God's message in a special language unknown to the speaker. yes maybe no

Wisdom: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by making wise decisions and counseling others with sound advice, all in accordance with God's will. yes maybe no

List the spiritual gifts you think you may have from the list above.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Think of a few ways you can start to use these gifts to serve others so you can clarify which ones you have.

Reminder: Be sure to transfer your personal list of gifts to your S.H.A.P.E. Profile on page 65.

DIVING DEEPER

More information about each gift is available in chapter 2—"Spiritual Gifts," from the book *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*.

