



SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CHURCH

C@PV 2024 Commissioning Service – February 4th

EPH. 4:1-6 (NLT)



Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

EPH. 4:7-13 (NLT)



- ⁷ However, **he has given each one of us a special gift** through the generosity of Christ. ⁸ That is why the Scriptures say, “When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.”⁹ Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. ¹⁰ And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.
- ¹¹ Now **these are the gifts** Christ gave to the church: the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, and the **pastors** and **teachers**. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

EPH. 4:14-16 (NLT)



¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.**

INTRODUCTION

Responding to God's calling and doing his work (Eph. 4:1-16):

- Not simply the job of key leaders (v. 12).
- It is actually God himself who equips people with gifts to do his work (vv. 7, 11).
- The aim is to build up the church, to arrive at unity in faith and knowledge of God's Son, to be mature in the Lord, to measure up to the full and complete standard of Christ (vv. 11-12), to become more and more like Christ, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love (vv. 15-16).

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**Thank you to all who are exercising their spiritual gifts to serve the
body of Christ at Church@ParaVista**

CONSIDERING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- What is a 'spiritual gift'?
- What does the Bible say about spiritual gifts?
- How can I find my spiritual gift?
- How can I exercise my spiritual gift?



WHAT IS A 'SPIRITUAL GIFT'?

- The term is a translation of two different Greek words: *charismata* and *pneumatika*.
- *Charismata* = “expressions or manifestation of grace”.
- *Pneumatika* = “expressions or manifestations of the Spirit”.

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A spiritual gift is any event, word, action, or individual which serves as an instrument of the Spirit or as an expression or means of grace.

OR

A spiritual gift is a concrete expression of grace manifested through the Spirit's empowering (Gordon Fee).

WHAT IS A 'SPIRITUAL GIFT'?

- They are: *community-enhancing enablements of specific persons.*
- They are different to other divine gifts given to all believers – e.g., the gift of God's Son, Jesus; the free gift of eternal life; the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- There is no definitive list of all the gifts.
- The lists in the Bible are simply examples of people, events, words, or actions being instruments of the Spirit or expressions or means of grace.

WHAT IS A 'SPIRITUAL GIFT'?

- What of **natural abilities**?
 - Natural gifts or talents are present in many, if not all, lives.
 - They derive from factors such as one's environment, experience, education, and genetics.
 - Everyone has potential talents that require necessary conditions for their development.

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- **Spiritual gifts** however:
 - are special endowments by the Spirit.
 - are manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers enabling them to minister in a means beyond their human capacity.
 - enhance innate capacities and natural functions.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- The biblical data is found in **Romans 12:6-8**; **1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-30**; **Ephesians 4:11**; and **1 Peter 4:8-11**.
- In simple terms, all the spiritual gifts are about '**serving**'!
- 1 Peter 4:8-11 divides the gifts into two basic types:
 - 1. Gifts of speaking** – gifts which qualify a person to be a minister of the word.
 - 2. Gifts of service** – gifts which prepare a person to render services of a practical nature.

1 PET. 4:8-11 (NLT)



⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. [NIV11: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms] ¹¹ Do you have **the gift of speaking**? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have **the gift of helping others**? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

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- For the sake of clarity in analysis, it may be helpful to divide the spiritual gifts into four more focused groups: (1) **Revelation**; (2) **Miracles**; (3) **Leadership**; (4) **Helps**.

1 COR. 12:7-11 (NLT)



⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives **the ability to give wise advice**; to another the same Spirit gives **a message of special knowledge**. ⁹ The same Spirit gives **great faith** to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives **the gift of healing**. ¹⁰ He gives one person **the power to perform miracles**, and another **the ability to prophesy**. He gives someone else **the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit**. Still another person is given **the ability to speak in unknown languages**, while another is given **the ability to interpret what is being said**. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

GIFTS OF REVELATION

- **Wise advice** and **a message of special knowledge** (1 Cor. 12:8) [NIV: message of wisdom; message of knowledge; ESV: utterance of wisdom; utterance of knowledge] – needs to be understood in terms of what Paul said earlier (see 1 Cor. 2:6-16) – the message about Christ crucified.
- **Prophecy** (1 Cor. 12:10, 28; Rom. 12:6; Eph. 4:11) – not just bold but inspired speech given to the speaker by divine compulsion; it was evidence of the outpouring of the Spirit in the last days (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:16-18); built up the church more than any other gift – via encouragement, consolation, and new revelation – providing guidance, confirmation, and conversions.

GIFTS OF REVELATION

- **Discernment of Spirits** (1 Cor. 12:10) – often associated with prophecy and serving as a check on prophecy to ensure the message was from the Spirit of God and not some other spirit.
- **Speaking unknown languages (Glossolalia)** and **Interpretation** (1 Cor. 12:10, 28) – go together with the latter providing a check on the former; Paul rebukes the uncritical enthusiasm for ‘speaking in tongues’ and it was not to happen in an uncontrolled way; interpretation is necessary because without it, the message would be unintelligible to the congregation.

GIFTS OF MIRACLES

- **Faith** (1 Cor. 12:9) – here refers to the special spiritual gift of faith. **NOTE:** the gift mentioned in Eph. 2:8 is NOT ‘the gift of faith’ despite what some people say; it is not grammatically possible. This special community-enhancing spiritual gift is an unusual degree of faith “so as to remove mountains” (cf. 1 Cor. 13:2).
- **Healings** (1 Cor. 12:9, 28) – actually ‘gifts of healings’ and likely not a permanent gift to be able to heal any disease.
- **Works of Power** (1 Cor. 12:12, 28) – other supernatural activities such as exorcisms, nature miracles, and other displays of God’s power.

GIFTS OF LEADERSHIP

- **Apostleship** (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11) – the foundational ministry of the church age.
- **Teaching** (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11) – most likely referring to the ability of mature Christians to instruct others in the meaning and moral implications of the Christian faith.
- **Government** or **Administration** (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28) – The underlying Greek word here has the idea of ‘guidance’ or ‘wise counsel’; the key idea is that the person with this gift cares for the people for whom they are responsible.

GIFTS OF LEADERSHIP

- **Exhortation** (Rom. 12:8) – exhorting Christians to a higher way of life and a deeper self-dedication to Christ through love, understanding, and sympathy.
- **Evangelism** (Eph. 4:11) – a special anointing to proclaim the gospel to unbelievers and teach other Christians how to evangelise, acknowledging that the power in evangelism comes from God, not techniques.

GIFTS OF HELPS

- **Helpers** (1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Pet. 4:11) – see Acts 20:35 re helping ‘the weak’ and remembering the Lord’s words, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”.
- **Serving** (Rom. 12:7) – a generalized gift of power to anyone exercising a specific function in the church.
- **Contributing** (Rom. 12:8) – a special gift which enables a person to give as a joyous sacrifice to the needs of the church, its ministry, and the poor.
- **Acts of Mercy** (Rom. 12:8) – to be performed with cheerfulness under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and likely in the face of persecution.

HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (NLT)

⁸ Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹ Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰ But when **the time of perfection** [NIV: '**the completeness**'; ESV: '**the perfect**'] comes, these partial things will become useless.

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- Most likely, gifts will be done away with when Christ returns.
- If spiritual gifts are words or acts which manifest and mediate grace to another person then they have probably never been absent.

FINDING OUT MY SPIRITUAL GIFT?

Those open to and led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 14) will inevitably show the grace of God in some way. Those who are members of the body of Christ have been given gifts which are to function in the community of believers (Rom. 12:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:14-30).

- Pray and ask God to show you what your spiritual gift is.
- What are you passionate about wanting to do to serve others?
- What do your Christian brothers and sisters say about your giftings and abilities?
- Try out several areas of service and see where you seem to be making a difference or helping other people; which areas of service bring you joy?
- Ask one of the pastors or elders to take you through a questionnaire and then discuss possible areas of service in the church.

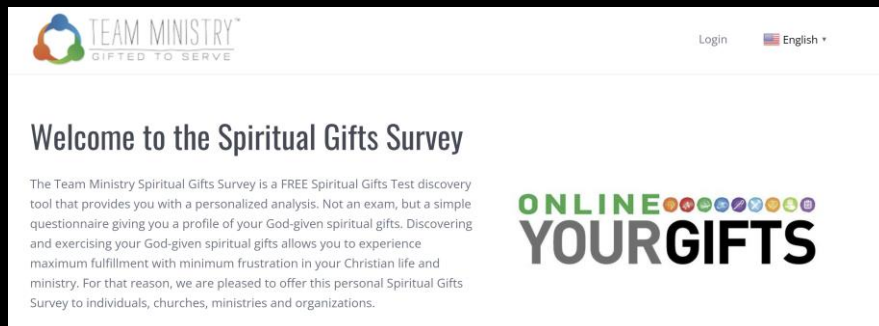
EXERCISING MY SPIRITUAL GIFT?

- Spiritual Gifts can ONLY be manifested in conscious openness to, and dependence upon, God. The key issue is that one needs to be Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered.
- See 1 Corinthians 12-14 for instructive guidelines on the exercise of spiritual gifts:
 - Chapter 12: *the need for diversity, unity, and serving the common good.*
 - Chapter 13: *the need for the gifts to be accompanied by love.*
 - Chapter 14: *the need for orderliness and intelligibility to enhance the church community.*
- Gifts which are exercised towards the whole body (e.g., teaching, pastoral care, prophecy, governance and administration) need to be sanctioned by the leadership.

CONCLUSION

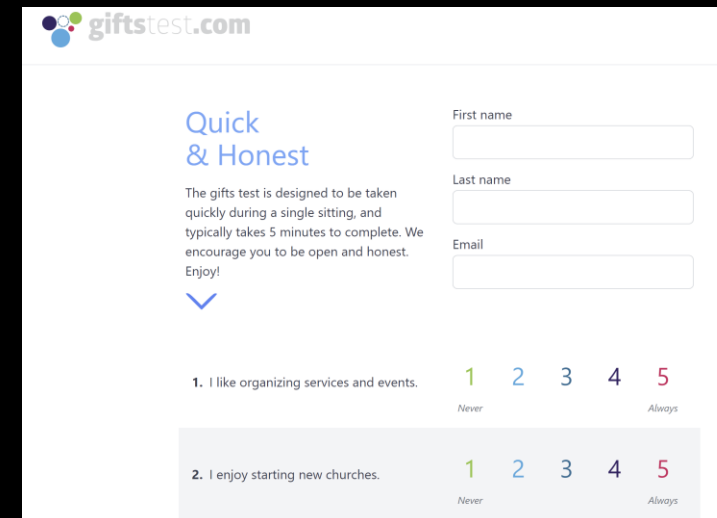
- Let one of the Pastors or Elders know if you need some assistance in determining your spiritual gift or want to talk about how you can use your gift in Church@ParaVista.
- Pray for those who have been commissioned today as they exercise their spiritual gifts in serving the body of Christ and minister to us.

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>

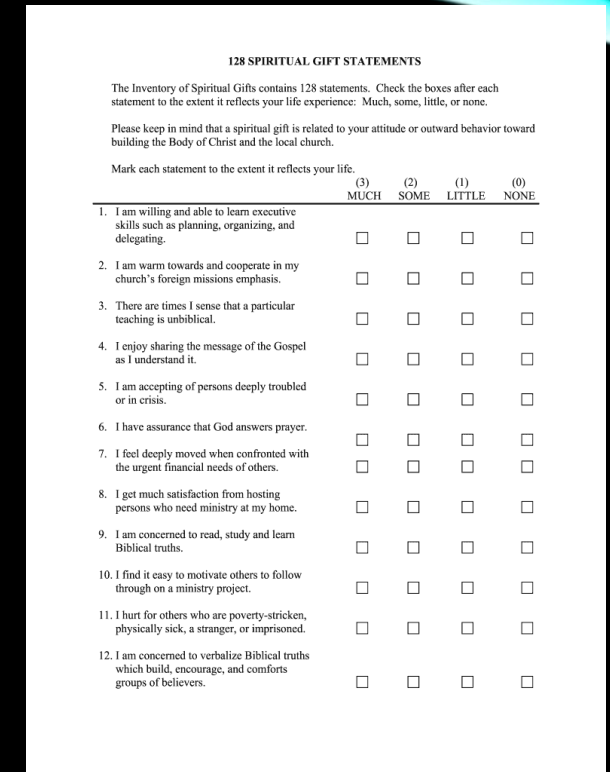


The screenshot shows the landing page for the Team Ministry Spiritual Gifts Survey. At the top, there is a logo for 'TEAM MINISTRY' with the tagline 'GIFTED TO SERVE'. Below the logo, there are links for 'Login' and a language selector set to 'English'. The main heading is 'Welcome to the Spiritual Gifts Survey'. Below this, a paragraph describes the survey as a free tool for discovering spiritual gifts. To the right, there is a graphic that says 'ONLINE YOUR GIFTS' with a row of colored circles representing different gifts.

<https://giftstest.com/test>



The screenshot shows the 'Quick & Honest' test interface on giftstest.com. It includes a header with the logo and a description of the test. Below the description, there are input fields for 'First name', 'Last name', and 'Email'. A large blue checkmark is displayed below the input fields. At the bottom, there are two test questions with a 5-point scale from 'Never' to 'Always'. The first question is '1. I like organizing services and events.' and the second is '2. I enjoy starting new churches.'



The screenshot shows the '128 SPIRITUAL GIFT STATEMENTS' inventory. It includes a header with the title and a description of the inventory. Below the description, there is a table with 128 statements and four columns for rating: (3) MUCH, (2) SOME, (1) LITTLE, and (0) NONE. Each statement has a corresponding checkbox in each column.

	(3) MUCH	(2) SOME	(1) LITTLE	(0) NONE
1. I am willing and able to learn executive skills such as planning, organizing, and delegating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I am warm towards and cooperate in my church's foreign missions emphasis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. There are times I sense that a particular teaching is unbiblical.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I enjoy sharing the message of the Gospel as I understand it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I am accepting of persons deeply troubled or in crisis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I have assurance that God answers prayer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I feel deeply moved when confronted with the urgent financial needs of others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I get much satisfaction from hosting persons who need ministry at my home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I am concerned to read, study and learn Biblical truths.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I find it easy to motivate others to follow through on a ministry project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I hurt for others who are poverty-stricken, physically sick, a stranger, or imprisoned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I am concerned to verbalize Biblical truths which build, encourage, and comforts groups of believers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>