

MINISTRY DISCOVERY EXERCISE

Step III: The Meaning of Gifts

Having received an indication of the spiritual gifts you may have, the next step is to determine that ministry or those ministries to which you believe God may be calling you. Prayerfully review the following information as it relates to the gifts that scored the highest in the prior step (the one, two, or three that had a greater value than others) and circle the ministry or ministries to which you think God may be calling you. Consider also that the listing of ministries under each gift may not be complete – there are as many “ministries” as there are things to be done, thus making a complete listing impossible – so feel free to add and circle any unlisted ministry which you think fits under the gift and to which you feel God may be calling you.

- 1.) The Gift of Teaching: Teaching is effectively imparting information or proclaiming precepts of truth, vocally, visually, or by example .I Corinthians 12:28, Eph. 4:11-14, Romans 12:7, Acts 18:24-28, Acts 20:20-21

Ministries using this gift: Teaching the Bible; teaching adult classes; teaching Sunday school; training lay ministers; working with young people; social ministries involving teaching or training others (such as Literary teaching); spiritual director, Pine Ridge, small group facilitator, Nursery coordinator, Vacation Bible School Teacher..

- 2.) The Gift of Encouragement: Encouragement is calling forth the best from others. It is helping others to be more dedicated to Christ, to bolster them up when they are discouraged or downhearted, to challenge them to see the goals to which God calls them for service. Sometimes called Exhortation. Romans 12:8, Timothy 4:13, Hebrews 10:25, Acts 14:22

Ministries using this gift: Counseling; working with young people; ministering to the clergy; preaching; lay reading; working with older people, handicapped, etc.; writing letters to those who need encouragement; prison ministry.

- 3.) The Gift of Mercy: Mercy is kindness and compassion, especially that which is demonstrated to those who seem least deserving of it. Manifestations of the gift of mercy may include a continual readiness to forgive those who have erred, comfort the bereaved, help those who face a crisis, minister to the sick, become a peacemaker, or offer assistance to those in need. Romans 12:8, Mark 9:41, Acts 16:33-34, Matt 20:29-34, Matt 25:34-40, Acts 11:28-30

Ministries using this gift: Calling on the sick; calling on shut-ins; calling on lapsed members; organizing programs of social need; caring for the disadvantaged; comforting the bereaved.

- 4.) The Gift of Helps: To help is to give assistance or relief from distress where it is needed. The person is to give assistance or relief from distress where it is needed. The person who has an innate willingness simply to “pitch in” and do whatever needs to be done – no matter how detailed or tedious – evidences the gift of helps. I Corinthians 12:28, Romans 16:1-2, Acts 9:35, Luke 8:2-3, Mark 15:40-41

Ministries using this gift: Organizing volunteers; assisting in church programs or projects; assisting in social outreach projects; being in charge of the church kitchen, or working there; fund-raising; helping other people carry out their ministries.

- 5.) The Gift of Administration: To exercise the gift of administration is to assume oversight for the proper execution of an organization or program (being in charge of people or things). This gift involves being able to put things together, tie up all the “loose ends” and get things done. Adeptness at financing, planning, organizing, delegating responsibilities, and problem-solving can be indications of the gift of administration. I Corinthians 12:28, Acts 6:1-7, Acts 27:11, Luke 14:28-30, Titus 1:5.

Ministries using this gift: Serving on church's governing board; handling church administration; managing church programs; managing social outreach programs; heading up stewardship campaigns; handling church finances. Annual pancake supper, office volunteer handling daily procedures.

- 6.) The Gift of Giving: Giving is sharing what one is or has with others. Those who have the gift of giving share more of their resources and themselves than the tithe, which is only the standard for all Christians. Contributing material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. Romans 12:8, II Corinthians 8: 1-7, II Corinthians 9:2-8, Mark 12:41-44.

Ministries using this gift: Heading up stewardship campaign; financial support of the ministries of others; organizing programs to help people who are out of work; choir member; church musician; arts and crafts, baptismal banner for newborns, Little Roses, Meals for homeless teens..

- 7.) The Gift of Leadership: Leadership is setting the pattern for others to follow – either by direction, instruction, guidance, encouragement, or example. The gift of leadership involves conviction about objectives to be accomplished and the ability to inspire others to identify with those objectives and to want to meet them. I Tim 5:17, Acts 7:10, Acts 15:7-11, Romans 12:8, Hebrews 13:17, Luke 9:51

Ministries using this gift: Serving on church's governing board; Sunday school superintendent; heading up church programs and projects; developing church programs and projects; leading Bible study or prayer groups; organizing

outreach efforts; developing social outreach programs, youth ministry event planning, Acolyte trainer, Leadership Quest or Discipleship Plunge.

- 8.) The Gift of Evangelism: The person who has the gift of evangelism has a burning desire in his heart to lead other people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ; and he manifests that gift by testifying to what God has done in his life, telling people who Jesus Christ is, ascertaining where the other person is in his spiritual perception and calling him onward to a commitment (or deeper commitment) of his life to the Lordship of Christ. Eph 4:11-14, Ii Tim 4:5, Acts 8:5-6, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 14:21, Acts 21:8.

Ministries using this gift: Telling others about Christ; visiting newcomers; organizing the church visitation program; distributing Bibles; organizing or helping with renewal events; organizing or helping with preaching missions; serving as “greeter” at church; usher, new member orientations, welcome Sundays to receive new members, prison ministry; campus ministry.

9. Gift of Discernment: Discernment is the ability to tell that which is of the Holy Spirit and that which is of an evil spirit. I Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:1-11, Acts 16:16-18, I John 4:1-6, Matt 16:21-23

Ministries using this gift: Pastoral counseling; counseling for inner healing; serving on the church’s governing board; intercessory prayer; serving on committee to employ church workers; spiritual director, prayer team, Senior or Junior Warden..

10. Gift of Faith: The supernatural gift of faith is given in what appears to be impossible situations. It enables one to “go out on a limb” to trust God rather than circumstances or human inclinations. An example of this is to proceed with God’s plans whether there is money in the budget or bank with the faith that God will provide and supply our needs. I Cor 12:9, Acts 11:22-24, Acts 27:21-25, Hebrews 11, Romans 4:18-21

Ministries using this gift: Church building projects chairperson; church stewardship campaign chairperson; advisor to the clergy; intercession; encouraging others. Applies to almost all ministries that require faith such as youth ministry, bible studies, planning for Sunday School expansion.

11. Gift of Healing: This gift is manifested in Christians in a variety of ways. Just as Jesus used various means for exhibiting healing power of God, (touching, praying, speaking a word of faith, casting out demons, utilizing the faith of others), Christians also become channels of the gifts of healing through various ways: Prayers of intercession, the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, receiving Holy Communion, appropriating the promises of Scriptures, and various other acts under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Although Jesus alone has the power to heal, he ministers the gifts of healing through those whom we call to such a

ministry. I Corinthians 12:9,28, Acts 3:1-10, Acts 5:12-16, Acts 9:32-35, Acts 21:7-10.

Ministries using this gift: Visiting the sick, visiting hospitals, praying with people for healing, pastoral counseling, counseling for inner healing, intercessory prayer, planning healing conferences, teaching about healing in the gospels.

12. The Gift of Intercession: Prayer for others is often overlooked as a ministry, and yet it is one of the most important ministries in the church. Some people are called to devote the better part of their lives to it. Evidences of the gift of intercession for ministry would be having the mindset for being instantly in prayer for a person or situation, having confidence that God acts in response to our prayers, being patient and persistent in prayer concerning problems that don't seem to get solved or people who don't seem to change for the better, and having continuing sense of responsibility to lift people and situations to the Lord for healing. James 5:14-16, I Tim 2:1-2, Colossians 1:9-12, Colossians 4:12-13, Acts 12:12, Luke 22:41-44.

Ministries using this gift: Intercessory prayer, leading prayer groups, teaching about prayer, organizing prayer vigils in Holy Week and other times, prayer chains, counseling for inner healing, praying with others, praying for direction in the parish Family and for specific needs of the community of faith.

13. The Gift of Hospitality A concern for the comfort of others may be a manifestation of the gift of hospitality. Having a specific talent for making people at ease, so that they feel at home, would be another indication of the gift of hospitality, as would enjoying being in the presence of strangers and desiring to make our home available to serve the Lord by accommodating them. Treating others as our guests is as though we are offering hospitality to Christ himself. I Peter 4:9, Romans 12:9-13, Romans 16:23, Acts 16:14-15, Hebrews 13:1-2.

Ministries using this gift: Greeter ministry chair, inviting and welcoming guests on Sunday mornings, calling on new families and assisting to assimilate them into our family, usher ministry, fellowship coordinator for parish events.

14. The Gift of Pastor: The gift of a pastor is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers. Eph 4:11-14, I Tim 3:1-7, John 10:1-18, I Peter 5:1-3.

Ministries using this gift: Pastoring and encouraging a family of believers (the Body of Christ), in day to day issues of faith building