

## Discovering Your Spiritual Gift(s)

As Wayne mentioned last week, you have been uniquely and supernaturally equipped with spiritual gifts to build the body of Christ! In addition, you need the body, and the body needs you! Therefore, we would like everyone at Hope to take a spiritual gift inventory listed on the next page. Then, if you are open to it, one of our elders would like to follow up with you in the coming months to help you talk about your results. In case you missed Wayne’s message, below is a very brief recap.

### What is a spiritual gift?

- 1) Wayne Grudem in his Systematic Theology: “A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church”
- 2) Willow Creek Networking Course: “Spiritual Gifts are special abilities distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God’s design for the common good of the body of Christ”

### How many spiritual gifts are there?

Note the following chart. These are the places in the New Testament where spiritual gifts are listed. Note: a) No two lists are the same, b) The lists overlap- there are some things that are mentioned in more than one list, but there are also things that are mentioned in only one list, c) Some gifts seem more like offices (e.g.- apostle, prophet), d) Some gifts listed are in the plural rather than the singular (e.g.- gifts of healing), e) There doesn’t seem to be a definitive pattern amidst these lists.

In light of these observations, many scholars today believe that what Paul & Peter are doing is just giving us examples of spiritual

gifts. In other words, the lists given to us in the NT are not comprehensive lists, but rather they are just examples of spiritual gifts. This would also account for why certain abilities which would seem like gifts are not included in these lists (e.g.- prayer, worship).

Therefore, the list in the following pages should be viewed as an extended example of possible gifts, but not a comprehensive listing.

1 Cor 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28	Rom. 12:6-8	Eph. 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Word of wisdom</li> <li>▪ Word of knowledge</li> <li>▪ Faith</li> <li>▪ Gifts of healing</li> <li>▪ Miracles</li> <li>▪ Prophecy</li> <li>▪ Distinguishing between spirits</li> <li>▪ Tongues</li> <li>▪ Interpretation of tongues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apostle</li> <li>▪ Prophet</li> <li>▪ Teacher</li> <li>▪ Miracles</li> <li>▪ Kinds of healings</li> <li>▪ Helps</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Tongues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prophecy</li> <li>▪ Serving</li> <li>▪ Teaching</li> <li>▪ Encouraging</li> <li>▪ Giving</li> <li>▪ Leadership</li> <li>▪ Mercy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apostle</li> <li>▪ Prophet</li> <li>▪ Evangelist</li> <li>▪ Pastor/teacher (Teacher)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Speaking (covers several gifts)</li> <li>▪ Service (covering several gifts)</li> </ul>

### How to I determine my spiritual gift(s)?

There are many limitations of spiritual gift inventories/assessments. First, assessments widely vary in their definitions of spiritual gifts. Secondly, no assessment can be completely comprehensive in their lists (see explanation above). Finally, and

most importantly, we can all too easily rule out certain gifts because we have a preconceived idea of how God has wired us (e.g.- think of Moses; Wayne also knows of people who would have never guessed they have the gift of healing or prophecy or evangelism because they have not been exposed or trained in these areas. But they discovered their gifts as they stepped out and engaged in these various ministries). Therefore, we need to be very careful we don't put too much weight into these assessments. The best way to determine your spiritual gift is by beginning to serve in an area of ministry and see how God uses you. Start with an area in which you might have an interest. If you are still not sure, just jump in and begin to serve!

At the same time, gift assessment surveys can be helpful to expand the possibility of gifts which you may not have considered. So use these assessments not as a way to determine which gifts you do not have (i.e.—don't rule out any gifts solely on the basis of the assessment), but rather use the assessments to expand the possibility of gifts which you might have.

Here is a free assessment to check out:  
<http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift/>

### **Some other areas to consider when seeking to determine where to serve:**

The following is taken from Rick Warren at Saddleback Church. He uses the acronym S.H.A.P.E.

#### **1) Spiritual Gifts (S.h.a.p.e.)- See above.**

#### **2) Hear<sup>t</sup>- passion (s.H.a.p.e.)**

- a) What area of ministry do you feel passionate?

- b) What concerns in the body of Christ do you have? What concerns about society or about the world do you have?
- c) What are your interests? What do you love to do?

#### **3) Abilities- natural talents (s.h.A.p.e.)**

- a) What natural talents do I have?
- b) In what areas of school or extracurricular activities did I do well?
- c) What would others say about my talents or strengths?

#### **4) Personality (s.h.a.P.e.)**

- a) Am I an extravert or introvert? Am I task-oriented or people-oriented? Do I like to lead or prefer being led? Am I a big-picture person or a detailed-oriented person? In decision-making, am I more intuitive or do I make decisions based on hard data? Am I a planner or am I more spontaneous?
- b) Example of helpful personality tests- DISC test; Meyer/Briggs; Kersey Bates

#### **5) Experience (s.h.a.p.E.)**

- a) Family experiences: What did you learn growing up in your family?
- b) Educational experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
- c) Vocational experiences: What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?
- d) Spiritual experiences: What have been your most meaningful times with God?
- e) Ministry experiences: How have you served God in the past?
- f) Painful experiences: What problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned from?