

As part of our ongoing Stewardship Education Program, included in this issue of Cornerstone is an introduction to **Spiritual Gifts**. We hope that this overview, combined with a broader definition of each Spiritual Gift in the following weeks, will provide a foundation for your reflection and discernment regarding which of God's Spiritual Gifts may be most applicable to you. We encourage you to follow along with us as we journey through this subject to see if God may be calling you to a new or expanded way of serving Him and your community. Questions or comments to the Stewardship Team are welcome at any time.



Cultivating your Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are tools God gives Christians to do the work of ministry.

They are freely given by God and cannot be earned or merited. A spiritual gift is the Holy Spirit's extraordinary power source which equips us for ministry, and an overarching, even supernatural, desire to perform the duties of that gift.

Your spiritual gifts are also unique to you — built into the personality and makeup God gave you when he created you. They are meant to be a source of joy in our Christian life, influencing our motivations and the way we reflect God's love to those around us. A spiritual gift is a divine calling that comes with a divine responsibility.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Cor. 12:6

Why are the spiritual gifts important?

Spiritual gifts are part of God's design for building His church. When we use the gifts we have been given, God is at work.

Spiritual gifts express themselves through various ministries which, in turn, accomplish a variety of results that bring the Kingdom into our lives and community. Though worked through individuals, gifts are operations or manifestations of the Holy Spirit—not of the gifted person. They are used for the benefit of others, and in a sense they are granted to the church as a whole more than they are given to individuals. There is diversity in their distribution—an individual will not possess all of the gifts.

Our needs, then, are met when we serve one another through our spiritual gifts. Effective ministry demands that we both understand and use our gifts.

Three types of gifts:

Enabling

These are gifts which every Christian can develop as part of their spiritual life. They are qualities you possess rather than activities you perform.

- Discernment
- Faith

- Generosity
- Words of Wisdom/Knowledge

Team/Community

These gifts are service-, ministry-, or task-oriented, or they are functional activities that can be performed or acted on. Chances are, you have several of these gifts that vary in degrees and intensity. In many cases, these spiritual gifts may complement your secular employment.

- Administration
- Creative/Artistic Expression
- Evangelism
- Hospitality
- Intercession
- Leadership
- Mercy/Compassion
- Pastoral Care
- Service
- Teaching/Exhortation
- Writing/Speaking

Miraculous

Generally known today as the charismatic gifts, these gifts are meant for edifying the Christian in his or her relationship with God and the Church.

- Healing
- Miracles/Deeds of Power
- Prophecy
- Tongues/Interpretation

Adapted from <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org> and <https://www.biblesprout.com>

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16

GET INVOLVED

There are lots of opportunities for you to share your gifts with the St. Paul’s community. To find out more about how you can get involved, please address any questions to the Stewardship Team.

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