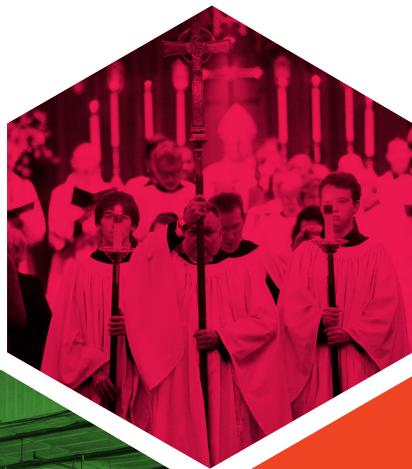


SPIRITUAL GIFT ASSESSMENT



IDENTIFY YOUR
GOD-GIVEN GIFTS



CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION
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Spiritual gifts are special abilities distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer. Scripture tells us that we are called to undertake the responsibility of the gifts that are bestowed on us to fulfill the mission of the Church. The Apostle Paul instructs that we must know what all the gifts are and how God intends them to function in the body of Christ. The purpose of identifying your spiritual gifts is to assist you in better understanding the ministry role God has created for you and learn specifically how you can contribute as you serve on various ministry teams. When you begin to serve faithfully according to God's specific will for your life, we pray that you will experience the joy of serving in God's coming kingdom.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration appears in the list of spiritual gifts Paul provides in 1 Corinthians 12:28, and you can see an example of his instructing a younger disciple to exercise the gift of administration in the beginning of his letter to Titus.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

You can see this gift used throughout the history of God's people — from the recent construction at Incarnation back through the building of the great cathedrals of the past. You can dig even further back and see this gift in Moses' instructions about building objects for the worship of God starting in Exodus 37.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

The Scriptures are riddled with examples of the deployment of the gift of Creative Communication. One of the most interesting comes from the Acts of the Apostles, when Paul finds himself in Athens trying to connect with a culture that is deeply religious, but religious toward the worship of idols as opposed to the worship of God. In Acts 17:22–31, we can read about Paul creatively communicating the Gospel by incorporating local custom to explain the message of Christ.

DISCERNMENT

Many leaders within the Bible practice discernment, including Jesus himself. Check out Jesus' discernment of what the devil was tempting him with in Matthew 4:1–13.

ENCOURAGEMENT

St. Paul was a great encourager of the earliest Christians. Check out an example in the opening chapter of his letter to the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 1).

EVANGELISM

The early church was frequently engaged in evangelism. A great example of evangelism is St. Peter's speech in Acts 2:14–41. That said, most of the time evangelism isn't recorded because it isn't in the great speeches to big crowds; rather, evangelism most often happens in the relationship between two people when one person shares the message of the Gospel.

FAITH

We see an example of this extraordinary gift of faith in the lame beggar who is healed after coming into contact with two early followers of Jesus, Peter and John (see Acts 3:1–10).

GIVING

Like many spiritual gifts, the gift of giving seems to have been more obviously received by the faithful in the earliest days of the Church. Acts 4:32–37 provides a powerful example of early reception of this gift.

HELPS

You can see an early example of this gift being received by the first deacons of the Church in Acts 6:1–7. Not everyone to whom God has given this gift is called to ordination as a deacon, but the first deacons provide a model for the selfless service empowered by this gift.

HOSPITALITY

Examples of hospitality litter the Bible, but one particularly surprising example comes from the notorious character of Rahab. Joshua, the leader of God's people at war, send out two spies, and they are protected by an unlikely turn of events. Check out Joshua 2:1–7.

INTERCESSION

A powerful example of intercessory prayer can be seen in Abraham's prayers for Sodom in Genesis 18.

KNOWLEDGE

We see St. Paul describe the gift of knowledge present in the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 1:4–7.

LEADERSHIP

St. Paul commands the leaders of the Roman church to lead with zeal in Romans 12:3–8.

MERCY

Jesus is of course famous for showing mercy. One example can be found in his cleansing of the ten lepers in Luke 17:11–19.

SHEPHERDING

Jesus, the true Good Shepherd, provides a reminder to any who would shepherd in his name of the need to always be willing to offer one's own self for others in John 10:1–21.

TEACHING

The spiritual gift of teaching appears in many spiritual gifts lists in the Bible, including Paul's famous list in Ephesians 4.

WISDOM

The Bible has a whole category of literature known as Wisdom Literature. Perhaps the best known of this collection is the book of Proverbs. The opening of that text, Proverbs 1:1–7, contains a great description of Godly wisdom.

We encourage you to pray about the gifts bestowed on you. Here are three prayers to help get you started. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the clergy if you have questions about your gifts or how to best use them serving in or through Church of the Incarnation.

Almighty God, by your grace alone we are accepted and called to your service. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers and supplications as members of thy holy Church. Receive this our prayer which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty: we beseech thee mercifully that we may both perceive and know what things we ought to do in our vocation and ministry so we may truly and devoutly serve thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

