Discovering, Developing and Using Your Spiritual Gift/s

What Does the Bible Say?
The Church is the Body of Christ

Ephesians 1:20-23

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named,
Ephesians 1:20-23

Not only in this age, but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:15-18

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers –

Colossians 1:15-18

All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
The internal organization of the Body of Christ

What is a spiritual gift?

How many people have spiritual gifts?
Why know about spiritual gifts?

- They will benefit you through satisfaction at work well done.
- They will benefit the church by eliminating factionalism.
- They will help you know your spiritual job description, and end confusion.

Romans 12:1-6a

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,

so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment,
Romans 12:1-6a

each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

Romans 12:1-6a

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:

Therefore our goals are to

• Discover
• Develop
• Use
What if I decide not to discover, develop and use my spiritual gifts?

- 1 Peter 4:10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
- Matthew 25:14-30 “You wicked and lazy slave…”

What if everyone at FLC decides to discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts?

- Each member will benefit.
- All members, as the Body of Christ, the Church, will benefit. Romans 12:3, Ephesians 4:11-14

What if everyone at FLC decides to discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts?

Ephesians 4:12 …to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ… 16…from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.
What if everyone at FLC decides to discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts?

• God will be glorified.
  
  1 Peter 4:10-11  Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.
  
WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

• Romans 12:6-8  prophecy  service  giving  leadership  teaching  mercy  exhortation
  
  1 Corinthians 12:8-10,28  wisdom  tongues  knowledge  interpretation  faith  apostle  healing  helps  miracles  administration  discerning-of-spirits

What is a Spiritual Gift?

• Ephesians 4:11  evangelist  pastor
  
  In addition: I Cor. 7:7  celibacy  I Peter 4:9  hospitality  I Cor. 13:3  voluntary poverty, martyrdom  Eph. 3:1-9  missionary
How are gifts classified?

- Signs and wonders
- Non-signs and wonders

What gifts are not

- Special talents
- Related to work
- Hobbies

How long do you keep them?

- Lifetime
- Serial gifts
Gifts and Roles

• All have faith, some have the gift.
• All give, some have the gift.
• All teach, some have the gift.

Five Steps Toward Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

• Explore the possibilities.
• Experiment with as many as you can.
• Examine your feelings.
• Evaluate your effectiveness.
• Expect confirmation from others in the Body of Christ.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

• First thoughts are usually the best.
• Having someone fill it out as you would.
• Self-evaluating your answers.
• Possibilities for service.
Questions

Next Steps

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