

# Spiritual Gifts

**Definition:** a special divine empowerment bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish a given ministry God's way according to His grace and discernment to be used within the context of the Body of Christ

## **Purpose:**

1. to Build Up the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:10; Rom. 1:11-12)
2. to Make You More Effective (Eph. 2:10; Rom. 12:3-8)
3. to Deepen True Fellowship and Unity (1 Cor. 12:12-13, 19-21, 25-27)
4. to Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 14:23-25; Eph. 4:11-16)

## **How to Identify Your Gifts:**

Discovering your spiritual gifts doesn't take a lot of detective work. You just need to know what to look for. One of the best ways of discerning your spiritual gift(s) is to get involved in a variety of ministry experiences. As you explore the different ministry areas, you will soon discover if you are gifted for these ministries.

- LOOK FOR those ministries in which you feel the most fulfilled.
- LOOK FOR those ministries in which you seem to be the most effective.
- LOOK FOR those ministries in which others affirm your abilities.  
(People may not verbalize their appreciation. You may need to take the step of seeking counsel from those who will give you an honest assessment.)

Envelop the whole process in prayer. The Lord will lead you to an identification of your gift(s) if you allow Him to guide and direct you in all your endeavors.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Prov. 3:5,6)

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

While labeling your gifts is helpful, using your gifts is more important. Do what you know to do even if you can't put a name to it. The benefit of being able to specifically identify your gifts is that it can make you more effective as you learn how to better develop that gift and relate to and understand others better.