



## Life Practices

### Lesson #4: Investing in Relationships-Your Spiritual and Natural Gifts

#### Introduction

We were created for a reason (Jer. 1:5, Isa. 49:1 and Gal. 1:15). To help us pursue that calling, every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift and other natural talents. Our job is to pursue God's best for us by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### The difference between Spiritual Gifts and Natural Talents

A. \_\_\_\_\_ is an individual manifestation of grace given by the Lord that allows someone to serve Him and play an important role in the body of Christ. It is a specific expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

Gifts are received (not inherited or learned). They are only given to believers.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ is either (through \_\_\_\_\_ the genetics of one's parents) or it is \_\_\_\_\_ Natural talents are part of you. Learned talents are the result of some kind of education (formal or informal). They may be latent, the result of trial and error or specific training (practice, practice, practice).

Talents are developed, sometimes even expected and are for the saved and unsaved.

Natural talents might fall into categories like \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and so on.

Biblical examples: Bezalel and his carpentry skills (Ex. 31:3-5), Nehemiah and his organizational skills (Neh. 4:16), the women who financed Jesus' earthly ministry (Luke 8:3) or Lydia whose company supported the early church in Ephesus (Acts 16).

Regardless of whether or not the gift is a spiritual gift or natural talent, we are to do ALL to the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31).

#### The difference between Spiritual Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit

A. Spiritual gifts are an \_\_\_\_\_ of His Spirit. And they are given to serve others.



B. The Fruit of the Spirit is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the work of God in us. The fruit (singular) is a sign of our maturity. Regardless of our spiritual gifts, we are all required to exhibit the fruit. Example: Gal. 5:22 and self-control.

**Spiritual Gifts:**

God determines those gifts-see \_\_\_\_\_  
 Every believer has at least one spiritual gift- see \_\_\_\_\_  
 Each gift is valuable-see \_\_\_\_\_  
 We are commanded to use those gifts- see \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the Spiritual Gifts?**

There is no single, exhaustive or comprehensive list. There are four main passages that deal with spiritual gifts, but also please note other verses like I Cor. 7:7 (where Paul references the gift of singleness).

**Rom. 12:6-8**

*They help the body operate.  
 "Motivational gifts"*

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy

**I Cor. 12:8-10**

*They help bring unity for the body.*

- Word of wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Word of faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Distinguishing between spirits
- Tongues
- Interpreting tongues

**Eph. 4:11**

*They help edify or build up the body.*

- Apostles

**I Peter 4: 10-11**

*They help those in the body.*

- Speaking



Serving

Prophets  
Evangelists  
Pastors  
Teachers

### **The purpose of spiritual gifts:**

1. To help us serve others for \_\_\_\_\_-see Rom. 12:6-8 and Eph. 4:12  
\* The gifts are not for personal gratification, but they are ecclesiastical, for the body- see I Cor. 12:7, 28

“It is interesting that nowhere in the NT are we commanded to try to find out what our gift is. The interest of the NT is not what gift we have, but we are using our God-given talents, abilities and gifts for the well-being of Christ’s body, the church.” (Rosemary Bardsley)

2. To help lead us to \_\_\_\_\_the most excellent way.” See I Cor. 12:31-13:1-13

### **The use of our gifts:**

1. They are to be used in an \_\_\_\_\_(I Cor. 14:26-33)
2. They should never be a source of boasting, individualism or isolationism (Rom. 12:3, I Cor. 14:26)
3. We should use them with a spirit of confidence, cheerfulness and faithfulness (Rom. 12:6-8).

Remember: to whom much is given, much is required. See Luke 12:48

### **How do we discern our spiritual gifts?**

1. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Pay attention to what you enjoy, gravitate to, find fulfillment in doing.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ from those who know you well.
4. \_\_\_\_\_can help.

### **Resources to consider:**



On Line Assessments-Spiritual Gifts Surveys like:

[gifts.churchgrowth.org](https://gifts.churchgrowth.org)

[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

[gifttest.com](http://gifttest.com)

[spiritualgiftstest.com](http://spiritualgiftstest.com)

The S.H.A.P.E. Survey

### **For the Over Achievers Among us**

1. Memorize : I Cor. 12:6-7.

2. Make every effort to determine your own spiritual giftedness. Pray, do a personal inventory, consult others and take one of the assessment tools. Discuss the results with a spiritual mentor.

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