

Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts

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Brothers and sisters,

We are currently in a study called “*What Every Christian Needs to Grow*” and we’ve come to the third lesson which focuses on serving. It is important to learn to serve from the strength of your spiritual gifts. Time will not allow me to list and explain all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible so I am providing this paper called *Unwrapping your Spiritual Gifts* to supplement my sermon.

Paul said in *1 Corinthians 12:1* *Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.* For a long time I was ignorant about spiritual gifts. I was not aware that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to all God’s children. It was exciting to discover the spiritual gifts that are mentioned in the Bible. It was even more exciting to discover my primary and secondary gifts. I sometimes wonder how many Christians are uninformed or unaware of spiritual gifts. How about you? Are you informed? How would you define spiritual gifts? If you were asked to list on paper all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible how many could you list? Could you identify your primary and secondary gifts?

The purpose of this document is to help you discover and encourage you to use your spiritual gifts. *Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts* is the result of a study that I completed three years ago. If you were attending Norway Avenue at that time you may remember it but many of you are new to Norway and I want to share what I learned from that study. I used several resources which are listed on the reference page. Many of the definitions and items on the spiritual gifts inventory were adapted from the works of Peter Wagner and Larry Gilbert.

What is a spiritual gift?

A spiritual gift is a God-given skill or ability that enables Christians to be fruitful and fulfilled as they edify the body of Christ. Some people confuse the gifts of the Spirit with the gift of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit. These three are not synonymous. The gift of the Spirit (Acts 2:38) is the Holy Spirit himself, who indwells every Christian. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) are the Christ-like qualities that the Holy Spirit produces in us such as love, joy, peace, patience, etc. But the gifts of the Spirit are God-given skills or abilities that enable every Christian to be fruitful and fulfilled as they edify the body of Christ.

A Disclaimer

As I re-read this document I smiled and wonder “what would Jesus or Paul think about this document?” I felt some hesitance, especially when I thought about trying to quantify certain characteristics i.e., endorsing items on a survey as 25%, 50%, 75%. It reminded

me of the psychological assessments I use in counseling. For centuries the church carried out the mission of Christ without an inventory to match gifts and tasks. However, I believe *Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gift* will help you and I pray that the Holy Spirit will use it to help you discovery your spiritual gifts. Below are simple instructions for using it.

Instructions

1. Pray. Ask God to guide you with a clear mind and an open heart. Ask God to help you be honest with yourself and Him through this exercise. Remember that this is a spiritual exercise to help equip you to better serve God according to His will.
2. Remember that this instrument is only a tool to help you think seriously about the gifts that God has given you. This instrument will NOT give you a definitive answer regarding what spiritual gifts you actually have. You may have gifts that this instrument will not reveal. I hope, however, that this information will help you as you continue grow and understand how God has gifted you to serve.
3. According to the scale below, select the response that best describes or characterizes yourself. Record your answers on the answer sheet provided. DO NOT answer according to what you think *should* be true, but based on actual past experience. Do not leave any answers blank.
 - 0 – Not at all characteristic of me/definitely not true for me.
 - 1 – Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25% of the time.
 - 2 – Sometimes characteristic of me/true for me—about 50% of the time.
 - 3 – Usually characteristic of me/true for me—about 75% of the time.
 - 4 – Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me.
4. Add the sum score of each gift and record your ratings on p. 13, then identify your primary and secondary gifts.
5. Don't wait on some church program to use your spiritual gifts. Ask God to help you use your spiritual gifts every day as you go about your normal routine. Use your gifts at home, work, school, and community. If you want to volunteer for a ministry a church that's great, but don't wait for the church to organize something for you. Think, pray, experiment, and *fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you (2 Timothy 1:6)*. Listen for feedback. Consider the results. When you use your gifts asked simple questions like: Did it help someone or something? Did it glorify Jesus Christ? Was it fruitful? Was it fulfilling? If you answer yes to one or more of these questions you may be on track. It's really exciting and I hope you will share with me what you learn about yourself and your spiritual gifts. But it's really up to you. It's a special, on-going conversation between you and Jesus. You're not relying on the church to organize a program. You have a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ and you are eager to learn what he wants you to do and how he has gifted you to serve. So, I encourage you to take risks, stretch, grow, and begin to discover and use your spiritual gifts.

Administration: 1 Corinthians 12:28 The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals. This gift is a leadership gift and is often characterized by people who lead the body by steering others to remain on task. These people generally are concerned with the details of how to accomplish tasks, and tend to be masters at delegating specific tasks to other people according to their gifts and talents. *Scriptures: Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Titus 1:5.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I enjoy organizing task groups	
1. I love steering and guiding groups	
1. People consider me a leader	
1. I am efficient and often accomplish goals	
1. I pay attention to details	
1. I am logical, even when I'm under pressure	
1. I hold people accountable & keep them on task	
1. I am good at delegating responsibility	
1. I enjoy managing resources	
1. I like to develop plans and strategies	
Total	

Craftsmanship: Exodus 31:1-5 The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ who practice a craft with great skill. Although this gift is not mentioned in the New Testament, the Lord said of Bezalel in Exodus 31:1-5 *"I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ⁵ to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship."*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am very handy	
1. I am artistic	
1. I am skillful with crafts	
1. I am creative	
1. People ask me to use my craftsmanship	
1. I am neat	
1. I am a good painter	
1. I love to make, build, or fix things	
1. I have a good imagination with crafts	
1. I am very particular about my work in crafts	
Total	

Evangelism: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to readily share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women often become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ. This gift is a practical gift. While the task of evangelism is an important spiritual exercise that all Christians should be involved with, God gifts certain members with an ability to have unusual sensitivity to someone who is ready to accept Christ, and will generally have greater success in leading people to Christ than other Christians. People with this gift should be active in training others to share their faith. *Scriptures: Acts 8:5-6, 26-40; Ephesians 4:11-14; 2 Timothy 4:5.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am people oriented	
1. I am outgoing & seldom meet a stranger	
1. I develop relationships with non-Christians	
1. I invite people to church	
1. I am confident in sharing the gospel	
1. I can lead a good Bible study	
1. I am persuasive	
1. I am a good communicator	
1. I witness with joy and confidence	
1. I feel at ease sharing Christ	
Total	

Encouragement: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped and healed." This gift is a communication gift. Those who use this gift within a teaching or ministry situation are often driven to give practical application to their insights. Often, those gifted in this gift desire step-by-step plans of action to help others mature in Christ. Encouragers often find it natural to discover insights from personal experience when validated and amplified in Scripture. Scripture: Luke 3:16-18; Acts 11:23; 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:12; 5:1; Hebrews 10:25.

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am very affirming and encouraging	
1. I am sensitive & know when people are down	
1. I tend to look on the bright side	
1. People tell me that I encourage them	
1. I love to motivate others to do better	
1. I am a good listener & a good counselor	
1. When I teach I am very personal & practical	

1. I frequently praise people when they do well	
1. I love to comfort and console other people	
1. I enjoy cheering people up	
Total	

Faith: 1 Cor 12:8-10 The special ability that God gives certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for His work. Those with this gift often scare other people with their confidence. People with this gift are often very irritated by criticism, as they consider it to be criticism against God and His will. Probably the biggest danger for those with this gift is that they often try to project their gift onto other people. *Scriptures: Acts 11:22-24; 27:21-25; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am always ready to try the impossible	
1. I trust God implicitly, even during hard times	
1. I depend on God for every-day-things	
1. Obstacles do not shake my faith	
1. I focus on God's power rather than problems	
1. I rely totally on God's promises	
1. I trust God when others typically doubt him	
1. I am very patient while waiting on God	
1. I have extraordinary confidence in God	
1. I am firmly persuaded of God's power in crises	
Total	

Giving: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. While all Christians should practice the discipline of giving, God gifts certain members of the body to give remarkably greater amounts of their income with liberality and great joy. You don't have to be wealthy to have this gift. People with this gift have an acute awareness that all they have belongs to the Lord and they are merely stewards, therefore they know that God will supply their needs and richly bless them in their giving. *Scriptures: Matt 6:2-4; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4, Rom 12:8; 1 Cor 13:3; 2 Cor 8:1-7; 9:2-8; Phi 4:14-19.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am keenly aware that all I have belongs to God	
1. I give remarkably greater amounts of my income	
1. I am unselfish with my possessions	
1. I am very alert to financial needs	
1. I give cheerfully	
1. Some people know that I am generous	
1. I get great joy in giving to benevolent works	
1. I get great satisfaction in giving large amounts	

1. I give over and above the regular tithe	
1. I love to give anonymously	
Total	

Helps: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. People with this gift often enjoy doing routine tasks in order to free others to do the ministry God has called them to do. People with this gift are often not looking for recognition for the work they do. *Scriptures: Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:2-3; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Timothy 1:16-18.* **Note:** The gifts of *Helps*, *Mercy*, and *Service* are often confused. *Helps* focuses on Christian works and freeing others to accomplish their God-given ministries. *Mercy* focuses on people in distress and reflects God's love and compassion. *Service* focuses on accomplishing tasks that may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I love helping others so they can be effective	
1. People look to me for assistance	
1. I enjoy routine tasks	
1. I assist others so they will be free to use their gift	
1. I work best when I am behind the scene	
1. I look for opportunities to assist others	
1. I enjoy helping with emergency tasks	
1. I like being told exactly what to do when I help	
1. I view my role as a helper, an aid or assistant	
1. I get great satisfaction in helping others this way	
Total	

Hospitality: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging." Those with this gift have an acute awareness of visitors and have a desire to make all people feel welcome. People with this gift enjoy visitors in their home, and are usually not bothered if someone stops by and their home is not spotless. *Scriptures: Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:9-13; 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am very hospitable	
1. I have an open door policy in my home	
1. I love to be the host/hostess	
1. I don't mind if people drop in unannounced	
1. People know that I am warm and inviting	
1. I enjoy showing gracious hospitality	
1. I am very social, I entertain guest	
1. People are always welcome in my home	

1. I am attentive to the needs of my guest	
1. I love to cook and have people in for dinner	
Total	

Intercession: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers. Those with this gift often feel compelled to pray for specific requests when they are made known. Gifted intercessors have a greater occurrence of specific answers to prayer than most Christians. Many intercessors experience times when God moves them to pray for situations when they are not entirely sure what they are praying for. *Scriptures: Luke 22:41-44; Acts 12:12; Rom 8:26-27; Col 1:9-12; 4:12-13; 1 Tim 2:1-2; James 5:14-16.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I frequently intercede for others	
1. I pray continuously	
1. I view prayer as genuine conversation with God	
1. I feel compelled to pray alone and with others	
1. I recognizes prayer needs before others	
1. Other people ask me to pray	
1. I keep my prayer lists current	
1. I make specific requests to God	
1. I can tell you about many answered prayers	
1. I am moved to pray for others even when not ask	
Total	

Knowledge: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the well-being of the Body." Those with the gift of *knowledge* love to be at home in a book or studying. Those with this gift will often spend countless hours researching information. These people are interested in ideas and problem solving through gathering information and studying. The primary method of learning with this gift is reading and studying books and other written materials. *Scriptures: Luke 1:1-4; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 12:8; 2 Corinthians 11:6; Colossians 1:10; 2:2-3; 1 Tim 2:15.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I stay hungry for God's word	
1. I am diligent in studying the Bible	
1. I am a "bookworm"	
1. I am very studious	
1. I am well-informed and well-read	
1. I spend countless hours in research	
1. People ask me questions and I can answer them	
1. I love to solve problems by gathering info.	
1. I am a quick learner	

1. I constantly learn and acquire new knowledge	
Total	

Leadership: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God." People with this gift are often focused on the greater goal of the group and are not overly concerned with the details. Leaders delegate tasks and details to others to accomplish the greater goal. Leaders are visionaries. Leaders have followers-a visionary without followers is not a leader.
Scriptures: Romans 12:8 Luke 9:51; Acts 6:1-7; 15:7-11; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17.

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am a visionary	
1. I love to dream big and set goals for the church	
1. I am not overly concerned with details	
1. I enjoy casting the vision for the future	
1. I tend to be idealistic	
1. I inspire people	
1. I delegate tasks and details to others	
1. I can see the big picture	
1. I love challenging people toward the greater goal	
1. People view me as a step ahead	
Total	

Mercy: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (both Christian and non-Christian) who suffer from distressing problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering." *Scriptures: Matthew 20:29-34; 25:24-40; Mark 9:41; Luke 10:33-35; Acts 11:28-30; 16:33-34; Romans 12:8; Jude 22-23. Note:* The gifts of *Helps*, *Mercy*, and *Service* are often confused. *Helps* focuses on Christian works and freeing others to accomplish their God-given ministries. *Mercy* focuses on people in distress and reflects God's love and compassion. *Service* focuses on accomplishing little tasks that may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am very compassionate	
1. I have great empathy – I feel other people's pain	
1. I am emotional and shed tears for other people	
1. I love to comfort people who are in distress	
1. I am good at calming people who are upset	
1. I am very forgiving	
1. I enjoy visiting people in the hospital	

1. People tell me I am very loving and kind	
1. I have a tender heart	
1. I feel compelled to alleviate the suffering	
Total	

Missionary: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a culture other than their own. Those with this gift find it easy or exciting to adjust to a different culture or community. Missionaries find great joy working with minorities, people of other countries, or those with other distinct cultural differences. Those with this gift have a strong desire to be a part of the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world. *Scriptures: Eph 3.6-8, Acts 8:4; 13:1-4; 22:21; Romans 10:15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. My passion is missions	
1. I understand others' cultural frame of reference	
1. I am aware of how cultural biases inhibit evang.	
1. I continually develop my cross-cultural skills	
1. I love sharing Christ w/ dif. ethnic backgrounds	
1. I feel compelled to volunteer for missions	
1. I adjust quickly to new communities	
1. I adapt well to other cultures	
1. I enjoy working with minorities	
1. My methods for evangelism are flexible	
Total	

Singing/Music - The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs and/or playing instruments. *Scripture: Eph 5.19, Col 3.16, Psalm 96:1-9, Psalm 100:1-2, Psalm 149:1-2. Psalm 33:1-5, Psalm 150.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I frequently sing praises when I am alone	
1. I love singing spiritual songs with others	
1. People compliment me because I sing well	
1. I have musical abilities	
1. I am constantly learning new songs	
1. I enjoy writing spiritual songs	
1. People tell me that I help them worship in song	
1. I gravitate to opportunities to sing or play	
1. I enjoy leading others in praise	
1. I often practice to improve my musical abilities	
Total	

Pastor: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the welfare of a group of believers." Those with the gift of pastoring have a great need for long-term relationships. Shepherds will sacrificially give themselves to other people in such a way that they are built-up in their faith. Shepherds take personal responsibility for the successes and failures of those in the group that they invest themselves in. You do not have to be an elder to have this gift. *Scriptures: John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-4.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am people-oriented	
1. I maintain long-term relationships	
1. I am good at resolving conflicts between others	
1. People trust me and tell me their problems	
1. I am very protective of others	
1. People come to me for advice	
1. I care deeply for people in my circle	
1. I have often defended people in my group	
1. I love to teach and feed people God's word	
1. I take personal responsibility for my group	
Total	

Prophecy: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate a message of God to His people with authority and urgency. Those with the gift of prophecy will often feel as though they have a word from God that will guide, warn, or rebuke the Body of Christ. Prophets are concerned about evangelism and will have a desire speak strongly against evil in society or in the church. Prophets have a great sense of urgency to their message. Unless paired with the gifts of exhortation or teaching, prophets will often not feel the need to explain their message, but will expect immediate response. *Scripture: Luke 7:26; Acts 15:32; 21:9-11; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 14:3, 24-25, 29, 36-38; Ephesians 4:11-14.*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I speak with authority	
1. I tend to be blunt and frank	
1. I have very strong convictions	
1. I speak with urgency	
1. People think I am bold when I speak	
1. I am fearless when speaking about moral issues	

1. I feel compelled to speak forth God's truth	
1. I talk a lot about the need for repentance	
1. I feel comfortable when I rebuke others	
1. I warn other people about the judgment to come	
Total	

Service: "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results." Those with the gift of service enjoy doing routine tasks. Those with this gift enjoy menial tasks and do them cheerfully. Service-oriented people would rather take orders than give them. *Scripture: John 12:26; Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:6-7; Galatians 6:2, 9-10; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14. Note:* The gifts of *Helps*, *Mercy*, and *Service* are often confused. *Helps* focuses on Christian works and freeing others to accomplish their God-given ministries. *Mercy* focuses on people in distress and reflects God's love and compassion. *Service* focuses on accomplishing tasks that may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I am task oriented	
1. I roll up my sleeves and get my hands dirty	
1. I love doing little jobs	
1. I love working on in-home projects	
1. I enjoy doing routine task for God's glory	
1. I get great satisfaction in doing a job	
1. I would rather do it myself than find somebody	
1. I like to do things without attracting attention	
1. I want to volunteer to do odd jobs	
1. I like to work on household tasks	
Total	

Teaching: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn. People with the gift of teaching enjoy studying the Bible and related materials in order to communicate what they have learned to other Christians. Those with this gift find it easy to organize vast amounts of information in such a way as to make it easy to communicate, understand, and remember. *Scriptures: Mat 7:28-29; 28:19-20; Acts 15:32; Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:10, 28; Eph 4:11-14*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I get excited when I am ask to teach	

1. I am very methodical in my preparation	
1. I make sure my research is thorough	
1. I enjoy technical study	
1. I stay current in literature	
1. Other people compliment my teaching	
1. I can explain difficult concepts	
1. I make learning interesting	
1. I use charts, graphs, maps when teaching	
1. People learn a lot when I teach	
Total	

Wisdom: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising inside and outside the Body of Christ. Those with this gift have an excellent ability to apply spiritual truth to everyday life. Often, people in the church naturally seek out people with this gift when they are facing complicated spiritual problems. When a person with this gift considers past experience, they realize that they often make good and correct decisions and judgments. *Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:8; Proverbs 4:5-8; Acts 6:3, 10; 15*

Traits and Characteristics	Rate 0-4
1. I can discern what is true even when others can't	
1. I make good judgments	
1. I have insight into complicated problems	
1. I am very perceptive	
1. I know how to apply knowledge in practical ways	
1. People come to me for advice	
1. I am very intuitive	
1. I have made many correct judgments in the past	
1. I seek to fully understand, before I make decisions	
1. My own life demonstrates wise choices	
Total	

Record your scores for each of the Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts	Self-Ratings
1. Administration	
1. Craftsmanship	
1. Evangelism	
1. Encouragement	
1. Faith	
1. Giving	
1. Helps	
1. Hospitality	
1. Intercession	
1. Knowledge	
1. Leadership	
1. Mercy	
1. Missionary	
1. Singing/Music	
1. Pastor	
1. Prophecy	
1. Service	
1. Teaching	
1. Wisdom	

Based on you're self-ratings, record your primary gift(s) (your highest scores) and your secondary gift(s).

Primary gifts _____

Secondary gifts _____

OK. Now that I have some idea about what my spiritual gifts are what am I suppose to do? Well, let me tell you what not to do first. Don't wait on some church program to use them. Ask God to help you use your spiritual gifts every day as you go about your normal routine. Use your gifts at home, work, school, and community. If you want to volunteer for a ministry a church that's great, but don't wait for the church to organize something for you. Think, pray, experiment, and *fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you (2 Timothy 1:6)*. Listen for feedback. Consider the results. When you use your gifts asked simple questions like: Did it help someone or something? Did it glorify Jesus Christ? Was

it fruitful? Was it fulfilling? If you answer yes to one or more of these questions you may be on track. It's really exciting and I hope you will share with me what you learn about yourself and your spiritual gifts. But it's really up to you. It's a special, on-going conversation between you and Jesus. You're not relying on the church to organize a program. You have a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ and you are eager to learn what he wants you to do and how he has gifted you to serve. So, I encourage you to take risks, stretch, grow, and begin to discover and use your spiritual gifts.

Note: *Encouragement or Exhortation*, *Prophecy*, and *Teaching* are considered the communication gifts. The distinctions for each gift are often confused. Often, gifted communicators have a mix of these gifts. *Encouragement or Exhortation* focuses on personal and practical application of the message or truth being communicated. *Prophecy* focuses purely on the message or truth to be communicated. *Teaching* focuses on bringing thorough or adequate understanding of the message or truth being communicated.

Note: The gifts of *Helps*, *Mercy*, and *Service* are often confused. *Helps* focuses on Christian works and freeing others to accomplish their God-given ministries. *Mercy* focuses on people in distress and reflects God's love and compassion. *Service* focuses on accomplishing little tasks that may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

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