

You are a Gift!

You are God's gift to this world. *You are unique! Your personality, experiences, and motivations team up with what our creator has "hard-wired" you to be good at doing to make you a gift package for ministry.*

At Baptism we were each 'ordained' (put under orders) to carry out God's work in the world. Designed and called to be ministers, we intentionally bring our gifts to our daily situations, bringing God's love and concern to everyone we meet. We call this the **Ministry of the Baptized**, and it is the most potent force for good in the world.

Being intentional about taking up our ministries begins with knowing what God has designed you to do – this gifts discovery tool will start you on the way. The next steps are to develop then deploy your gifts.

You will likely find that your gifts clump up into gift-sets. Look at your highest "set" and seek out training for those areas. Remember that you are ministers of God, look for opportunities to exercise your ministries among co-workers, family members, and as the hymn says "in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea..." (293)

A Spiritual Gifts Discovery Exercise

Circle the answer that most fits you. Don't labor over the questions; put what first pops into your head. Also, be honest. False modesty will only thwart the purpose of this exercise; after all, you are seeking to discover ways in which God is working and will work in you, not how good or smart you are!

The theory behind this exercise is that you will feel most fulfilled (i.e., will sense a greater portion of inner-spiritual-satisfaction) in doing those things that God particularly empowers you to do through supernatural gifts of the Spirit. Therefore, in completing the questionnaire, be led accordingly. In a sense you might think that you should be greatly fulfilled in doing all of the things listed; but, if you are honest with yourself, you know that you would be - proportionally - more fulfilled in doing some things more than others.

I would feel fulfilled in the following ways...	Greatly	Some-what	Slightly	Not At All
1. Helping people understand	4	2	1	0
2. Encouraging someone who is downhearted	4	2	1	0
3. When feeling great compassion for the problems of others	4	2	1	0
4. Being called on to assist others in a variety of ways	4	2	1	0
5. Organizing people and things for more effective ministry	4	2	1	0
6. Giving away more than 10% of my income	4	2	1	0
7. Accepting responsibilities	4	2	1	0
8. Sharing about God with people who are not church goers	4	2	1	0

***Mercy** - The Holy Spirit enables some of us to feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are weak or suffering so that they devote large amounts of time and energy to alleviate those conditions. To exercise the gift of mercy is to relate to others in kindness and compassion. This gift involves continual readiness to forgive those who have erred, comfort the bereaved, help those who face a crisis, minister to the sick, become a peacemaker or offer assistance to those in need.

read: Luke 10:30-37, Micah 6:8

***Teacher** - The Holy Spirit enables some of us to communicate so that others can learn. To exercise the gift of teaching one effectively imparts information or proclaims precepts of truth, either vocally, visually or by example.

read: Hebrews 5:12-14, Isaiah 28:9-10

***Helps** - The Holy Spirit empowers some of us to willingly bear the burdens of others and help them in such a way that they can do their tasks more effectively. To exercise the gift of caregiving or helping is to give assistance or relief from distress where it is needed. This gift involves a willingness to help others even when the jobs may be messy or involve getting into close proximity with people who are sick or distressed.

read: Matthew 25:34-40, Acts 6:2-4

***Hospitality** – The Holy Spirit enables some of us to open our homes willingly and offer lodging, food, and fellowship cheerfully to other people. A concern for the comfort of others may be a manifestation of the gift of hospitality. This gift will involve a knack for making people feel at ease, enjoying being in the presence of strangers, being willing to offer one's home as ministry.

read: Hebrews 13:1-2, Genesis 18:1-8

***Intercession** – The Holy Spirit enables some of us to pray intensely and for extended periods of time with great positive effect for the building of the Kingdom. The gift of intercession is praying for others, a vital and important ministry often overlooked as “a ministry”. Evidences of the gift of intercession would be having the mindset for being instantly in prayer for a person or situation, having confidence that God acts in response to our prayers, being patient and persistent in prayer even when change is not evident, having a continuing sense of responsibility to pray for people and situations

read: 1 Thessalonians 5:10-13, 1 Timothy 2:1-2

***Leadership** – The Holy Spirit enables some of us to lead, inspire and develop the church of God by proclamation and the teaching of truth. To exercise the gift of leadership is to perceive and accept God's call to lead others in their spirituality, to be instrumental in acknowledging God's grace and compassionately, and training others in spiritual matters. Leadership includes a combination of wisdom, discernment and teaching.

Read: Matthew 4:18-22, Acts 14:21-23

9.	Perceiving the difference between good and evil	4	2	1	0
10.	Trying to do God's will even when it's not the popular thing to do	4	2	1	0
11.	Praying for someone to be healed	4	2	1	0
12.	Praying continually	4	2	1	0
13.	Having visitors	4	2	1	0
14.	Explaining what something means	4	2	1	0
15.	Cheering people onward when they are doing a good job	4	2	1	0
16.	Being a "Good Samaritan"	4	2	1	0
17.	Doing routine things if they will help someone else	4	2	1	0
18.	Accomplishing objectives	4	2	1	0
19.	Providing financial aid to others	4	2	1	0
20.	Having people seem to enjoy following my leadership in undertaking an important task	4	2	1	0
21.	Praying with someone to receive Christ as Lord and Savior	4	2	1	0
22.	Apprising others of spiritual dangers	4	2	1	0
23.	Firmly believing something will happen that everyone else disbelieves	4	2	1	0
24.	Praying with someone who is distressed, and they are comforted	4	2	1	0
25.	Maintaining a daily prayer list	4	2	1	0
26.	Meeting new people	4	2	1	0
27.	Seeing the light of understanding click on in someone else	4	2	1	0
28.	Having people who are perplexed come to me for encouragement and comfort	4	2	1	0

29.	Comforting people in difficult situations	4	2	1	0
30.	Being able to help, but I don't want to be in charge	4	2	1	0
31.	Planning things properly	4	2	1	0
32.	Sharing my possessions with others willingly	4	2	1	0
33.	Training others in the congregation	4	2	1	0
34.	Talking about what my faith means to me	4	2	1	0
35.	Distinguishing between God's truth and phony substitutes	4	2	1	0
36.	Being sure of God's loving presence even when things go wrong	4	2	1	0
37.	Being an instrument of God's healing power	4	2	1	0
38.	Recognizing prayer needs instinctively	4	2	1	0
39.	Making people feel at home	4	2	1	0
40.	Being responsible for imparting knowledge to others	4	2	1	0
41.	Bringing out the best in others	4	2	1	0
42.	Calling on the sick and homebound	4	2	1	0
43.	Relieving distress of various kinds	4	2	1	0
44.	Leading people to accomplish group goals	4	2	1	0
45.	Looking to God to supply my needs	4	2	1	0
46.	Directing others toward accomplishing a goal	4	2	1	0
47.	Seeing an "unlikely someone" in church	4	2	1	0
48.	Perceiving evil in time to combat it effectively	4	2	1	0
49.	Getting guidance from God that defies human predictions	4	2	1	0

***Encouragement** - The Holy Spirit empowers some of us to stand beside other people who are in need and bring comfort, counsel and encouragement so they feel helped. To exercise the gift of exhortation is to call forth the best from others. This gift involves helping others to be more dedicated in living out their faith, bolstering them up when they are discouraged or downhearted, challenging them to see the goals to which God calls them.

read: Acts 11:23-24, Acts 14:21-22

***Faith** - The Holy Spirit provides some of us with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence so that they can take heroic stands for the future of God's work in the church. This gift involves a healthy prayer life, sensitivity to the will of God, and a firm trust that God will come through, even when there is no concrete evidence.

read: Hebrews 11

***Giving** - The Holy Spirit enables some of us to offer their energies, abilities and material resources for the work of the church with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness and generosity. To exercise the gift of giving one operates out of a spirit of selflessness, requiring no recognition or reward for their giving. This gift involves offering one's time, energy, talent, skills, material possessions and money.

read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Matthew 6:1-4

***Healing** - The Holy Spirit lead some of us to share in restoring the sick. To exercise the gift of healing is to pray not necessarily for cure but for God's help for the sufferer, that something of good may come out of the distress. This gift involves a healthy prayer life, confidence in God's power to provide courage in suffering, and wellness of spirit regardless of the condition of the body or mind.

read: James 5:13-15, Luke 9:1-2; II Kings 5:1-3, 9-14

List of Spiritual Gifts

The Spiritual Gifts Inventory can help you determine which spiritual gifts you have. The questions assess your gifts in twelve areas. Each description below includes scripture references and has a listing of roles in church work, ending with a comma. (This is to invite you to add more roles that you think fit the gifts.) Look over the material for your top three scores. If you have time, look at the information for any scores that you have doubts about.

***Administration** - The Holy Spirit enables some of us to motivate, direct and inspire God's people in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to do the Church's work effectively. To exercise the gift of administration is to assume oversight for the proper execution of an organization or program (being in charge of people or things). This gift involves being able to put things together, tie up all the "loose ends" and get things done, setting a pattern for others to follow -- by direction, instruction, guidance, encouragement of example. Adaptness at financing, planning, organizing, delegating responsibilities and problem-solving can be indications of the gift of administration.

read: Hebrews 13:7, Judges 3:10, Exodus 18:13-16

***Discernment** – The Holy Spirit enables some with the ability to discover the will of God. To exercise the gift of discernment is to distinguish between truth and error, to identify whether something is of God. This gift involves wisdom and prayerfulness.

Read: Proverbs 17:24; Hosea 14:8-9; Acts 5:3-6

***Evangelist** - The Holy Spirit enables some of us to share the Gospel with others in such a way that they come to know God. To exercise the gift of evangelism is to share one's faith within and beyond the parish. This gift involves an unabashed willingness to "be religious."

read: Acts 8:26-40, II Timothy 4:5

50.	Seeing someone healed through the power of God	4	2	1	0
51.	Praying for others, often for significant periods of time	4	2	1	0
52.	Being prepared to care for guests who drop in unexpectedly	4	2	1	0
53.	Teaching individuals and/or classes	4	2	1	0
54.	Showing a person "a better way"	4	2	1	0
55.	Helping someone who is "down and out"	4	2	1	0
56.	Helping others achieve their goals	4	2	1	0
57.	Seeing that all the "loose ends" are tied together	4	2	1	0
58.	Having things available that other people need	4	2	1	0
59.	Seeing a program I have devised put into practice	4	2	1	0
60.	Leading a person toward a relationship with Jesus Christ	4	2	1	0
61.	Protecting people from evil	4	2	1	0
62.	Trusting God rather than circumstances	4	2	1	0
63.	Being sought out by others for healing prayers	4	2	1	0
64.	Knowing God answers my prayers for other people and situations	4	2	1	0
65.	Opening my home to those in need	4	2	1	0
66.	Helping others become dedicated Christians	4	2	1	0
67.	Assisting those who feel defeated	4	2	1	0
68.	Doing something about people's needs	4	2	1	0
69.	Supporting people in their ministries	4	2	1	0
70.	Solving problems	4	2	1	0
71.	Sharing what I have with others	4	2	1	0
72.	Knowing others share my vision	4	2	1	0

73.	Taking a stranger to church	4	2	1	0
74.	Thwarting Satan in some way	4	2	1	0
75.	Seeing God "come through" in a situation	4	2	1	0
76.	Giving time for the benefit of others who are hurting	4	2	1	0
77.	The first thing that occurs to me is to pray	4	2	1	0
78.	Remembering other people' special occasions	4	2	1	0

Which Spiritual Gifts?

- Place the number you circled for each question on the previous pages in the box with the number of that question.
- Do the math and add across (horizontally) placing your total in the space provided.
- Take note of the highest scores. Pay particular attention to the top 4.

	Responses					Total	Gift
1	14	27	40	53	66		Teaching
2	15	28	41	54	67		Encouragement

3	16	29	42	55	68		Mercy
4	17	30	43	56	69		Helps
5	18	31	44	57	70		Administration
6	19	32	45	58	71		Giving
7	20	33	46	59	72		Leadership
8	21	34	47	60	73		Evangelist
9	22	35	48	61	74		Discernment
10	23	36	49	62	75		Faith
11	24	37	50	63	76		Healing
12	25	38	51	64	77		Intercession
13	26	39	52	65	78		Hospitality