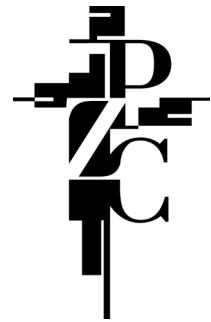


ZPC Inquirers Class

Spiritual Gifts Inventory



HOW TO FIND YOUR BEST FIT

Jay Kessler once described the typical church as a football game: Thousands of people are sitting in the stands, watching, while 22 other guys are knocking their brains out on the field.

But that is not the picture of the Church that is revealed in the Bible. When Christians gather they represent Christ's *Body*. Whatever Jesus does on earth, He does through our hands, our voices and our feet.

Furthermore, *every* Christian is a valued member of the Body. This is clear from four key New Testament texts:

I Corinthians 12-14
Ephesians 4:1-16

Romans 12:1-8
I Peter 4:8-11

Your specific role in the Body – where you **fit** so well that each opportunity to serve leaves you completely energized and wanting more -- is determined in part by the *spiritual gifts* that God has uniquely provided you.

What are spiritual gifts? They may sound mystical or esoteric, but in reality may be known and grasped by any of God's people. Spiritual gifts are:

- i. Special abilities to minister to others*
- ii. Given to every Christian (one gift or more)*
- iii. Given by the Holy Spirit, as God chooses*
- iv. Typically related to interests and yearnings that have long been part of your life, even before becoming a Christian*
- v. Designed for use in the Body of Christ, not for personal fulfillment*

That means that: Every member of the Body is **different**
Every member of the Body is **important**
Every member must **do** its part
Nobody has **all** the gifts of the Spirit

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

There is often a correlation between a person's past experiences, inside and outside the Church, and the gifts or special abilities that have been granted him or her by God. The following exercise is designed to help you explore what has been most satisfying or fulfilling in your relationships with God and with others, and should provide some clues as to what gifts you are most likely to exhibit now and in the future.

Place the number that is most appropriate beside all 140 statements:

- 3** **Consistently and definitely true for me**
- 2** **Often true for me**
- 1** **True every once in a while for me**
- 0** **Never true for me**

Be as honest as you can! Don't answer according to what you *wish* were true in your life, or what you *expect* to do someday. Your gifts should be detectable based on experiences you have already had.

1. _____ I enjoy setting goals and objectives and then discovering the best way to accomplish them.
2. _____ I have been able to provide specific help to others who were struggling to heal broken relationships.
3. _____ Even before construction projects begin, I find it easy to see in my mind exactly what tools and designs will be of the most help.
4. _____ No matter how I perform a particular task, I nearly always can imagine other creative ways I might have approached it.
5. _____ I generally know how to find the right words to help a disheartened person get back on track.
6. _____ I keep my eyes open for opportunities to tell people about my spiritual convictions.
7. _____ I find it easy to visualize God's nearness and interest in my life at all times.
8. _____ When urgent financial needs of Christian work are made known, I feel deeply moved to contribute my resources.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

9. _____ I regularly discover practical things that need to be done, and go ahead and do them without being asked.
10. _____ Even if things aren't totally presentable, I feel comfortable welcoming people to my home.
11. _____ I find a great deal of pleasure playing a musical instrument, either alone or as part of a group.
12. _____ When I enter a time of prayer I never have any trouble thinking of things I want to share with God.
13. _____ I am confident that the insights I derive from personal study of the Bible will have a helpful impact on others.
14. _____ I motivate other people in a positive way to accomplish identifiable goals.
15. _____ I feel fulfilled while ministering to people in retirement homes, hospitals and prisons.
16. _____ I enjoy small group experiences, and am comfortable assuming responsibility for them.
17. _____ When I teach others, I feel comfortable responding to questions.
18. _____ I can visualize ways of bringing a higher quality musical experience to worship.
19. _____ I am respected for the way that I am able to offer appropriate solutions to many kinds of challenging problems.
20. _____ I feel convinced that Christian truth can be expressed in simple statements that anyone can understand.
21. _____ I easily delegate important responsibilities to other people.
22. _____ I am often able to discern what someone is really thinking or feeling by their non-verbal communication, or "body language."
23. _____ I have a reputation for being able to figure out how things work,

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

then to repair or maintain them.

24. _____ The challenge of communicating something about the Christian faith in a new and creative way excites me a great deal.
25. _____ I am able to maintain a positive relationship with someone even when I confront them with the fact that they have wandered from the truth.
26. _____ I feel very comfortable around unchurched or seeking individuals, and enjoy finding ways for them to become more involved in spiritual activities.
27. _____ Even when other people are preoccupied with difficulties and obstacles, I can usually see God's hand moving behind the scenes.
28. _____ It doesn't bother me to compromise my standard of living in order to make a special effort to share what I have with others.
29. _____ I can usually be found working quietly in the background to help other people succeed.
30. _____ I go out of my way to help create a warm atmosphere for those who attend various meetings or functions.
31. _____ Often when I am alone I gravitate to a favorite musical instrument to express my moods or feelings.
32. _____ During periods of personal prayer I occasionally find myself losing track of time.
33. _____ I routinely study books and do research to deepen my knowledge and understanding.
34. _____ If a group I care about has begun to drift, without apparent leadership or direction, I am willing to step in and fill the gap.
35. _____ Sometimes I've gotten so involved personally and emotionally with hurting people that others have wondered aloud if I haven't gone too far.
36. _____ I am at my best helping others when I have a long period of time to develop strong and stable relationships with them.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

37. _____ Children and/or adults seem to learn whenever I teach the Bible, and grow in their interest to do studying on their own.
38. _____ I am confident that my singing has been inspiring and spiritually uplifting for others.
39. _____ Long before most people, I can see the ultimate consequences of behavioral patterns in others.
40. _____ After I finish a written composition or correspondence, I think I've done a credible job of expressing my thoughts and communicating what is true.
41. _____ I have a knack for seeing the big picture, then coming up with the details that have to be accomplished to make it become a reality.
42. _____ I look for opportunities to understand and encourage people who are struggling with guilt, confusion, bitterness or addictive behaviors.
43. _____ I consider it relaxing and fulfilling to invest time and energy in outdoor projects and lawn work.
44. _____ I derive a great deal of satisfaction from making things with my own hands.
45. _____ I know how to reassure people who are on the brink of taking courageous new steps at work, with their family, or in their faith.
46. _____ I am always interested in finding more effective or creative ways to explain to someone else what it means to be a real Christian.
47. _____ I feel energized to tackle big projects and dream great dreams for God, even when the resources to accomplish them are nowhere in sight.
48. _____ I often contribute money anonymously to meet the needs of a particular individual or ministry.
49. _____ Key leaders in business or church rely on me to relieve them of a great deal of their detail work so they can focus on their main tasks.
50. _____ I enjoy providing food and/or lodging to people who could use my assistance.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

51. _____ I have found ways to use my talent with a musical instrument to contribute positively to the overall experience of worship.
52. _____ Among all possible spiritual activities, I feel most comfortable praying.
53. _____ I have notable ability to recall details from my study whenever I am involved in a discussion or controversy about biblical teaching.
54. _____ Most of the time I know where I'm going, and find it easy to persuade others to join me.
55. _____ I feel led to help disadvantaged people, even though there is little or no likelihood that they will be able to offer anything tangible to me in return.
56. _____ I enjoy taking responsibility for small groups of Christians, particularly if I am able to help guide them in their growth.
57. _____ I am especially excited about Bible study when I can share practical insights with others.
58. _____ My voice may not be operatic in quality, but I'm not afraid to sing in front of others.
59. _____ I believe I have more "common sense" than the average person.
60. _____ In the past I have contributed to newspapers, newsletters, or other publications in a meaningful and creative way.
61. _____ I have a real knack for organizing time, people, ideas and various details in effective ways.
62. _____ People have told me that I am a good listener.
63. _____ I have the skills to design and build things that would help the church do a better job of caring for people.
64. _____ Artistic projects are one of my favorite fulfilling outlets.
65. _____ I motivate other people to take their relationship with Christ more

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

seriously.

66. _____ At those times when I have shared the reality of my own faith with others and God's plan for their lives, people have been very responsive.
67. _____ I feel sure, even when circumstances seem to present obstacles impossible to overcome, that God will take care of me.
68. _____ Out of obedience to God I'm willing to contribute ten percent and even more of my income to help fund spiritual enterprises.
69. _____ When I realize how many practical needs there are around the church, I find myself eager to start tackling them.
70. _____ When there are guests or visitors in my presence, I naturally try to make them feel more a part of things.
71. _____ I have good ideas about ways that musical instrumentation could enrich the times that Christians get together.
72. _____ When I begin to pray for someone, I genuinely believe my prayers will bring about tangible results.
73. _____ I enjoy "meaty" Bible studies that increase my knowledge of biblical principles.
74. _____ I relish the opportunity to lead groups, large or small, through the process of making important decisions.
75. _____ I can really feel the pain and anguish of most suffering people, and want to be part of their healing process.
76. _____ When I have the opportunity to serve and guide other people, I feel it is critical that I truly know them, and that they know me.
77. _____ Christians have told me that as a result of the biblical perspectives I shared with them, they have made changes in their lives.
78. _____ I think it's just as much fun leading others in informal singing as it is to help with the singing in a worship service.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

79. _____ People single me out for advice on matters that are troubling or confusing to them.
80. _____ I'm secure in the knowledge that most things I write will be of real benefit to those who read them.
81. _____ I have the ability to handle a lot of details at the same time in order to get things done.
82. _____ People tell me things they have not told others and point out that I am easy to talk to.
83. _____ I feel as if I really know how to accomplish things when I am working with my hands.
84. _____ When I am doing what I enjoy I rarely have a short attention span.
85. _____ I find myself attracted to people who are broken, confused, or troubled, because I truly want to help them find God's hope and healing.
86. _____ I'm comfortable letting people around me know that I'm a Christian, in the hope that they will inquire about my spiritual convictions.
87. _____ Other people have noted the fact that I consistently feel a sense of peace about God always providing for my needs.
88. _____ I derive a great deal of satisfaction from knowing that my financial support has made a difference in various spiritual endeavors.
89. _____ My place of serve is behind the scenes, so that others can use their talents more effectively.
90. _____ I feel free to open my home to people who need physical or emotional support.
91. _____ I like taking part in instrumental music presentations, whether at church, school or community events.
92. _____ I feel as comfortable making time to listen to God's voice as I do making my requests to Him.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

93. _____ It bothers me a great deal to hear someone do an ineffective or inaccurate job of presenting Bible principles.
94. _____ I can summarize and clarify the vision of a group, then communicate it to members in such a way that they are eager to begin implementing.
95. _____ I understand the roller coaster of emotional and spiritual moods that suffering people experience and am able to patiently be a friend to them.
96. _____ I feel the need to be gently encouraging to people who seem to have wandered from their spiritual moorings.
97. _____ The study and preparation I have done to teach biblical materials have been appreciated by children and/or adults.
98. _____ I often sing Christian songs and hymns when I am alone, or when I am in informal settings.
99. _____ Even in the midst of open conflict, I know how to offer simple and acceptable plans for resolution.
100. _____ From time to time I conclude that I could have done a more effective job writing the particular book or article I am reading.
101. _____ When I think about a specific future event I am able to foresee potential problems and opportunities and deal with them in advance.
102. _____ People with spiritual or relational struggles have taken some positive steps because I was there to care for them.
103. _____ It's fulfilling to me to create something with my own hands that helps one of the church's ministries.
104. _____ I feel a call to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms.
105. _____ I gently but firmly challenge others to be more faithful in their walks with God.
106. _____ My conversations with nonChristians often include mention of spiritual matters and/or the church.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

107. _____ I am sure that even in situations that appear discouraging, God can still accomplish His purposes through me.
108. _____ I have no difficulty sharing my money and possessions generously, even when I'll get nothing tangible in return.
109. _____ I like doing the kinds of odd jobs around the church that make things run more smoothly for others.
110. _____ Even when it's not convenient, I open the doors of my house to guests.
111. _____ I may not be great performing with a musical instrument, but I still don't mind playing it in front of others.
112. _____ When I imagine helping someone else, praying for them is one of the first things that comes to mind.
113. _____ I love passing on to others the insights I have discovered in God's Word.
114. _____ I know how to adjust my leadership style to accommodate a wide variety of people who are dealing with the same task or challenge.
115. _____ I experience a great deal of joy working with people whose needs are largely ignored by others.
116. _____ Over time others have told me how much they appreciated my continuing support and concern for them.
117. _____ I love learning about the Bible and then explaining it to children or adults in ways that will cause them to think seriously about making life changes.
118. _____ I have ideas how hymn-singing, praise choruses and special songs could be more enjoyable for the whole church.
119. _____ Others have told me how I helped them to see the application of Christian truths to the "gray areas" in their lives.
120. _____ I naturally put my feelings and opinions into written form, and am often more comfortable writing what I think than explaining it verbally.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

121. _____ I enjoy learning about management issues and how organizations function.
122. _____ I have a deep longing to guide people, in any way I can, to experience a more holistic and balanced lifestyle.
123. _____ I understand how to start with raw materials and fashion them into items useful for others.
124. _____ I need regularly to get alone to reflect and use my imagination.
125. _____ Even when others are seriously discouraged, I find ways to accentuate what is positive in their lives.
126. _____ I have such a heartfelt concern for people who don't know Christ that I feel continually motivated to share my faith.
127. _____ Day by day I feel sure that God is walking with me, and confident that His power is always available to me.
128. _____ I am a good manager of my own financial resources, so that I can support various ministries and causes that advance Christ's work in the world.
129. _____ Most of the time I am content to take orders rather than give them.
130. _____ When strangers, visitors or guests are in my presence, I go out of my way to make them feel at home.
131. _____ I am gratified that my skill on a musical instrument has brought joy to other Christians.
132. _____ Even when my schedule is full, I find time to pray as a first priority.
133. _____ My study has frequently helped me discover new truths that I can apply to my own life and pass on to others.
134. _____ A number of people have indicated that I have been a model or mentor for them when it comes to their personal spiritual growth.
135. _____ I do my best to show God's love to people who are suffering out of the public view.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

136. _____ I am interested in providing direct assistance for others' growth, whether relationally, emotionally or spiritually.
137. _____ I have an ability to take teachings right off the pages of the Bible and relate them to the lives of people around me.
138. _____ The seemingly routine practice of singing Christian songs is one of my favorite experiences.
139. _____ In situations where people become puzzled about what they should do, I can often bring biblical principles to mind that apply directly to their concerns.
140. _____ I believe that my literary skill can be used to inform others and to build them up spiritually.