

Name: _____



How Has God Equipped Me to Serve?

A Spiritual Gifts Inventory
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Why Spiritual Gifts?

The purpose of spiritual gifts is two-fold: to unify the body of Christ/Christians in their faith and to produce within the church growth that is both qualitative and quantitative.

The unity spiritual gifts bring is not uniformity; in fact, these gifts can be explained just like fingerprints. We all have them, yet no two sets look alike. Each spiritual gift fused with personality and physical attributes manifests differently in each individual. God has given you unique gifts to share, for God's glory and for the sake of the world.

The diversity of spiritual gifts defines the church. As the body of Christ, we have many members, and each member has a specific function. Without all of the members in a community of faith, the body of Christ would be incomplete and the diversity of spiritual gifts would be underrepresented. God needs you where you are!

Again, spiritual gifts are biblical, given to everyone, essential to discipleship and exciting to discover and reveal. But there's more to spiritual gifts.

- You cannot choose or trade the gifts you receive.
- Spiritual gifts are gifted through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual gifts are not about you!

God has a greater use for these gifts; so, don't hide them under a bushel!

Two Biblical Reflections

As we begin discerning and identifying our spiritual gifts, it is important to ground our work in the Bible and prayer. Read the following short passages and reflect on the questions that follow.

Passage #1: Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14a

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely...For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Passage #2: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

What does it mean to you that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made"?

What are the benefits of your gifts being used "for the common good"?

Before beginning the inventory, open your heart in prayer for God to reveal your gifts, to ignite the Spirit within you, and to give you the courage to use your gifts for God's glory.

Questions

Please record your responses on the opposite side, using a scale from 0 (Never) to 5 (Always).

1. I would enjoy coordinating or directing a special program or event in my church.
2. I like to make things with my hands that can be used in the church.
3. I have the gift to immediately distinguish good from evil.
4. I can tell anyone, anywhere about Jesus and what he did for my life.
5. I often feel I know God's will even when others are not sure.
6. I see myself as a person who is very generous when it comes to giving money to the church.
7. I don't think twice about doing a job that might not bring me praise.
8. When I am in a group I am usually the leader or take the lead if no one else does.
9. I believe I could learn a new language and culture in order to minister in another country.
10. I am musically inclined and love to sing and play an instrument.
11. I find great satisfaction in caring for the spiritual needs of friends and people I know.
12. I can pray for long periods of time without getting tired, distracted or bored.
13. I could be described as an "others-centered" person.
14. I like to explain biblical truths to people.
15. People have told me that I am a wise person.
16. I can give others responsibilities for a task or project and help them accomplish it.
17. God has gifted me with creativity and the ability to make things with my hands.
18. If something is from Satan and not God, I know it right away.
19. When I consider people who don't know Jesus, I have extreme sadness and a heavy heart.
20. I find it easy to trust God even when things seem to go bad for me or others.
21. It makes me happy to give my money and personal items away.
22. I love to put on parties, cook, decorate, and make people feel good.
23. I like to lead, inspire, and motivate others to become involved in God's work.
24. I feel comfortable when I am around people of a different race, culture or language.
25. I would really love to lead people in worship through my music.
26. I would really like to nurture and shape people in their ongoing relationship to Jesus Christ.
27. When I pray, I often see immediate and amazing answers to my prayers.
28. I enjoy meeting the needs of others.
29. I think I have what it takes to reach a Bible study or lead a small group.
30. I believe God has given me the ability to make wise decisions.

31. I am able to set goals and plan the most effective way to reach them.
32. When something is broken, I can fix it.
33. I believe I can tell when someone is really a Christian and when someone is faking it.
34. I have led others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
35. My belief in God is very strong and I almost never have doubts about my faith.
36. I am confident that God will take care of me when I give cheerfully and with sacrifice.
37. I don't have to lead, I love to follow and help make things happen from behind the scenes.
38. People seem to look to me for leadership and to make decisions.
39. I adapt easily to a different change of settings and environments.
40. I believe God has given me a real gift of music to share with the body of Christ.
41. When sitting in church, I am often thinking what I might preach on if I were the pastor.
42. People often tell me that whenever I pray, God always seems to answers my prayers.
43. You'll frequently find me volunteering my time to help with the needs of the church.
44. Because of my teaching, others have gained a better understanding into who God is.
45. I usually see clear solutions to complicated problems.

Responses

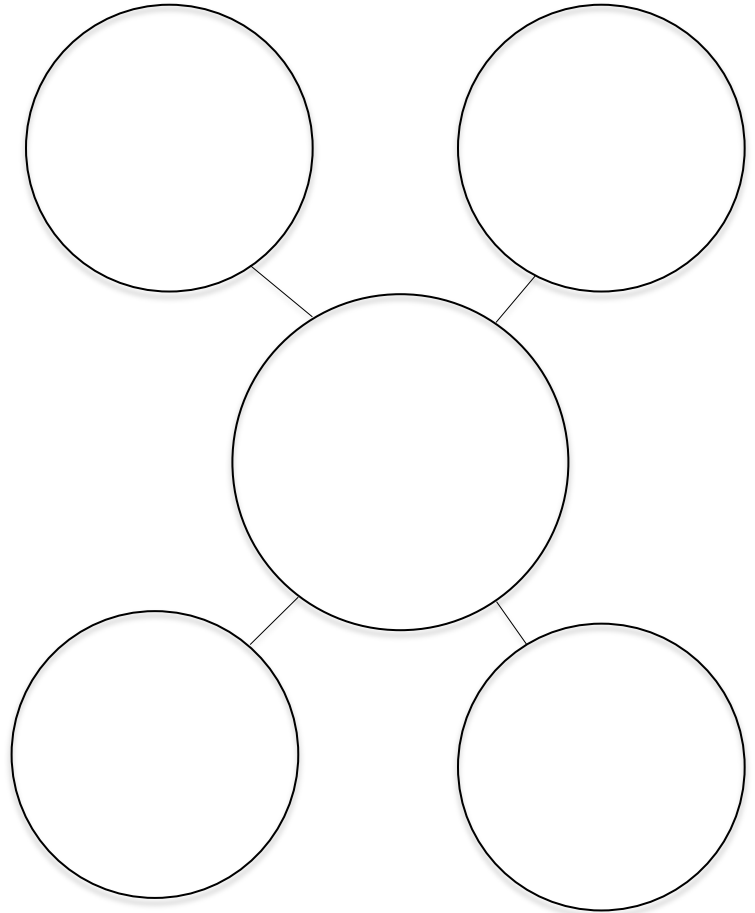
			TOTAL	
1. _____	16. _____	31. _____	_____	A
2. _____	17. _____	32. _____	_____	B
3. _____	18. _____	33. _____	_____	C
4. _____	19. _____	34. _____	_____	D
5. _____	20. _____	35. _____	_____	E
6. _____	21. _____	36. _____	_____	F
7. _____	22. _____	37. _____	_____	G
8. _____	23. _____	38. _____	_____	H
9. _____	24. _____	39. _____	_____	I
10. _____	25. _____	40. _____	_____	J
11. _____	26. _____	41. _____	_____	K
12. _____	27. _____	42. _____	_____	L
13. _____	28. _____	43. _____	_____	M
14. _____	29. _____	44. _____	_____	N
15. _____	30. _____	45. _____	_____	O

Name: _____

Analyzing and Interpreting My Spiritual Gifts

Please re-record your total numbers from the previous page in the spaces below (left).

- A Administration _____
- B Craftsmanship _____
- C Discernment _____
- D Evangelism _____
- E Faith _____
- F Giving _____
- G Hospitality _____
- H Leadership _____
- I Missions _____
- J Music _____
- K Pastoring _____
- L Prayer _____
- M Serving _____
- N Teaching _____
- O Wisdom _____



In the diagram above, write the spiritual gift that had the highest rating in the center circle. In the remaining circles, write the other gifts that you rated second-highest, third-highest, etc.

What surprised you? How do these results help explain your inclination toward work and acts of service? How do you see these gifts being used in your daily vocation and at Zion?

Remember: Your spiritual gifts are not about you. Christ is sending you to serve.

Administration – the gift to clearly understand the present and future goals of the Church and to plan workable and manageable ways to reach these goals

Craftsmanship – the gift to use hands, minds, and skill to build up the Kingdom through artistic and creative means

Discernment – the gift to know and to test whether something is spiritually good or evil

Evangelism – the gift to share the Gospel with unbelievers

Faith – the gift to believe with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power and presence

Giving – the gift to offer material blessings with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness and generosity

Hospitality – the gift to offer food, lodging or fellowship to people in a cheerful manner either in their homes, work, school, or church

Leadership – the gift to set goals from God and then lead others to work together to carry out these goals

Missions – the gift of being 'sent forth' to minister in another culture, people group or nation

Music – the gift of bringing praise to God and leading the body of Christ in worship through various forms of music

Pastoring – the gift to guide, oversee, shepherd and spiritually build-up a specific group of believers

Prayer – the gift to pray (intercede) for extended periods of time and regularity with great positive effects and results

Serving – the gift to serve God by meeting the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of others with great joy and selflessness

Teaching – the gift to communicate God's Word to God's people in order that they might learn, grow, and mature in Jesus Christ

Wisdom – the gift to offer good advice, solid counsel, and special insight