

PERSONAL MISSION WORKSHOP

SESSION 2: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS



“Understanding the mission of God and discovering how he has uniquely gifted me to love and serve His church and the places where I live, work, and play.”

Personal Mission

The mission of God is to glorify himself by redeeming a people from sin and restoring creation to its intended purposes. As Christians, each of us has been invited (commanded) to participate in this mission. And we can do so with confidence, because the Bible teaches that God has equipped all of his children with particular spiritual gifts for us to use as we carry out our personal missions.

Christ’s church is strengthened and his kingdom is expanded when God’s people embrace his mission. Today’s workshop is meant to encourage you to embrace your role in his mission by helping you identify your individual giftedness and discover how you can effectively use it.

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS.

As a conversation starter, all of you have completed the *Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire* by C. Peter Wagner. As a disclaimer, though these questionnaires can be helpful, don’t hold the results as the final say in your giftings. That being said...

Q1: According to Wagner’s *Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire*, what are your top 3 spiritual gifts?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Q2: Do the results surprise you? Why or why not?

Q3: Are you currently utilizing your gifts? If yes, how?

Though Scripture doesn’t contain an exhaustive list of spiritual gifts, it contains several examples given to the church. You can find some of them in: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:28.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.

What are we to do with our spiritual gifts? And how exactly are they useful for our personal missions? Thankfully God hasn’t left us on our own to figure it out—we can turn to the Bible for answers. In addition to giving us with lists of

possible gifts, He provided insight into the distribution of gifts and their proper purpose. For example, read and consider the following passages.

¹⁰ *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

(1 Peter 4:10-11)

¹ *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed... ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.* (1 Corinthians 12:1, 14-20)

Those two passages teach us quite a bit about God's intentions for spiritual gifts. Let's list some of what we learned.

1. Are spiritual gifts given or earned? Given by God's grace. (1 Pet. 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:18)
2. Who has received a gift? Every Christian. (1 Pet. 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:14, 18-20)
3. Is any gift more or less important than another? No, all have purpose, use, and are equal in value. (1 Cor. 12:15-17)
4. How should Christians use their gifts? To serve one another and to glorify God. (1 Pet. 4:11)

The Bible is clear that all of Christ's people have an important role to play in the mission of God. It's not limited to pastors or "super-Christians." There is no "useless gift." To the contrary, God invites all of his children to participate in his mission and equips each one with a gift for them to use for his glory and the good of others.

Q1: How can a right understanding of the distribution and use of spiritual gifts strengthen your intimacy with God?

HOW TO FAITHFULLY EXERCISE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT.

By giving you spiritual gifts, God has equipped you for the mission. But as we see in Scripture, we don't truly begin to participate in the mission until we start exercising our gifts.

So today, as it relates to you, how and where can you begin to use your spiritual gifts? Answer: by *servicing* the other members of this church and those close to you outside. Be careful not to read volunteering in place of service. To be sure, serving may include volunteering, but serving is more than volunteering. To serve one another is to love one another by helping one another grow in love and obedience to Christ. If you want to serve other members of this church, get to know them through Community Groups.

Additionally, you can serve by volunteering in an official or unofficial capacity. Let's be clear: all of Christ's people should serve, but not everyone should serve in children's ministry. Like gifts, God gives interests and passions to his people. These interests are useful when determining where to serve. What interests do you have? Are you passionate about caring for the vulnerable or hurting? Do you enjoy making people feel welcome? Are you a gifted teacher? Consider the way God designed you and your interests can be used to serve others.

Q1: What are some things you can't stand that God can't stand?

Q2: What are some aspects of the world and of life that burden you?

Q3: What gets you most excited about advancing the Kingdom of God?

TO-DO.

At the end of each session, I'll include some kind of hands-on project for you so you can continue to learn and be challenged between sessions. Additionally, I'll include some further resources on the topic that you might find helpful for future study.

Further Resources for Session 2:

- *How do I discover my spiritual gift?* – Juan Sanchez
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-do-i-discover-my-spiritual-gift/>
- *Living as a Church: Serving and Giving* – Capitol Hill Baptist Church
 - <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/sermon/class-11-serving-and-giving/>
- *The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts* – Sam Storms
- *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* – Thabiti Anyabwile