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“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, but ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him” (I John 2:27). Anointing Points to Regeneration The term “anointing” (Greek christos) is used only twice with regard to Christians. In both places the reference is to regeneration. The anointing which is on the child of God is that which was received at regeneration. Every believer on the Lord Jesus Christ, having vital relationship with Him, became a Christian when baptized with the Holy Spirit. Next, the filling of the Spirit is indeed an experience far beyond anything, which the majority of Christians knows anything about. It is the purpose of God that every child of His should be filled at the moment of his or her conversion, and perpetually filled until the consummation of his sojourn upon the earth. (The Spirit of God, G. Campbell Morgan, Baker Book House, pp. 184-186.) The usage of the word anointing, as found in I John 2:27, is a noun usage which is only to be found in I John 2:20, 27. In I John 2:20, the word “unction” is a translation of the Greek (chrisma) occurring three times in the Greek New Testament (verses 20, 27a, 27b), is more precisely rendered “anointing” which usually has reference to the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This anointing, with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, is a part of the believer’s equipment for effective service. This “anointing,” or indwelling, of the Holy Spirit is sufficient to make lucid all truth in matters of faith and practice. No additional experience of knowledge or enlightenment is needed. The apostle John is giving assurance to all believers of the intent of establishing the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit in His teaching ministry. In I John 2:27, the passage recognizes the adequacy of the Holy Spirit in teaching and in testing the truth of what is taught by human teachers. (The Criswell Study Bible, p. 1465.) Understanding John’s Words To properly understand the intent of the apostle John’s usage of the word anointing, one should examine the reason for John’s writing of this first epistle. The first epistle of John is a vigorous polemic against certain heretical teachers whom John calls “‘antichrists.” These “antichrists” are recognized as one or more of the many ramifications of Gnosticism. This heresy has three possibilities: 1) The denial that Jesus Christ came in the flesh; 2) That Jesus is the Son of God; 3) That Jesus came “by water only” and not “by blood also.” Gnosticism was divided into two schools of thought: 1) Dicetism described Jesus as the Christ in the sense of a phantom figure; 2) Ceninthus taught that Jesus was not born of a virgin, but was the physical son of Joseph and Mary. Whereupon His baptism by John the Baptist, the Spirit of “Christ” anointed Him for His earthly teaching ministry then left Him at His crucifixion. In the passages found in I John 2:18-20, John represents to the believers the work of the Holy Spirit and this anointing for security against apostasy of the antichrists. John reminds all true believers of the living Witness they have in themselves– the Holy Spirit of God; who both set the seal of immediate conviction upon the Truth itself and enabled the believers unfailingly to distinguish it from all of its counterfeits. According to verse 20, the result of this “anointing” is that ye know all things. The specific office of the Spirit is to guide into all truth, to receive of mine (Christ’s) and show it unto you (John 16:13-14). The distinctive feature of I John 2:27 is that the testimony of the Spirit is regarded as a “teaching.” The believers would recognize this teaching as the subjective, enlightening action of the Holy Spirit of truth upon the minds of all true believers in Christ. This does not assert infallibility or omniscience on the part of the Christian or indeed negate the need for Christian instruction. The general purport of the passage therefore is to remind the readers that they already possess in their fellowship a resource that is all sufficient for discerning the real character of the antichristian doctrine. How The Anointing Empowers Believers The “anointing” of the believers enables all to know the truth concerning the object of their Christian faith–Christ the incarnate Son of God. This indwelling of God is recognized by its appropriate sign, the gift of the Spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (I John 4:2). The Spirit’s anointing is not to be recognized as a source of independent revelation, but makes the revelation of Christ (the Word) effectual. This is done by a process that may be considered as two-fold, teaching and testimony. The Spirit is the living Divine Teacher who works in all believers a progressive understanding of the contents of the Truth embodied in Christ. He shall testify of me (John 15-26). (The Tests of Life, 3rd Edition, Reprint, Robert Law, Baker Book House, pp. 91-92, 112-115, 297-298.) The verb form “anoint” (Greek chrio) is also used several times in the New Testament to allude to the anointing of Christ, but once it is used of Christians, who are also in a sense anointed (II Corinthians 1:21). The anointing, is the same as that with which Christ was anointed, namely Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 1:22). This, in fact, is the meaning behind the name “Christians,” for believers are “little Christs,” “little anointed ones.” When John, therefore, uses this word unction, or anointed, he simply means to say that all believers have the Holy Spirit. Since believers have the Holy Spirit, they have an “edge” on unbelievers and can “know” certain things that unbelievers cannot. So, John says in the passage of I John 2:20, Ye know all things. Do the Gnostic false teachers claim to “know?” Here is truth they cannot know, which even the simplest believer “knows” because he has the Spirit. The truth, which makes it possible to tell Christians from antichrists, is the truth that Jesus is the Christ. This is the message, which the believers have had from the beginning and note the emphasis on hearing and receiving the Word of God from the apostles. Proving False Teachers In I John 2:25-27, the case is that any believer can apply a test to be used on false teachers: These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. It is clear that from verse 27 that they do not need to listen to these false teachers; they have been taught the Word of God by the apostles, and they have the indwelling Holy Spirit who will give them assurance and teach them to live by that Word. (Liberty Bible Commentary, Volume II, p. 768.) The following two tabs change content below. The Team Ministry Spiritual Gifts Survey is a FREE Spiritual Gifts Test discovery tool that provides you with a personalized analysis. Not an exam, but a simple questionnaire giving you a profile of your God-given spiritual gifts. Discovering and exercising your God-given spiritual gifts allows you to experience maximum fulfillment with minimum frustration in your Christian life and ministry. For that reason, we are pleased to offer this personal Spiritual Gifts Survey to individuals, churches, ministries and organizations. Did you know that God has supernaturally gifted everyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ? What would it feel like to know how God has designed you? Would it change how you view yourself, or even your outlook on life? If you want help discovering how God has gifted you and how you might fit into the body of Christ, take our free spiritual gifts test today. Or Click Here to Get Your 28-page Custom Profile Churches that have used our tests Our spiritual gifts test is simple and intuitive, and only takes about 10-12 minutes to complete. Just answer each question honestly and openly on a 1-5 scale from Very Inaccurate to Very Accurate. The progress bar lets you know how far along you are each step of the way. Our comprehensive scoring system will calculate and order your gifts for you. A beautiful, color-coded chart displays the rank and the range of your score as compared to other test-takers. This gives you a clear picture of what gifts you may have, which is helpful when searching for a place to serve in the body of Christ. On your results page you will see the definitions for each of your top three spiritual gifts. Each definition is well-researched and Scripturally supported. The Bible is the guide for all our resources and teaching content. After taking the test, learn more about spiritual gifts and discipleship throughout our website. Thank you so much for having this website and posting the spiritual gifts tests. I have taken this kind of test before through books, church etc. I have a small group study and think this would be a great thing to give to everyone so they can be more involved. Again, thank you! Christ bless your ministry, it is truly a great tool and resource. Your adult test has been the best gift to me in a long time. The definitions you attach to each gift along with the scriptures, enabled me to be able to clearly identify and list dates, people, places, events within my experiences and within my gifting from the Lord. Thank you. You are a blessing to God’s people!!! God wants to use you and has chosen you to live a fruitful life for Him. Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” God already has amazing plans for you, but now it’s up to you to take the next step. BibleSprout.com offers a free spiritual gifts survey further down the page so you can discover your spiritual gifts. Before we get to the spiritual gifts inventory, it’s important that you understand the purpose and function of the spiritual gifts, as well as what scripture defines as a true spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts NOT just for church leaders or for just physical church growth. The New Testament promises that spiritual gifts are available to believers in Christ. Begin Your Free Spiritual Gifts Test What Are Spiritual Gifts? The apostle Paul used five different Greek words in God’s word to describe spiritual gifting or gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-7). Pneumatikon (spiritual) describes the character of these gifts as spiritual or of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1) Charismata (gifts) emphasizes God’s free and gracious gifts (1 Cor. 12:4) Diakonia (ministries) describes gifts as opportunities for ministry (1 Cor. 12:5). Energama (activities) suggests that gifts are an endowment of God’s power or energy (1 Cor. 12:6). Phanerosis (manifestation) describes gifts as evidence of God working through us (1 Cor. 12:7). Click Here to Begin Your Spiritual Gifts Survey What are the Types of Spiritual Gifts? There are 3 “types” of spiritual gifts which are broken into miraculous gifts, enabling gifts and task-oriented gifts. Miraculous Gifts Enabling Gifts Task-Oriented Gifts There is some debate as to whether miraculous gifts are for the church today or were used as “signs” of the apostles’ authority in the Acts church. We do not wish to diminish those gifts, but we also try to be wise with how we focus our attention. With that in mind, we aim to focus our attention on task-oriented spiritual gifts because they are the least likely to be misused and are often more able to be used for the Glory of God in the local church. Miraculous or Sign Gifts The miraculous gifts include such gifts as tongues and healing. These gifts are meant for edifying the Christian in his relationship with God, and the Church. Speaking in Tongues Miracles Healing Enabling Gifts The four enabling gifts, which each Christian appears to have to some degree, include discernment, faith, knowledge, and wisdom. Discernment Faith Knowledge Wisdom Task-Oriented Gifts These gifts enhance the task-oriented gifts (TEAM gifts). There are nine task-oriented gifts: Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11) Prophecy (Romans 12:6) Teaching (Romans 12:7) Exhortation (Romans 12:8) Shepherding (Ephesians. 4:11) Mercy (Romans 12:8) Serving or Service (Romans 12:7 and 1 Corinthians 12:28) Giving (Romans 12:8) Administration (Romans 12:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28) Evangelism Evangelism is communicating the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit to unbelievers at their point of need with the intent of seeing conversions. These conversions take place as individuals repent of their sin and put their trust in God through Jesus Christ, to accept Him as their Savior. Normally, people who are converted determine to serve the Lord in the fellowship of a local church. Those who are gifted in evangelism are effective in making disciples of various types of people through their personal evangelistic efforts, which may include personal anecdotes of God’s attributes, different kinds of Bible studies, or discipleship of people one-on-one or in small groups to propel their spiritual growth. Prophecy Prophecy is communicating and applying biblical truth to a specific situation or circumstance. An individual with the gift of prophecy “speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort” (1 Corinthians 14:3) through exercising this gift. This gift appears to involve some measure of the, enabling gift of faith (Romans 12:6). Christians gifted in this area are usually able to discern problems and apply appropriate biblical principles to help alleviate the problems. Teaching Teaching is communicating biblical principles in the power of the Holy Spirit to others and demonstrating how those principles relate to the specific needs represented. Christians gifted in the area of teaching tend to be diligent students of the Scripture, who have accumulated a thorough understanding of the Bible and biblical principles as a result of their consistent study habits. Exhortation Exhortation is urging others to act on the basis of their faith in God, advising others how to accomplish specific goals in life and ministry, cautioning others against actions that are potentially dangerous, and motivating others in the Christian life and ministry. Those gifted in exhortation usually develop simple strategies to accomplish goals and effectively encourage and motivate others to remain faithful in their service for God. Pastoring/Shepherding Pastoring/Shepherding is compassionately caring for others in your sphere of influence through providing spiritual guidance, nourishment, and protection from potentially destructive individuals or influences. They are concerned about the needs of others and passionate about seeing god’s work in the lives of those around them. Those who have this gift readily express their concern for others and are often looked to for spiritual counsel and guidance. Mercy Showing mercy is discovering emotionally stressed and distressed individuals and ministering to their emotional needs. Mercy-showers express sympathy, empathy, and spiritual ministry to help alleviate the inner pain that is causing a person’s dysfunctional emotional response. Those gifted in showing mercy tend to be drawn toward hurting people and are somewhat effective in helping others rebuild their lives. Serving Serving is discerning and meeting the spiritual and physical needs of individuals. Those gifted in this ministry support others and are concerned with helping them in any way possible. They often enjoy manual tasks. Giving Giving is investing financial and other resources, like your time and/or talents, in ways that further the purposes of God through individuals and/or ministries. Givers are inclined to be generous in financially underwriting a wide variety of ministry projects. Administration Administration is the management of human, physical, and financial resources through planning, organizing, leading, and controlling. Planning involves projecting the future, establishing objectives, developing policies, programs, procedures, and schedules for accomplishing these objectives, and budgeting adequate resources for the task. Organization involves developing an organizational foundation, delegating responsibilities, and establishing interpersonal relationships. Leading involves making decisions, communicating ideas, and selecting, enlisting, training, and motivating people. Controlling involves establishing performance standards, then measuring, evaluating, and correcting performance on the basis of those standards. People who are gifted in administration are effective managers. Discovering Your Spiritual Gift In light of the Holy Spirit’s work in giving us spiritual gifts, it is important for every Christian to discover his or her spiritual gift, demonstrate it in ministry, and develop it to its fullest potential. Doing so will not only strengthen a Christian’s personal relationship with God but will be an encouragement to the body of Christ as well. There are several ways Christians can discover their spiritual giftedness. They can use a Spiritual Gifts Test to help them identify areas in which they are probably gifted. They can look at their personal ministry passion as an indicator of probable giftedness in that area. They can compare themselves to a standard profile of a person gifted in some area to note areas of similarity. Once you have identified your spiritual gift, you should begin using it in ministry. Many churches experience a shortage of workers because church members do not use their gifts in ministry. By simply calling the church office, most Christians can quickly learn of several ministry opportunities available for utilizing their gift. Your involvement in ministry will motivate you to develop your giftedness further. Every Christian needs to continually learn more about his or her spiritual gift and develop gift-related ministry skills to increase his or her effectiveness. Every follower of Jesus should be focused on doing effective ministry. An important step in doing that is identifying and operating in your spiritual gift. You can begin today by looking for articles, books, seminars, workshops, and other learning experiences to help you develop your spiritual gift(s). Spiritual Gifts Assessment The following two tabs change content below. Through a series of 85 questions about your spiritual gifts, you will rank each statement from 1 (almost never true) to 5 (almost always true). You must answer every question to receive results. At the end of the test, you will be shown a graphed breakdown of your results, from your highest spiritual gift on down. You will also receive your results via email. Take the Test © 2025 GiftsTest.com Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Every Christian has at least one Spiritual Gift. This Christian Spiritual Gifts Test has been used by 1000’s of churches and individuals to identify their God given spiritual gifts. The assessment is designed to be completed in one sitting. It will take 10-15 minutes. The private & confidential results are shown as soon as you complete the assessment. No information is stored. When answering each question trust your gut feeling. Be honest. Try not to second guess yourself. This is not a pass/fail exercise. I highly recommend that you take a some time to quieten your mind. Breathe slowly and deeply, perhaps while listening to your favourite gentle worship song. Ask the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to direct you as you complete the assessment. For the purpose of the Christian Spiritual Gifts Test the following definitions are used. Resist reading them before taking the test. They will all be shown on your Spiritual Gifts Results Page Note that I have used bland styling below so not to give bias to any particular gift. Jesus is the head, we are the body. The body needs the right hand as much as it needs the left foot. Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Take the Spiritual Gifts Test Embark on a journey of self-discovery with our free spiritual gifts test, designed to unveil the unique spiritual abilities that reside within you. In a world where the tangible often overshadows the mystical, this test serves as a bridge to the unseen, inviting you to explore the depths of your spirit. Crafted from extensive research and validated through rigorous trials, this carefully designed quiz not only aims to identify your inherent spiritual abilities but also seeks to inspire a deeper understanding of how these gifts can enhance your life and the lives of those around you. Join the thousands who have embarked on this enlightening journey, uncovering the profound impact of their spiritual gifts with confidence. What is Your Spiritual Gift? This quiz can help individuals identify and develop their unique spiritual abilities or sensitivities. Question Your answer: Correct answer: You got {{SCORE_CORRECT}} out of {{SCORE_TOTAL}} Congratulations on taking the first step towards uncovering the unique spiritual gifts that reside within you. The insights you've gained through our free spiritual gifts test are a beacon, illuminating your path to deeper self-awareness and spiritual fulfillment. Remember, the journey doesn't end here. Each spiritual gift is a door to further exploration, understanding, and growth. We encourage you to reflect on your results and consider how these inherent abilities can enrich your life and the lives of those around you. Whether your gift lies in healing, intuition, or a profound connection with nature, embracing and nurturing your spiritual abilities can lead to profound transformations. For those eager to delve deeper, our platform offers a wealth of resources designed to support you in developing and integrating your spiritual gifts. From expert-led workshops to insightful articles and community discussions, we are here to guide you every step of the way on your journey of spiritual exploration. Remember, your spiritual gifts are a unique expression of your essence. By embracing and sharing these gifts, you contribute to a more connected, compassionate, and understanding world. We are honored to accompany you on this journey of discovery and look forward to witnessing the incredible ways in which your spiritual gifts will unfold and impact the world around you. Spiritual gifts can either seem like something for the early Church in ages long past . . . or like something so hard to pin down, they’re more to be accepted than understood. But after exploring which spiritual gifts are listed in the Bible (an inventory, if you will), taking steps to discover your gifts, and perhaps taking an assessment or two, you’ll be much further down the path toward serving in your strengths. Here’s what we’ll explore today: The Lexham Bible Dictionary (available free) defines spiritual gifts as “ministries or abilities that the Holy Spirit gives to Christians for the edification of the Church.” It continues, “Spiritual gifts should be understood as primarily events (e.g., a healing) or activities or functions (e.g., the act of teaching or role as teacher) in the Church, and only secondarily as the abilities or empowerments to perform them.” Another short definition is from Vern Poythress’ What Are Spiritual Gifts?: The Bible indicates in several places that God equips and empowers people for service within the Church, which is the body of Christ. Since God is the source for our abilities, these empowerments may be called “gifts” from God. In The Beginner’s Guide to Spiritual Gifts, Sam Storms answers not only what spiritual gifts are—but also what they’re not: Spiritual gifts, or the charismata, are God’s answer to the human question “Why can’t we do that?” They are the manifestation and power of God the Holy Spirit through, which he intends to lead the Church into the fullness of its ordained end. . . . Spiritual gifts are not God bestowing to his people something external to himself. They are not some tangible “stuff” or substance separable from God. Spiritual gifts are nothing less than God himself in us, energizing our souls, imparting revelation to our minds, infusing power in our wills, and working his sovereign and gracious purposes through us. Spiritual gifts must never be viewed deistically, as if a God “out there” has sent some “thing” to us “down here.” Spiritual gifts are God present in, with, and through human thoughts, human deeds, human words, human love. Lexham Bible Dictionary lists these specific gifts Paul references in key passages: In 1 Corinthians 12:8–10, 28 Word of wisdomProphecy and prophetsTeachersWord of knowledgeTonguesDeeds of powerFaithInterpretation of tonguesForms of assistanceHealingApostlesForms of leadership In Romans 12:6–8 ProphecyMinistryTeachingExhortationGivingLeadingShowing mercy In Ephesians 4:11 ApostlesProphetsEvangelistsPastorsTeachers In Dr. Craig Blomberg’s video course on 1 Corinthians, he explains more about the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in that book: WisdomOne person may have a gift of wisdom or knowledge—two words that are very similar, but wisdom typically referred to knowledge applied in the woof and warp of life. FaithSome have the gift of faith. Every Christian must have faith even to be saved, but this is a special measure of faith to believe God and see him respond for things the average person doesn’t envision. Healings, miraclesThere are gifts of healings and miracles, the only place in the list where Paul changes the nouns to plurals, which may suggest different kinds of healings or miracles or may suggest different occasions for them. Another interesting difference of these two gifts from the rest of the list is they are not the kind of thing that people necessarily have as ongoing abilities or responsibilities but require the Spirit’s choice to work in a particular moment in a way that he doesn’t necessarily in every single instance. ProphecyThe gift of prophecy . . . speaking a word that came from God however long a person may have meditated on it or prepared how to say it, or however spontaneous it may have been given, and the gifts of discerning, prophecy determining its origin: Is this from the Lord, is this of human manufacture, or something worse? Tongues and InterpretationTongues and their interpretation—why is it last on the list? Not because Paul is necessarily making it the least of the gifts in all situations, but we will discover that it is the most problematic gift at Corinth, and so he perhaps deliberately waits and puts it at the end. “Tongues,” a Greek word that again has a very broad semantic range and can mean everything from the literal part of one’s anatomy fit in one’s mouth to any human utterance in some linguistic configuration, known, unknown, or a collection of syllables that God uses to provide meaning to someone in a particular context. Bible scholars say yes, there are other gifts of the Spirit. Blomberg says in the course Book Study: Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians that Paul presents “a sampling of the gifts of the Spirit.” Storms also touches on this in The Beginner’s Guide to Spiritual Gifts: “I’m inclined to believe there are potentially as many gifts as there are needs in the life of the Church and in the experience of individual Christians.” Lexham Bible Dictionary agrees and explains that the gifts used for everyday service in the Church matter just as much as gifts recognized as miraculous: Paul doesn’t suggest that the various gifts in these passages encompass all of the possible gifts given by the Spirit. Furthermore, it seems that Paul doesn’t categorically differentiate between the miraculous, transcendent, or spontaneous gifts with those that are more mundane, indicative of a regular function performed in the Church, or that overlap with latent talents possessed by members of the Church. Blomberg says that “Every person, every Christian believer, has at least one spiritual gift, and they’re not designed for personal use; they’re not designed for the benefit of the secular world but for the common good, which, as we will see, Paul specifies even more particularly later on as the upbuilding of the church.” So these gifts work through each Christian as believers serve their church body. Some people may have more than one gift (1 Cor 14:13, 18). And some gifts overlap with others: “for example, the gift of apostle probably encapsulates the gifts of teaching and leadership.” Regardless of which gift(s) each person has, they all come from just one source—the Spirit (1 Cor 12:4–6). And the Spirit empowers each person to use their gifts. Want to discover your spiritual gift? An assessment can help . . . but it’s not where you start. First, take a look at whether you meet these prerequisites, outlined by C. Peter Wagner in Discover Your Spiritual Gifts: 1. You have to be a Christian.2. You have to believe in spiritual gifts.3. You have to be willing to work.4. You have to pray. Before you continue, you might want a little more clarification on prerequisite three. Here it is, from Wagner: God has given you one or more spiritual gifts for a reason: He has a ministry assignment that he wants you to accomplish in the body of Christ, a specific job for which he has personally equipped you. God knows whether you are serious about working for him. If he sees that you just want to discover your gift for the fun of it or because everybody else is doing it or because it gives you some new status, you cannot expect him to help you very much. If, however, you promise to use your spiritual gift, whatever it may be, for the glory of God and for the welfare of the body of Christ, he will definitely help you. Next, you can take these five steps Wagner recommends for finding your gifts: 1. Explore the possibilities through studying the Bible, reading, finding out your church’s position on gifts, getting to know gifted people, and talking about gifts with others.2. Experiment with as many gifts as you can, starting by looking for needs.3. Examine your feelings.4. Evaluate your effectiveness.5. Expect confirmation from the body. Finally, to help nudge you in the right direction, you might take a spiritual gifts assessment. Here are a few online assessment options: You’ll also find a complete assessment in Discover Your Gifts. As you might expect from Wagner’s steps to finding your spiritual gifts above, he asks readers not to rely too heavily on the assessment—to see results as a starting point for prayer and meditation. As you reflect on what your gifting might be, consider this advice from Storms in The Beginner’s Guide to Spiritual Gifts: If we spend less time searching to identify our spiritual gift(s) and more time actually praying and giving and helping and teaching and serving and exhorting those around us, the likelihood greatly increases that we will walk headlong into our gifting without ever knowing what happened. God will more likely meet us with His gifts in the midst of trying to help His children than He ever would while we’re taking a spiritual gifts analysis test. . . . So, look for a need and meet it. Find a hurt and heal it. Be alert to the cry for help and answer it. Listen for the voice of God and speak it. Identify someone’s weakness and overcome it. Look for what’s missing and supply it. When you do, the power of God—the energizing, enabling, charismatic activity of the Holy Spirit—will equip you, perhaps only once, but possibly forever, to minister hope and encouragement to those in need. So, if you’re still wondering what your gift(s) might be, act first and ask later. *** If you’re a church leader, you may be wondering how you can help your members use their gifts. Here are a few ways: 1. Teach about spiritual gifts and how they can be applied today. You could even invite your church to read a related book together.2. Do a sermon series on spiritual gifts and ask members to share their gifts with you as they discern them.3. Ask members to take a spiritual gifts assessment and share their results with you. (Of course, assessments aren’t always spot-on, but they still give you somewhere to start.)4. Keep record of your members’ gifting in church management software, like Servant Keeper. (With Servant Keeper, you can easily track not only spiritual gifts but also skill sets, areas where people are willing to serve, and their level of experience in those areas. Read more about what you can do with Servant Keeper below.)5. Identify which types of service equate with which types of gifting. For example, the gift of teaching would be excellent for small group leadership.6. Ask for volunteers according to their gifting. Your church management software may be able to help you do this quickly and easily.7. Take note of ways people are already serving the body, and help them to identify their own gifting.8. Equip your disciplers and mentors to identify giftings and encourage those they’re in relationship with to exercise their gifting. The steps above are quick to read, but actually doing them could take more time than it needs to. Here are a couple of ways you can complete them quickly with Servant Keeper—powerful, easy-to-use church management software to help with volunteer management, attendance tracking, and much more. 1. Quickly pull groups in Servant Keeper based on the particular gifting you’re looking for. Then with just a few clicks, send a personalized email or text, or create a personalized letter asking each member of that group to help.2. When you notice someone’s gifting (say they consistently exhibit exhortation at prayer meetings), you can make a note inside Servant Keeper. Plus, you can share that note with other church leaders—for example, “Keep seeing examples of Kim’s gift of leadership. Let’s discuss her possibly taking over XYZ ministry at the next elders’ meeting.”3. You can track relationships in your ministry like discipler/disciple and mentor/mentee. From there, you can give your mentors and disciplers resources (books, gift assessments, one-on-one studies, etc.) to assist them in helping those they’re mentoring to exercise their gifting. Find out more today! Tagged aschurch volunteersministry cornerspiritual gifts Much confusion exists today concerning the Person of the Holy Spirit. His personality is denied by both liberal theologians and extreme religious cults. Some liberals will acknowledge he is portrayed as a person, but claim the Scripture is communicating a myth. Radical cults like the Jehovah’s Witnesses deny his personality, referring to him as simply an influence. Because of the comparatively little teaching about the Holy Spirit that has been done over the years, there are some good Christians who do not realize that the Holy Spirit is a Person. The Holy Spirit has the Attributes of a Person The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity–equal with the Father and Son in essence. Since one of the major aspects of God’s nature is that he is a person, it follows that the Holy Spirit is a person. The apostle Paul noted the intellectual ability of the Holy Spirit when he asked, “What man knoweth the things of man save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:11). The rational capacity of the Holy Spirit was expanded to include wisdom and communication when Paul’s prayer request for the Ephesians included “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him” (Eph. 1:17). The emotional ability of the Holy Spirit is evident in the word of the apostle, “the love of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:30). One of the problems associated with emotions is the possibility of being grieved by someone who is loved. The Bible warns Christians, “Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God” (Eph. 4:30). Isaiah cited an example of how Israel “rebelled, and vexed his Holy Spirit” (Isa. 63:10). The Holy Spirit has the ability to respond emotionally to the ideas and experiences he encounters. The Holy Spirit also has the ability of will and the ability to exercise it. By his own choice, the Holy Spirit accomplishes a number of specific acts, such as giving spiritual gifts. “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (1 Cor. 12:11). The Holy Spirit performs the actions of a person. The Holy Spirit does a number of things only a person can do. It should be noted that the Holy Spirit is not a Person because he does those things attributable to personality, but rather does the actions of the personality because he is a person. Consider the following chart to see how the Holy Spirit does those things which only a person can do. The Acts of the Person of the Holy Spirit He teaches – John 14:26 He testifies – John 15:26 He guides – Rom. 8:14 He speaks – 1 Cor. 2:13 He enlightens – John 16:13 He strives – Gen. 6:3 He commands – Acts 8:28 He intercedes – Rom. 8:26 He sends workers – Acts 13:4 He calls – Rev. 22:17 He comforts – John 16:7 He works – 1 Cor. 12:11 The above actions cannot be accomplished by a mere influence or force. Only a rational, emotional, and active person could do all that the Scriptures teach the Holy Spirit accomplishes. The Holy Spirit was Addressed as a Person The New Testament clearly shows the early Christians recognized and affirmed the Holy Spirit as a Person. Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit when he was commanded to go to Cornelius’s household (Acts 10:19). Philip followed the leading of the Holy Spirit in his ministry also (Acts 8:39). Against his better judgment, Ananias came to Saul, obeying what the Holy Spirit had revealed to him (Acts 9:10-17). Paul and Silas were constantly led by the Holy Spirit in their ministry (Acts 16:7-10). The Bible also records the story of two disciples who attempted to lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3). At his trial, Stephen addressed the Sanhedrin, saying, “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye” (Acts 7:51). Jesus also warned about blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31), and the Bible also warns of the consequences of insulting the Holy Spirit. “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, with which he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (Heb. 10:29). Is it any wonder the writer concludes, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31)? This would not be so if we had a proper reverence for the Person of the Holy Spirit as did David (Ps. 51:11). Association of Persons A fourth scriptural illustration of the Holy Spirit as a person is seen in the references to the Trinity. Jesus commanded his disciples to “teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19). Jesus acknowledged three distinct Persons of the Trinity but recognized their unity in a simple name. In our understanding of the Trinity, we realize that what is true of God is true of each part of the Trinity of God. God the Father is a personal God interested in us (John 3:16; 1 John 3:1). God the Son is also shown as a personal God interested in us (John 13:1). If the teaching of Scripture were unclear concerning the personality of the Holy Spirit, his association with other members of the Trinity of God as an equal indicates that he too is a person. The following two tabs change content below. Each person on the face of the earth has a spiritual gift that grows, deepens, and strengthens through life. However, unfortunately, not all of us know what our spiritual gifts are. Often this leaves us feeling lost, empty, and unsure about our life purpose. Spiritual gifts are talents, abilities, and powers given to us by Life, God/dess, the Divine, or Spirit. Spiritual gifts are: Innate, Powerful, Given by grace, and Help us fulfill our life purpose. When you find your spiritual gift, you may feel a sense of immediate recognition or a sensation that a lightbulb has instantly turned on. This is a good sign! Listen to it. The spiritual awakening process is a journey of both being and becoming. On the one hand, we’re called to be mindful, present, and accepting of who we are right here, right now. On the other hand, we’re also called to grow, evolve, and find our true potential. Discovering your unique spiritual gift can help orient you in life, shedding light on your strengths and what you can potentially offer to this world. In this spiritual gifts test, you will discover your spiritual gift. This test includes eight possible spiritual gifts, and each one will provide you with your corresponding spiritual archetype. What did you get? Share your results!