

Christmas time is a wonderful time of the year. We celebrate the birth of our Savior and get to spend special time with family and friends. We shop to get the perfect gifts for our loved ones and we tend to receive fewer gifts as we get older. Our children and grandchildren become the greatest gifts and the joy of Christmas becomes giving to them.

This year, as part of the celebration of Jesus Christ our Lord, this book will give you insight to your Spiritual Gifts(s). This gift is one that has already been given to you at salvation. It is one that gives you the greatest enjoyment, blesses others, and brings satisfaction to your life.

This book has been transformed from a Spiritual Gifts Test to a Spiritual Gifts Story about seven different people that you may relate to which will help you identify your Spiritual Gift without a test.

There are seven motivational gifts mentioned in Romans 12, and you have at least one; the one given at salvation. This gift is the one that is usually the strongest and motivates you the most.

Sometimes this gift can also be the center of our greatest frustrations and confusion. It can cause the biggest problems in our life with relationships and situations because when we don't know what our Spiritual Gift is or how to walk in it properly.

So, this book is given to you as a gift for encouragement, growth, and understanding of the Spiritual Gift God has given to you. He wants you to find the joy in walking confidently, blessing others, and glorifying Him with the special Gift He created you to have.

*John spent more time with Peter than with any other disciple ~
Luke 22:8, Acts 3:1-11, Acts 4:13-19, Acts 8:14.*

Mercy ~ John is probably the best Biblical example of the gift of mercy. Do these characteristics describe you? If so, you probably have the gift of Mercy.

Knowing and appropriating the Spiritual Gift God has given you is one of the most rewarding things in life. It will help you understand why you are passionate about certain things and you will gain confidence to do the things you are passionate about.

Knowing your Spiritual Gift will also keep you from comparing yourself to other people. How many times have you found yourself asking, “Why don’t I call people like that lady?” “Why don’t I teach like this lady?” “Why can’t I be...or do...?”

It is natural to think that we should do what others do if we are all Christians. When we understand the gift that motivates us, then we will understand ourselves better because we will understand who God has called us to be and what He has called us to do.

The characteristics of each individual described in this book focuses on each of the seven Spiritual Gifts. See if you recognize yourself in one of them. You may find that the misuse speaks loud and clear. Don’t be alarmed, most people recognize their spiritual gift by the way they misuse it.

You may also identify with more than one description. This is not unusual because most times we work our spiritual gift within all the gifts as we grow. You may have the gift of mercy that you use in service or in exhortation. You may have the gift of teaching that you use in giving or in prophecy. One way to determine which gift you are strongest in is to mark each characteristic that fits you the best. Then at the end you can see which spiritual gift has the most marks and know which gift God has given to you.

The seven motivational gifts are described in Romans 12:6-8. "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teaches, on teaching; or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness" Romans 12:6-8

Hi, I'm Peter. I am going to share with you about the spiritual gift God gave me. If you can relate to me, then you probably have the same gift I do.

1. I am a person that has a need to express my thoughts and ideas verbally, especially when it comes to matters of right and wrong.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I find myself dividing everything into two classes ~ right or wrong.

Peter became the spokesman for the early church ~ Acts 2:14, 3:12, 4:8, 11:4

2. I seem to be able to sense when someone is not what they appear to be, and I tend to react to any form of deception or dishonesty.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because when I see sin, I often denounce it so strongly that it appears "overkill" to others, and I expect immediate repentance regardless of whether my rebuke was accurate or given in love.

Peter must have sensed deception in Ananias and Sapphira since he was prompted to question them ~ Acts 5:3-10

6. I am loyal to friends, even to the point of reacting harshly to those who attack them.

When the John watched the Samaritans reject Jesus whom he loved, he wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume them ~ Luke 9:54.

7. I have a sensitivity to and understanding of people who are going through mental and emotional distress. Many who are hurting are drawn to me and confide in me.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because I find myself reacting to the idea that God allows good people to suffer and at times I even sense bitterness toward God.

When Christ was hanging on the cross, He transferred responsibility for His grieving mother to John ~ John 19:26-27.

8. My desire for helping the hurting is to remove the source of their hurt.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because it is easy for me to give sympathy and encouragement to those who are suffering as a direct result of being out of the will of God. I must be extra careful to spiritually discern why different ones are suffering.

The message of John's first epistle was for Christians to stop hurting and hating each other ~ 1 John 3:11-15

9. I am attracted to those with the gift of prophecy to be my close companions.

3. I am able to sense which individuals are hurting and to share the pain with them.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because my sensitive feelings can cause me to base decisions on emotions rather than Biblical principles to the extreme where I could even reject Biblical doctrine which seems harsh to me.

John wrote his first epistle to give joy, fellowship, hope, and confidence and to cast out fear and torment ~ 1 John 1:3-4, 3:3-2, 4:18, 5:13-14.

4. I find it very hard to be firm because I don't want to offend anyone, therefore I must always keep in mind that the greater hurt/pain will occur if I fail to be decisive.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because when I am placed in the position of leadership, I tend to avoid disciplinary action when needed.

When John was faced with denying Christ, he demonstrated a boldness and decisiveness which caused the Sadducees to marvel ~ Acts 4:13.

5. I have an ability to sense genuine love so I carry a greater vulnerability to deeper and more frequent hurts from those who fail to demonstrate sincere love.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because when people are insensitive to the feelings of others, I tend to retreat and cut off fellowship rather than help the insensitive person.

John used the word "love" more than any other disciple in his gospel and epistles.

3. I tend to make judgments on what they see and hear, and I am quick to speak up.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I tend to draw conclusions from a few known facts, and once I have made my conclusion, then I look for confirming evidence to prove my point.

Peter spoke more than any other disciple ~ Mt. 14:28; 15:15; 15:16, 33; 17:4; 19:27; Jn. 6:8; 13:6

4. I have a strong desire to see justice done and be sure that others are warned.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I find it difficult to separate the sin from the sinner, so I tend to reject them both.

Peter desired to cut off his offenders and asked Jesus how often he would have to forgive them ~ Mt. 18:21

5. I am a person who openly admits their faults and failures and expect the same from others.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I judge myself just as harshly as I do others, therefore I am extremely self critical and feel worthless when I fail.

Jesus appeared to the disciples, Peter fell to his knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" ~ Lk. 5:8

6. I am a person who is quick to respond to situations and opportunities.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because my quick decision can be impulsive and vacillate between extremes.

When Peter recognized Jesus walking on the water, he asked Jesus to bid him to come ~ Mt. 14:28

7. I am a person who is loyal to truth even if it means destroying relationships.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I find myself being painfully direct and often hurtful when correcting others.

When Jesus asked the disciples if they were also going to leave Him, Peter replied that he would stay because He had the words of eternal life ~ Jn. 6:67-69.

8. I am willing and even eager to suffer when it comes to standing for truth.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because my primary concern is to stop the spread of evil, so I often expose sinners, rather than restore them. It seems to me that exposure is the first step to restoration.

Peter rejoiced that he was counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus when he was beaten for obeying God rather than men ~ Acts 5:29-42.

Prophecy ~ Peter probably best illustrates the gift of prophecy. Does Peter remind you of yourself? If so, you may have the Spiritual Gift of Prophecy.

Administration/Organization ~ Nehemiah is probably the best Biblical example of gift of Administration/Organization.

Do you identify with Nehemiah? If so, you may have the Spiritual Gift of Administration/Organizing.

Hi, my name is John. This is a list of characteristics that describe the Spiritual Gift God gave to me. If you can identify with me then we probably have the same gift.

1. I often times find myself needing physical closeness. This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because my need for closeness in a friendship can interfere with others who need that person's time and attention. It can also cause me to depend on it for reassurance.

John sought out the closest place to Christ at the Last Supper and leaned upon the Lord. His need for closeness may also have prompted his request to sit next to Christ in glory ~ Mark 10:35-37.

2. My nature seems to require close friendships and the need for mutual commitment which is often reaffirmed. This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because my deep need for close friendships often causes me to monopolize the time and attention of others. When I experience disappointment in one friendship, I tend to place greater demands on a new friendship.

John enjoyed such a relationship with Jesus. He not only was closer to Christ than the others, but he referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" ~ John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 20.

8. I am able to remove myself from outside distractions in order to focus on the ultimate goal.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because it can become easy for me to delegate my responsibilities to others when I am in charge.

Nehemiah did not get involved in the actual building of the wall, however he removed obstacles such as financial pressures which would have hindered the workers ~ Neh. 5:1-13.

9. Before I start any project, I begin organizing and securing resources that will be needed for the project.

Nehemiah secured timbers from the king's forest before the rebuilding began ~ Neh. 2:7-8.

10. I am prompt, efficient, and can make quick decisions.

Nehemiah was consistently invited by his enemies to come and have a conference with them. His decision not to go was immediate and decisive ~ Neh. 6:1-5.

11. I enjoy motivating others to do a particular job.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because at times I can cause disharmony by showing favoritism to individuals who are especially important in obtaining my goals.

12. One of my greatest joys in life is to see everything come together. It doesn't matter if others appreciate the job as long as I know it was accomplished according to the plans laid out.

Hello, my name is Timothy. I'm going to tell you about myself which describes the Spiritual gift God has given me. If you recognize yourself in my description then you may have the same gift I do.

1. I am to be able to see physical needs that appear to be insignificant to others.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because at times the tasks which I see appear to be more important to me than the one being served, therefore, I may be viewed as pushy and intrusive.

Paul told Timothy: "I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state" ~ Phil. 2:20.

2. I take great joy in knowing that through my service, I am bringing peace of mind to another person

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I often find myself neglecting my own home, family, and personal responsibilities to serve others.

Timothy served Paul as a "son with the father" so that he could carry out his ministry ~ Phil. 2:22.

3. I often see the importance of the task that I am doing and I will gladly use my personal assets of time, money, and strength.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I have a tendency to overextend myself in serving others, which often results in stress and physical ailments.

We know that Timothy had physical problems ~ 1 Tim. 5:23

4. I have an amazing ability to find out and remember special interests, such as favorite foods or activities of those I serve.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I find it difficult to delegate tasks that should be given to others.

5. When serving others, I need a clear direction, but prefer to work with someone rather than for someone and to know that my service is appreciated.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I often react to those who seem to walk past obvious needs. I assume that others can see what I see.

Paul gave Timothy more praise and precise instruction than any other assistant.

6. The tasks that attract me the most are immediate needs. I tend to get frustrated with long-range or continuous tasks which seem to have no visible progress.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift in that I can react in anger when I feel misused so I constantly have to keep my dependency on the Lord in my service.

Paul urged Timothy to endure ~ 2 Tim. 2:3

7. Going the extra mile is easy for me.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift in that I tend to feel that a rigid schedule hinders me, not realizing that it could be for my own protection.

Twice Paul told Timothy not to get sidetracked ~ 2 Tim. 4:9, 21.

Nehemiah required an oath of cooperation from the rulers, nobles, and people ~ Neh. 5:1-13.

4. I delegate whenever and wherever possible, but I also know when and where I cannot.

5. Once I commit to a task, I am willing to endure much opposition to my leadership.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because when I am in charge of a project, I will occasionally reject valid suggestions and close my ears to grievances which results in pressure. I tend to become harsh and at times entertain thoughts of resigning.

Nehemiah responded to persistent opposition from both outside enemies and fellow workers ~ Neh. 4:8-18

6. I have an ability to take seemingly impossible tasks and break them down into achievable goals.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift when I make suggestions that are not followed, I tend to react and become discouraged.

Nehemiah took the huge task of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem and broke it down into smaller sections which each family or group was able to complete ~ Neh. 3:1-32.

7. I seem to notice small details which others tend to overlook that are necessary for the proper completion of the task.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because I will often give instruction without explanation which causes workers to feel unimportant.

10. I manage my finances well so that I am able to give more.

11. I am confident that God will more than meet my financial needs in order that I may give to His work.

Matthew is the only one of the gospel writer who described Joseph's tomb as being "new" ~ Matt 27:57-60.

Giving ~ Matthew is probably the best Biblical example of the spiritual gift of Giving. Does Matthew remind you of yourself? If so, you may have the Spiritual Gift of Giving.

Hello! My name is Nehemiah. This list of characteristics describes the Spiritual Gift God has given me. If you are a lot like me then you probably share in the same gift.

1. When I am given a project, I am able to picture the completed task and what it will take to accomplish it.

When Nehemiah was given the task of removing the "great affliction and reproach of God's people in Jerusalem" he immediately visualized the need to rebuild the wall ~ Neh. 1:2-3.

2. I have a need to know who and what my resources are in order to move forward.

3. Since the efficiency of the cooperation depends on the faithfulness of the workers, I would rather have a few dependable ones than many undependable.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I tend to overlook serious character flaws in valuable workers because of their ability to get the job done.

8. In an effort to complete tasks, I find myself avoiding committees and what appears to be "red tape."

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift by meeting the needs of those whom God is chastening therefore I get in God's way of tending to His children.

Ministry/Serving ~ Timothy best illustrates the gift of serving. Does Timothy remind you of yourself? If so, you may have the Spiritual Gift of Ministry/Serving.

Hi, my name is Luke. This description of me gives the characteristics of my Spiritual Gift. If you think this is a description of you, then you probably have the same gift as I do.

1. I have a desire to verify important statements when I hear them. I want to know if they are true.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because of my thoroughness in checking out the facts I can seem prideful and communicate the attitude that nothing is right until I check it out.

Luke wrote his gospel to Theophilus, "That thou might know the certainty of those things wherein thou has been instructed" Luke 1:4.

2. I am very aware of false teachers and desire to know their background before listening to them.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift by overemphasizing credentials and courses and discount the practical wisdom of those who seem to be uneducated. It is easier to concentrate on the intellectual knowledge rather than the spiritual perception.

3. I tend to give my qualifications before speaking because I feel it is important for others to know my credentials.

This quality can cause me misuse my gift by giving the impression that I am the only source of truth and that my gift is the most important one.

Luke began his gospel by affirming that he was an eyewitness and that he “had perfect understanding of all things from the very first” Luke 1:2-3.

4. I often use accepted works of recognized authorities to further confirm statements made by others.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I often feel obligated to explain how I arrived at a conclusion.

Luke praised the Bereans for daily checking out Paul’s statements against the O.T. scriptures ~ Acts 17:11.

5. I tend to feel more comfortable when material is laid out in an orderly sequence.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I tend to get irritated when a scripture verse is used out of context

Luke emphasized the chronological order of his gospel when he explained that his approach was “to write unto thee in order” ~ Luke 1:3.

6. I seem to have a greater delight in researching facts than in teaching them and I give as many facts and visuals as possible when I teach.

This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I think that others will enjoy the research as much as I did so I share it and most times they are bored or overwhelmed.

Matthew recorded more details about the gifts given to Christ than any other gospel writer ~ Matt 2:11

4. Often times I am able to discern a need when it is not obvious to others.

5. I look to the Lord for direction in giving so I have great joy in giving quietly and anonymously.

Matthew is the only one of the gospel writer that emphasized secret giving ~Matt 6:1-4.

6. I understand the destructiveness of the love of money; therefore I look for ways to give which avoid dependency, laziness, or extravagance for those to whom I am giving.

7. I am frugal, resourceful, and content with the basics.

These qualities can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because I tend to be more frugal with my family and fail to show the same delight in meeting their needs, therefore at times they react to my generosity.

8. I am motivated to encourage others to give, so that they can experience the joy and spiritual growth that comes by giving.

This quality can cause me to be misjudged in my spiritual gift because of the importance I place on finances.

9. I look for financial needs that others overlook.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because I sometimes lose focus on meeting the needs of people and become attracted to projects.

9. I am aware that guilt is a great hindrance to spiritual growth, so I often find myself addressing this problem.

These qualities (8 and 9) can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because I often visualize long-range goals for people which tend to frustrate those who are looking for immediate solutions to the problems.

Exhortation ~ Paul is the best Biblical illustration of exhortation. Do you identify with Paul? If so, you may have the Spiritual Gift of Exhortation.

Hi, I'm Matthew. This is a list of my characteristics that describe the Spiritual Gift God has given me. If you find that you have these same characteristics then you have the same gift as I do.

1. I have the ability to discern wise investments, my motive being to use the assets of time, money, and possessions to advance the work of the Lord.

This quality can cause me to feel guilty for storing up wealth; it is a constant battle I fight against my flesh.

2. I must know that my decisions are in God's will whether I have little or much to give.

Matthew is the only one of the gospel writers who described Mary's ointment as precious ~ Matt 26:6-11

3. I seem to have the ability to discern value which motivates me to want to give quality gifts.

This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because I desire to see my gifts used wisely. I would prefer to buy a good quality item rather than giving the money for it.

Luke's gospel is the longest of the four and emphasizes the completeness of his account ~ Acts 1:1.

7. I seem to be able to communicate Biblical truth clearly and effectively.

8. I enjoy giving details which are not noticed or mentioned by others.

Luke described more events, conversations, and physical conditions ~ he also detailed more names, titles, cities, and dates than any other gospel writer.

9. I am concerned that the truth be presented in balance. I recognize the danger of using personal experience as a foundation for truth. I want to go from scripture to experience, rather than experience to scripture. I tend to remain silent until information has been heard, observed, and verified.

Luke's silence is obvious in the N.T. ~ none of his own statements are recorded.

10. I tend to remain loyal to a mentor of school as long as any truth remains.

Luke demonstrated amazing loyalty to Paul and his message in prison, even after others had left him. "Only Luke is with me" ~ 2 Tim. 4:11.

Teaching ~ Luke is the best Biblical illustration of teaching. Do you identify with Luke? If so, you may have the Spiritual Gift of Teaching.

My name is Paul. The following characteristics describe my spiritual gift. If you recognize yourself in these characteristics then you may have the same spiritual gift that I do.

1. I am motivated by spiritual growth in practical living and I am willing to become personally involve to see this achieved. This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because my willingness to give whatever time is necessary to help people grow spiritually often cuts into my family time and personal responsibilities. I assume that my family will understand, but instead it tends to bring major resentment.

Paul declared that "He worked night and day to present every man mature in Christ" ~ Col. 1:28 and Gal. 4:19.

2. I seem to be able to discern spiritual maturity in others, and enjoy giving encouragement to those who are growing and teachable. This quality can cause me to misuse my spiritual gift because as spiritual growth becomes visible in those whom I have helped I can find myself taking credit for it.

Paul saw the Corinthians as spiritual infants and "therefore could not speak unto them as unto spiritual, but as carnal" ~ 1 Cor. 3:1.

3. I seem to have an ability to visualize spiritual achievement for another Christian, and enjoy helping them work out the practical steps of action to achieve it. This quality can cause me to misuse my gift because I tend to lose hope with those who don't respond to the steps of action I have given.

Paul told Timothy to flee youthful lusts, to avoid foolish questions, and to follow righteousness with a pure heart ~ 2 Tim. 2:22 -23

4. I often use examples from the lives of others to help Christians see the potential for daily victory. This quality can cause me to misuse my gift by categorizing problems and arrive at conclusions before getting all the facts.

Paul used the testimony of one church to motivate another, and also his own life experience to illustrate God's grace ~ 2 Cor. 9:2 and 1 Tim. 1:15

5. I tend to explain truth with logical reasoning in order to motivate people.

6. When I speak to groups, my message is often topical, and I put great emphasis on the will of God.

7. When studying the scriptures, I am more interested in the practical areas.

These qualities (5, 6, & 7) can cause me to misuse my gift because I tend to avoid heavy doctrinal teaching which does not have immediate practical application. The result could be an imbalance, which will eventually show up as doctrinal error.

Paul reasoned with the Jews, the Greeks, King Agrippa, and others ~ Acts 18:4, 26:28.

8. When I see divisions, I am motivated to promote spiritual growth and bring about unity.