

## DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

Dr. Jerry Nelson

[www.soundliving.org](http://www.soundliving.org)

**A spiritual gift is a special work of the Holy Spirit  
whereby he grants to you grace for effective spiritual service.**

To discover your spiritual gift(s) take the actions listed below. Further instruction regarding spiritual gifts may be found in I Corinthians 12, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:7-16, and I Peter 4:7-11.

1. **Pray.** Ask God to give you sensitivity to the needs of people and sensitivity to His direction and "gifts" in your life. "God, I know that you have given to me, as you have given to all Christians, certain spiritual gifts so that I might be effective in serving others. Please show me what those gifts are so that I may honor you."
2. **Become exposed to the needs of people.** No one will discover what grace God has given them to serve others if they remain isolated from the needs of others or ignore those needs when they appear. Listen to people as they describe their struggles, their hurts, their sorrows, their aspirations, their dreams. Talk to teachers of the Word, to disciplers, to those who visit hospitals or prisons, to those who work with youth, to those who take meals to others, to those who help with leading in worship. Ask them why they serve in those ways and what needs they are meeting. Get exposed to the needs of people.
3. **Ask "What human hurts or needs do I have a longing to help with?"** What needs do I see in others that I feel a passion to respond to? Is it to help people understand the Word? Is it to alleviate suffering? Is it to help people organize to accomplish their objectives? Is it to heal the sick? As you see the needs of people around you, what do you feel the need to help with?
4. **Ask "What concrete strengths do I have to help meet those needs?"** God didn't allow your background of experiences for nothing. He sovereignly ordered your life so that you are who you are, and He will most often use your education, experiences, relationships, physical makeup, temperament and talents) as a vehicle for the spiritual gift he has given you. Consider how God has already designed you and sovereignly ordered your life. What strengths do you already have to help meet the needs of people?
5. **Start meeting needs.** Look around you, see a need and start responding to that need. If you think that you have some strengths in communicating, then start with various kinds of teaching or Bible study leading, either in small groups or one-on-one. If you think you have an ability to demonstrate a true caring to someone who is hurting, then visit someone in the hospital, visit a shut-in, or take a meal to a family in need. What will happen is that over time you will begin to get a sense of whether that ministry to people is effective in their lives. You will find that you will grow in your ability and desire to help in these ways.

6. **Listen carefully to the advice and feedback of others who know you well.** What are they saying are your gifts? It will probably not be a gift if only you think you have it. Spiritual gifts are confirmed by others.
7. **Look for the evidence of results.** The greatest evidence of what your spiritual gift is (or gifts are) is the fruit that it bears in the lives of others. The purpose of spiritual gifts is not to have them but is to use them to help others spiritually. When others are loved, cared for, prayed for, encouraged, healed, taught, equipped, or helped spiritually in other ways by your actions, that is the greatest evidence that you have that particular spiritual gift.

God has given you spiritual gifts to make a difference in people's lives. He has given you special grace to be effective in service to others. What are your spiritual gifts? Are you willing to discover them?

Dr. Jerry Nelson  
[www.SoundLiving.org](http://www.SoundLiving.org)