

AND YOU ARE EMPOWERED

“ TO EACH IS GIVEN THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD. FOR TO ONE IS GIVEN THROUGH THE SPIRIT THE UTTERANCE OF WISDOM, AND TO ANOTHER THE UTTERANCE OF KNOWLEDGE ACCORDING TO THE SAME SPIRIT, TO ANOTHER FAITH BY THE SAME SPIRIT, TO ANOTHER GIFTS OF HEALING BY THE ONE SPIRIT, TO ANOTHER THE WORKING OF MIRACLES, TO ANOTHER PROPHECY, TO ANOTHER THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SPIRITS, TO ANOTHER VARIOUS KINDS OF TONGUES, TO ANOTHER THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES. ALL THESE ARE EMPOWERED BY ONE AND THE SAME SPIRIT, WHO APPORTIONS TO EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY AS HE WILLS.”

CORINTHIANS 12:7-11

THE HOLY SPIRIT & SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Do you remember being a kid and waking up Christmas morning to presents? The coolest toys were usually some kind of electronics, right?! But then at some point you realized the unthinkable happened! One of your awesome new electronic toys wasn't working. But why? Was it defective? You notice these three fateful words on the packaging: "Batteries not included". You had a toy that lacked the power to do what it was designed to do.

In the same way, our calling is amazing, but it requires power. Here's the good news: God doesn't assign us a task without also empowering us for that task. To put it another way: the Christian life comes with batteries included. But to understand this concept we need to get the full context of Scripture from where we left off in the last chapter. We're going to see two things:

- 01. We are helpless without God's empowerment.**
- 02. God has provided the power of the Holy Spirit.**

WE ARE HELPLESS WITHOUT GOD'S EMPOWERMENT.

After God assigns Adam and Eve the cultural mandate, Adam fails. His calling was to glorify God by creating culture. Yet, by chapter three of Genesis, Adam fell into sin and plunged not only himself, but all human culture, into sin. In so doing, humanity was essentially disconnected from our power source, God Himself. Therefore, our task became insurmountable.

“To the woman [God] said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children....And to Adam he said...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’”
(Genesis 3:16–19 summarized)

This is our state from the first sin onward. But the story doesn't end there. There is another Adam: Jesus. And where the first Adam failed, Jesus—the second Adam—prevailed. He defeated Satan, sin, and death through the cross and resurrection. Then, after glorifying God the Father in victory, Jesus essentially designed a new and better culture. He then called all those who follow Him to not only create culture generally, but to advance a Gospel-culture specifically.

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always...to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18–20)

This is what theologians call the “Great Commission.” Do you see how similar the language is to the cultural mandate? Disciples—or followers of Jesus—are to rule. Not by force, but by forging the hearts and minds of people around them through the teachings of Jesus. They are to multiply, not just physical children but new disciples of Jesus everywhere. And as He concludes His charge to make a new Gospel culture, Jesus makes a point we need to notice at the end.

He says ***“And behold, I am with you always...to the end of the age.”*** (Matthew 28:20).

What's the significance of this? The task of creating a God-glorifying, Gospel-culture is impossible without His power and His presence. We, like the first Adam, are failures on our own. So, Jesus sends us, not on our own, but filled with the power and presence of God the Holy Spirit!

That's our second point.

GOD HAS PROVIDED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the third person of the God-head. God exists eternally as one God, in three distinct persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine of the Trinity. God is three yet one; diverse yet perfectly unified. So, when God the Holy Spirit fills us, Paul calls Him ***“Christ in you”*** (Colossians 1:27). The fullness of God lives in all who believe to empower them for the work of glorifying Him.

Now, there is no power that compares to the enormous endowment of the Holy Spirit living within you. In fact, it only keeps getting better as we learn more about His empowering.

You see, we are filled, not just with physical, mental, and social abilities at birth—oh it's far better than that! You see, when you become a Christian, you are also equipped with real, new, spiritual gifts by the power of the Holy Spirit at your new birth. In other words, when God the Holy Spirit saves you at your conversion to Jesus, He also provides new abilities that you did not have—or you did not have in the same way—before you knew Jesus.

You receive gifts by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. These can be supernaturally received things that totally didn't exist within you apart from God, or these can be ways that the Holy Spirit utilizes and enhances gifts and traits that He gave you at birth. But either way, you are freshly empowered for the calling to do God-glorifying work, multiply disciples, and advance the Kingdom of God. You are empowered to create a God-glorifying, Gospel-advancing culture.

IDENTIFY GOD'S GIFTING FOR YOUR CALLING

This section is designed to help you explore your gifts. During this time, you're going to wrestle through what natural and supernatural gifts God the Holy Spirit has given you.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST

Please go through and give each statement a numerical value of 1-4. Write your answers on page 32.

1 ALMOST NEVER	2 SOMETIMES	3 ALMOST ALWAYS	4 ALWAYS
----------------	-------------	-----------------	----------

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I like organizing services and events. | 10. Having people over to my house is something I do often. |
| 2. I enjoy starting things from the ground up. | 11. Spending hours in prayer for other people is very enjoyable to me. |
| 3. Working with my hands is fun for me. | 12. Biblical education is very important to me. |
| 4. I can tell when someone is insincere. | 13. I tend to motivate others to get involved. |
| 5. I pray for the lost daily. | 14. My heart hurts when I see others hurting. |
| 6. Encouraging others is a high priority in my life. | 15. I enjoy sharing the gospel with other people-groups and nationalities. |
| 7. Believing God for my daily needs is important to me. | 16. I've devoted considerable time to mastering my voice and/or instrument. |
| 8. Influencing others for the kingdom of God through finances is extremely important to me. | 17. Caring for the hurting is one of my highest priorities. |
| 9. I enjoy accomplishing tasks in order to empower others to use their gifts. | |

18. The willful sin of others really aggravates me.
19. I enjoy serving behind the scenes.
20. I like creating outlines of the Bible.
21. I enjoy the book of Proverbs more than any other book in the Bible.
22. I look for opportunities to pray for the sick.
23. God has used me to enact miracles in the lives of others.
24. I can understand and interpret heavenly language.
25. I am passionate about managing details.
26. I prefer to pioneer new ministry projects.
27. I am able to build or craft things to be used for the Gospel.
28. I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.
29. I am greatly concerned about seeing the lost saved.
30. I try to be as loving and caring as possible.
31. Asking God for a list of big things is exciting to me.
32. I find ways to give offerings above my tithe.

33. Helping others succeed without getting credit is one of my highest achievements.
34. Creating a warm and welcoming home is important to me.
35. I am burdened to pray for situations in the world.
36. People seek me out to learn more about the Kingdom of God.
37. I prefer to take the lead whenever necessary.
38. I am very sensitive to sad stories.
39. Living in another country to advance the Gospel is exciting to me.
40. Singing and/or playing music solely for the church is something I must do.
41. I enjoy connecting with and caring for others.
42. Confronting someone with sin in their life is not hard for me.
43. It bothers me when people sit around and do nothing.
44. I share Biblical truth with others in hopes of their personal growth.
45. When I study scripture God gives me unique insights.

46. I believe miraculous healing exists in this day and age.
47. Miracles often happen because I am involved.
48. I pray in tongues daily.
49. Creating a task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
50. I am attracted to ministries that start new churches.
51. Building something with my hands is very rewarding to me.
52. I can pinpoint issues or problems before others.
53. I enjoy sharing the Gospel with a total stranger.
54. I look for ways to be an encouragement to other people.
55. I trust that God has my back in every situation.
56. Making more money means that I can give more.
57. Being a part of the process is fulfilling to me.
58. I tend to make total strangers feel at home.
59. People often describe me as a prayer warrior.
60. I enjoy knowing biblical details and helping others to understand.

61. I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks.
62. I am motivated to help those who are less fortunate.
63. I focus a lot on reaching the world for Christ.
64. My private time with God is often filled with singing or playing an instrument.
65. I enjoy walking with someone in times of difficulty.
66. I speak truth passionately and clearly to others without reservation.
67. I like to do small things that others pass over.
68. I enjoy helping others learn how the Bible can apply to their everyday life.
69. When faced with difficulty I tend to make wise decisions.
70. God has used me to bring healing to those who are sick.
71. I have a constant hunger to see God's miraculous power.
72. Praying in the Spirit is encouraging and important to me.

1 ALMOST NEVER

2 SOMETIMES

3 ALMOST ALWAYS

4 ALWAYS

TOTAL

GIFT

1. _____	25. _____	49. _____	A. _____	_____
2. _____	26. _____	50. _____	B. _____	_____
3. _____	27. _____	51. _____	C. _____	_____
4. _____	28. _____	52. _____	D. _____	_____
5. _____	29. _____	53. _____	E. _____	_____
6. _____	30. _____	54. _____	F. _____	_____
7. _____	31. _____	55. _____	G. _____	_____
8. _____	32. _____	56. _____	H. _____	_____
9. _____	33. _____	57. _____	I. _____	_____
10. _____	34. _____	58. _____	J. _____	_____
11. _____	35. _____	59. _____	K. _____	_____
12. _____	36. _____	60. _____	L. _____	_____
13. _____	37. _____	61. _____	M. _____	_____
14. _____	38. _____	62. _____	N. _____	_____
15. _____	39. _____	63. _____	O. _____	_____
16. _____	40. _____	64. _____	P. _____	_____
17. _____	41. _____	65. _____	Q. _____	_____
18. _____	42. _____	66. _____	R. _____	_____
19. _____	43. _____	67. _____	S. _____	_____
20. _____	44. _____	68. _____	T. _____	_____
21. _____	45. _____	69. _____	U. _____	_____
22. _____	46. _____	70. _____	V. _____	_____
23. _____	47. _____	71. _____	W. _____	_____
24. _____	48. _____	72. _____	X. _____	_____

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Now that you've identified your primary spiritual gifts, we want to help you use those gifts to live out God's purpose for your life. On the following pages, you will find definitions of each spiritual gift and supporting Scriptures that will help you understand more about your own.

List out your four top spiritual gifts from the previous activity.

1. _____ 3. _____
 2. _____ 4. _____

After reading through your spiritual gifts and the passages, what stood out to you? What surprised you? What encouraged you?

Looking at how you are gifted, what steps can you take in order to use your gifting in your everyday life?

As you read the following descriptions, highlight or underline aspects that stand out to you. Take a moment to look up the scriptural passages.

A. ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks. *Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28*

B. APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing and training. *Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14*

C. CRAFTSMANSHIP

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications. *Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3*

D. DISCERNMENT

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood and to distinguish between right and wrong motives and situations. *Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6*

E. EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take steps toward Jesus. *Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14*

F. EXHORTATION

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth. *Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25*

G. FAITH

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe that God will move and to wait for Him to do so. *Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11*

H. GIVING

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to give faithfully and even radically for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. *Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7*

I. HELPS

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to invest time and talents into the lives of other Christians in order to free them to be more effective in their own gifting and ministries. *Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28*

J. HOSPITALITY

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to sacrificially create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. *Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9*

K. INTERCESSION

The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to pray for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results. *Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16*

L. KNOWLEDGE

The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring Biblical clarity to circumstances. *Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3*

M. LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people on their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture or vision. *Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17*

N. MERCY

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy that results in care for those who are hurting. **Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14**

O. MISSIONARY

The missionary gift is the divine strength or ability to understand and reach others in their specific context while embodying their culture as an ambassador of the Gospel.

Acts 8:4, 13:2-3, 22:21; Ephesians 3:6-8, 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

P. MUSIC WORSHIP

The gift of music/worship is the divine strength or ability to sing or play an instrument for the purpose of helping others worship God. **Deuteronomy 31:22; 1 Samuel 16:16; 1 Chronicles 16:41-42; 2 Chronicles 5:12-13, 34:12; Psalm 150**

Q. PASTOR / SHEPHERD

The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to identify and care for the personal needs of others and help them take their next steps toward Jesus. **John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3**

R. PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to apply the truth of God's Word to people's situations in a way that is clear, direct, and relevant. **Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29;**

1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

S. SERVICE

The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to see and meet practical needs within the body of the Church, especially when those needs are related to unseen areas of work.

Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:7, Galatians 6:10, 1 Timothy 1:16-18, Titus 3:14

T. TEACHING

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from God's Word in order to bring understanding and growth to other Christians and help them take steps toward Jesus. **Acts 18:24-28, 20-21, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11-14**

U. WISDOM

The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to apply the truths of God's Word in a practical way, bringing Biblical clarity to a situation that leads to personal breakthrough or life change.

Acts 6:3,10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8

V. HEALING

The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying of hands for healing. **Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10, 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28**

W. MIRACLES

The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction. **Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12, Romans 15:18-19, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28**

X. TONGUES & INTERPRETATION

The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God in prayer, especially in private. The gift of tongues is also the supernatural ability to speak the truth of the Gospel to another person in their own heart-language without having studied or mastered that language previously. In public, it should be accompanied by interpretation. **Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14**