



Impact is all about God using each of us to make a difference in our church, region, and world. In order for us to make this type of kingdom impact, we must be intentional and effective in the use of our time, talents, and treasures. This brochure outlines some helpful principles with respect to the use of our *talents* and *treasures*.

“Talents” SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are special abilities distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God’s design and grace for the common good of the body of Christ. to every follower of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; 1 Peter 4:10).

HOW DO WE DISCOVER OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Look Up

Ask God to show you what your gifts are. Be prayerful as you consider your gifts and flexible as you explore his leading.

Look At

Read through a list of spiritual gifts from Scripture. No list is exhaustive, but it may act as a good starting point. Use the gift list provided below, and assess yourself on each one as follows:

- A = definitely my gift
- B = probably my gift
- C = unsure whether this is my gift
- D = definitely not my gift

Leave the list for a few days, and then come back and see if you agree with your initial assessment. Make changes where necessary.

- Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)
- Apostleship (Ephesians 4:11)
- Craftsmanship (Exodus 31:3)

- Creative Communication (Psalm 150:3-5)
- Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)
- Encouragement (Romans 12:8)
- Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11)
- Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)
- Giving (Romans 12:8)
- Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28)
- Helps (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7)
- Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-10)
- Intercession (1 Timothy 2:1)
- Interpretation of Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)
- Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Leadership (Romans 12:8)
- Mercy (Romans 12:8)
- Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28)
- Prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:10; Romans 12:6)
- Shepherding (Ephesians 4:11)
- Teaching (Romans 12:7)
- Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)
- Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)

Look Back

Think about the past. Where would you identify God’s blessing on you? Where have you seen unusual fruit in serving? What have you enjoyed doing as a follower of Christ? What have you found energizing? When have you heard other people mention that you are good at or excited about something?

Look In

As you look into your heart, what do you feel passionate about? What really excites you? If you were guaranteed success—and the resources and gifts to achieve it—what one thing would you most like to do for God?

Look Out

Ask other people to suggest what they think your gifts are. Choose some people who know you well, and some who only know you a little, but be sure that they are people who want the best for you. Encourage them to be honest and truthful. Do not be surprised if you get contradicting opinions. You will need to weigh their insights carefully. Spiritual gifts are recognized and confirmed by other people, so if no one thinks you have a gift that you believe you have, you may need to reconsider your position.

Look Around

As you consider your church, what needs exist? What openings are there for exercising spiritual gifts? Do any of these opportunities interest or excite you, even if you do not feel qualified or skilled? If you could choose one area of involvement in your church, what would it be? Then ask if you can try some of these things as a way of experimenting with whether you have a specific gift.

HOW DO WE USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS? (1 CORINTHIANS 12)

We are called to use our spiritual gifts in a way that glorifies the giver, builds the body, and extends the kingdom.

- **Remember the source.** *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit* (v. 4). We cannot boast or be proud; we can only humbly and gratefully receive them as gifts.
- **Develop a right attitude.** *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord* (v. 5). Gifts are not about status but service. Sadly, churches are riddled with people seeking position and rank, which is why we must model ourselves on the servant character of Christ.
- **Recognize your dependence on God.** *There are different kinds of working . . .* (v. 6). Each gift is given through grace and is used in God's strength. That is why the apostle Paul only ever boasts about his weakness.
- **Focus on the common good.** Gifts are not about self-glorification but rather building the body (vv. 7-11).
- **Function as a body.** Verses 18-20 stress the interconnectedness of the body, welded together by love. We need everyone to use their gifts if we are to function well as the local church.

Adapted from *Growing Leaders: Cultivating Discipleship for Yourself and Others* by James Lawrence

Tools

INTERNET WEBSITES

- www.churchgrowth.org/analysis/intro.php

OBC LIBRARY

- *What You Do Best in the Body of Christ* by Bruce Bugbee
- *LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are* by Jane Kise, David Stark & Sandra Hirsch
- *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life* by Erik Rees

“Treasures” FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Why Give?

Many of us give without really knowing why. Ultimately, we should give because God has called us to do so. God owns everything, and he has given us the privilege and responsibility to manage all that he has entrusted to us. Giving of your financial resources in the way that God wants you to affords you the opportunity to:

- make a wise eternal investment by storing up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20).
- escape the clutches of materialism in your life (1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19).
- worship God (2 Corinthians 8:5).
- respond to what Jesus has done for you (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- partner with God in his work on earth (1 Chronicles 29:14).
- be blessed by God in order to give more and meet the needs of others again (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).

Give How?

Giving as a means of worship to God and in order to help meet the needs of others is one of the greatest thrills in life. How you give is as important as why you give. The Bible teaches that when you give, you should do so:

- out of a heart of joy, not reluctantly or motivated by guilt (2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:7).
- generously (2 Corinthians 8:6).
- sacrificially (Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:2).

Giving is both an opportunity and a test. It is an opportunity for us to please God like the Israelites, who gave so much that Moses had to ask them to stop (Exodus 35). It is also a test because Jesus tells us, *Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also* (Matthew 6:21). How we give is a test of how serious we are about serving God, allowing him to have complete control of our lives, and experiencing his blessing (Malachi 3:8-10).

Tools

INTERNET WEBSITES

- www.generousgiving.org
- www.generouslife.info-book.pdf.url

OBC LIBRARY

- *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn