



DISCOVER YOUR GIFT
Beautifully Gifted | Part 1
Senior Pastor Keith Stewart
January 5, 2025

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once prayed, "Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself." Dr. King's desire is a perfect encapsulation of this Sunday's message. God has a wonderful purpose for your life and you will discover it once you understand how He has uniquely formed and equipped you to be. This is the perfect beginning to the new year and you don't want to miss it.

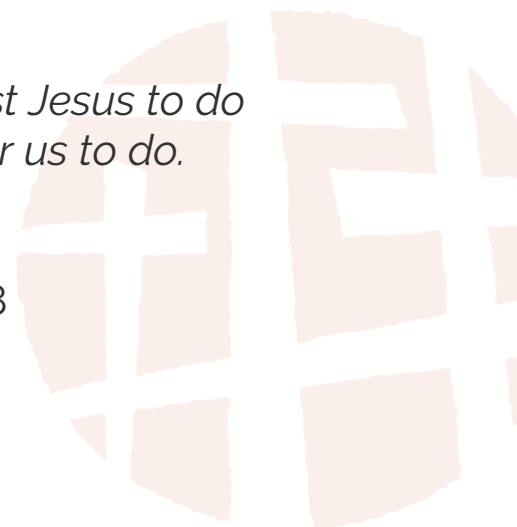
Snowflakes | Fingerprints

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Your hands shaped me and made me. Job 10:8

Your hands formed and shaped me. Job 10:8



Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous... You were there while I was being formed... You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe... Psalm 139.14-16

Who in the world do you think you are to second-guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay doesn't talk back to the fingers that mold it, saying, "Why did you shape me like this?" Isn't it obvious that a potter has a perfect right to shape one lump of clay into a vase for holding flowers and another into a pot for cooking beans? Romans 9.20-21

Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given and then sink yourself into that.
Galatians 6.4

Spiritual Gifts - Heart - Abilities - Personality - Experiences

1. SPIRITUAL GIFTS – What the Holy Spirit has given you.

“Without maximum utilization of spiritual gifts, the church will not fulfill its mission. The church needs to be organized in such a way as to make full use of the spiritual gifts of the congregation. Ministry should not be viewed as a bunch of jobs to be done or positions to be filled but rather as a bunch of opportunities for spiritual gifts to be unleashed.”

- Henry Klopp, *The Ministry Playbook*



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 1 Corinthians 12.4-6

In the New Testament, we find several gift lists: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 4:9-11; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-13

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12.1-7

Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift

[The Spirit is] ... distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12.11

You simply do what God tells you to do.

They are permanent

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11.29

A person's gifting can take them farther than their character has gone.



2. HEART – What do you love to do?

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37.4

Stradivarius

Do what you love to do

3. ABILITIES – What are you capable of doing?

Roll your tongue

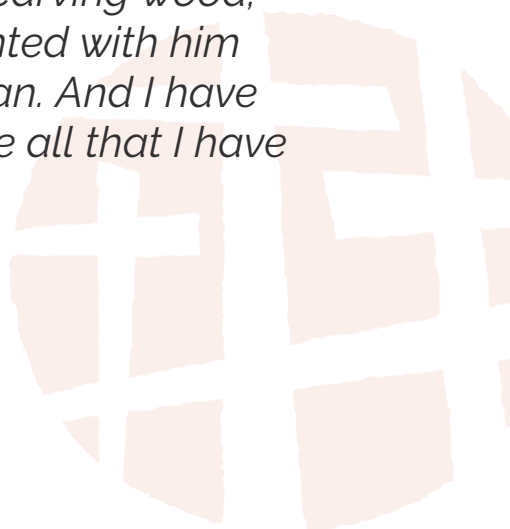
Double-jointed in their fingers

Bend your thumb backwards

The average person actually possesses between 500 and 700 abilities.

See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you.... Exodus 31.1-6

Everything comes FROM HIM and is FOR HIM



4. PERSONALITY – How do relate to people?

Introvert versus Extrovert

Thermostat

Affective, reflective or substantive

5. EXPERIENCE

...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8.28

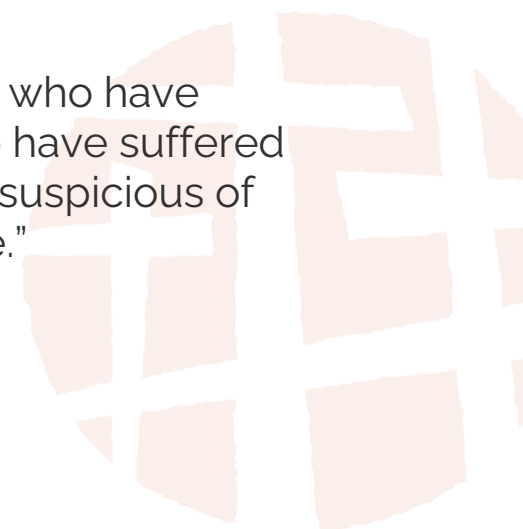
“For a long time it seemed to me that life was about to begin, but there was always some obstacle in the way. Something had to be got through first, some unfinished business; time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.”

- Bette Howland

“One of the things I believe is that God never wastes a hurt and that oftentimes your greatest ministry comes out of your deepest pain.” – Rick Warren

“Sufferers want to be ministered to by people who have suffered. People who suffer want people who have suffered to tell them there is hope. They are justifiably suspicious of people who appear to have lived lives of ease.”

- Stephen F. Saint

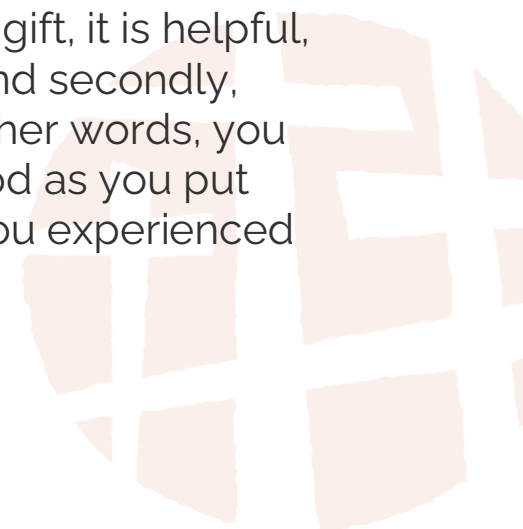


Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“To what extent has your ministry or service to others affected your spiritual growth?” - Eric Swanson

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take some time individually or as a group to read the various lists of spiritual gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 4:9-11; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-13). Do you know what your spiritual gift or gifts are? They say that two tests of the spiritual gifts are fruitful and fulfilled. In other words, when you are exercising your spiritual gift, it is fruitful - that is, other people express appreciation for your gift, it is helpful, beneficial, healing or instructive to them. And secondly, you are fulfilled in exercising your gift. In other words, you find satisfaction and deep connection to God as you put your gift into practice. In what ways have you experienced being both fruitful and fulfilled?
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2. Our heart represents our loves - our strongest and most persistent desires. What are the things you most love to do? How has pursuing the things you love been a factor in your life in school, your career and personal life? In what ways could God's kingdom benefit by sharing your passions with others? If you've already found a way of doing that, describe what that experience was like and explain how others can do the same.
3. Abilities are those strengths and aptitudes that we are born with. We develop our abilities and perfect them throughout life, but there is an inclination that already exists in one or several areas to excel. Sometimes, we are unaware of our abilities because we dismiss them too easily thinking that everybody can do what comes naturally to us. What abilities have you discovered in your life? What strengths have you always been aware of? How do you use your abilities in your personal life? Professional life? Spiritual life?
4. Our personalities also constitute the unique gifts God has given us. Pastor Keith highlighted two aspects of personality, introversion versus extroversion and preferred learning styles in affective, reflective or substantive. In these two categories, do you know which terms best describe you? If so, which ones do and explain how that plays out in your life. It is also vitally important that we be aware that not everyone is constituted as we are. Personality can help us relate powerfully to those most like us, but God wants us all to gain an appreciation for all the personality styles and the contribution we can make to one another. Take some time to contemplate how each personality style has strengths and weaknesses.

5. The experiences we've had in life for good or bad can be used by God to help others who find themselves in similar situations. What good things in your life experience has God used to help others? What bad things in your life has God redeemed and worked to the benefit of others? Is there anything that you once never wanted to talk about but now do so freely because of the healing and forgiveness that God has helped you to experience?

