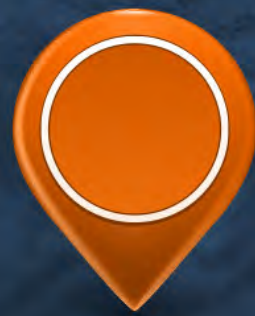


CORE
CLASS

Family Night

M.A.P. out your personal calling



The Purpose of *Family Nights* This Fall

How did God make me? And how can God use me? These are answered by understanding our **unity and uniqueness**.

Unity and Uniqueness

The Bible describes us as members of a family, living stones in His building, and parts of His body. Each of these speak to our **unity** and to our **uniqueness**—both are necessary for the maturity and growth of the church. We will have three sessions to explore how you are uniquely gifted, wired, and made.

Maturity and Spiritual Gifts

APEST (spiritual voice) and Passions

Personality, Possessions, & Purpose

Ephesians 4:15-16 –

*“Instead, we will **speak the truth in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church.*

- The loving exchange of truth between one another means that we know God, we know ourselves, and we know each other. It builds unity and results in **growth and maturity**.
- Speaking the truth in love functions like **oil** in an engine, it keeps everything smoothly running.

*He makes the **whole body** fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work**, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”*

- Doing our unique part starts with knowing how God has uniquely designed each of us. This also results in **growth and maturity**.
- Each part doing its work is like adding **gas** to an engine, it provides the energy necessary for movement.

I. *Maturity*

Learning your unique contribution without learning how to rightly and maturely interact with one another in grace, truth, and love will stunt the growth of the whole body.

In the marketplace, there has been a large shift over the years from prioritizing IQ to prioritizing EQ. EQ is a way of measuring our emotional intelligence. Can someone understand what is going on inside himself or herself and manage it? Can someone sense what is going on in other people and provide direction or encouragement if needed? But this isn't actually new...

The Importance of Desire and Emotions

*"Temptation comes **from our own desires**, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."*

– James 1:14

"Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength."

– Mark 12:30

Matthew 5-7 – *The Sermon on the Mount* – Life is about more than outward behavior. Our inward desires, thoughts, and motivations matter. We must be aware of them.

Emotions and desires can bring great glory to God or take us down a dangerous path.

Emotions and desires aren't designed to lead us. Our faith in Jesus and our understanding of His Word should lead, but our emotions and desires give us a gauge / measuring stick for the status of our heart.

Emotions function as **signposts** pointing to the heart.

We Fight for Right Desires

*"One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And one who rules his spirit, than one who captures a city."*

– Proverbs 16:32

"Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners' to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls."

– 1 Peter 2:11

We Grow in Our Awareness of Others

Sign posts can turn into red flashing warning signs.

*"What causes **fight**s and **quarrels among you**? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"*

– James 4:1-2

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction **so that we will be able to comfort those** who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

– 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*"And let's **consider** how to encourage one another in love and good deeds..."*

– Hebrews 10:24

Must have an awareness of what is going on in us and take appropriate action. We also learn to be aware of what is going on in others and respond with love, wisdom, and encouragement.

Without the spiritual maturity to speak the truth in love based on the needs of a person in a particular moment the impact of our unique calling and role will be stunted.

A Self-Assessment:

How well can you identify and articulate your emotions and desires?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **Very well**

How well do you manage your emotions and desires?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **Very well**

How aware are you of the emotional state of those around you?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **Very well**

How strong is your ability to consider the emotional state of a person and lovingly encourage them in a way that helps them become more like Jesus?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **Very well**

What is your growing edge? How can you grow in this area?

II. *Spiritual Gifts Test*

LIST OF GIFTS	
Administration	I organize people and details to accomplish tasks.
Apostleship	I start new things to reach more people for Jesus.
Craftsmanship	I plan, build and work with my hands to accomplish things for ministry.
Discernment	Others tell me I have the ability to distinguish between right and wrong motives; between truth and falsehood.
Encouragement	I strengthen, comfort, or urge others to action through the Word.
Evangelism	I have the desire and ability to help non-Christians take steps to knowing Jesus.
Faith	I trust God in both good times and bad.
Giving	I generously give of what I have to help build the Kingdom of God.
Helps	I find ways to serve and support others.
Hospitality	I create warm and welcoming environments for others.
Intercession	I frequently and consistently pray for the people and things in my life.
Knowledge	I seek to learn as much as possible about the Bible.
Leadership	I have the ability to influence people to direct and focus them on the big picture.
Mercy	I feel empathy and care for those who are hurting in any way.
Prophecy	I communicate God's truth and call people to right actions.
Shepherd	I care for the spiritual and physical needs of others.
Teaching	I study Scripture and can help make it understandable and applicable to others.
Wisdom	Others often ask me for my advice and thoughts in difficult matters.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment Instructions

You will now be using the statements below to help you determine your preferences and Spiritual Gifts.

- 1. Unfolding the Fold-Out Page:** Turn to page 10, unfold it, and then turn back to this page (pg. 6). Make sure the Key on the fold-out, pg. 10, is covered by the Questions pages of the assessment.
- 2. Write your answers in the Answer Grid.** Directions on how to fill out the Answer Grid are on pg. 10.

Note: Understand that not being gifted or having passion in an area does not exempt you from basic obedience to the Scriptures to serve in love wherever God places you.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment Questions

1. I like to organize people, tasks and events.
2. I would like to start churches in places where they do not presently exist.
3. I enjoy working creatively with wood, cloth, paints, metal, glass or other materials.
4. I enjoy challenging people's perspective of God by using various forms of art.
5. I can readily distinguish between spiritual truth and error, good and evil.
6. I tend to see the potential in people.
7. I communicate the gospel to others with clarity and effectiveness.
8. I find it natural and easy to trust God to answer my prayers.
9. I give liberally and joyfully to people in financial need or to projects requiring support.
10. I enjoy working behind the scenes to support the work of others.
11. I view my home as a place to minister to people in need.
12. I take prayer requests from others and consistently pray for them.
13. I am approached by people who want to know my perspective on a particular passage or biblical truth.
14. I am able to motivate others to accomplish a goal.
15. I empathize with hurting people and desire to help in their healing process.
16. I can speak in a way that results in conviction and change in the lives of others.
17. I enjoy spending time nurturing and caring for others.
18. I am able to communicate God's word effectively.
19. I am often sought out by others for advice about spiritual or personal matters.
20. I am careful, thorough and skilled at managing details.
21. I am attracted to the idea of serving in another country or ethnic community.
22. I am skilled in working with different kinds of tools.
23. I enjoy developing and using my artistic skills (art, drama, music, photography, etc.)
24. I frequently am able to judge a person's character based upon first impressions.
25. I enjoy reassuring and strengthening those who are discouraged.
26. I consistently look for opportunities to build relationships with non-Christians.

27. I have confidence in God's continuing provision and help, even in difficult times.
28. I give more than a tithe so that kingdom work can be accomplished.
29. I enjoy doing routine tasks that support the ministry.
30. I enjoy meeting new people and helping them to feel welcomed.
31. I enjoy praying for long periods of time and receive leadings as to what God wants me to pray for.
32. I receive information from the Spirit that I did not acquire through natural means.
33. I am able to influence others to achieve a vision.
34. I can patiently support those going through painful experiences as they try to stabilize their lives.
35. I feel responsible to confront others with the truth.
36. I have compassion for wandering believers and want to protect them.
37. I can spend time in study knowing that presenting truth will make a difference in the lives of people.
38. I can often find simple, practical solutions in the midst of conflict or confusion.
39. I can clarify goals and develop strategies or plans to accomplish them.
40. I am willing to take an active part in starting a new church.
41. I enjoy making things for use in ministry.
42. I help people understand themselves, their relationships, and God through artistic expressions.
43. I can see through phoniness or deceit before it is evident to others.
44. I give hope to others by directing them to the promises of God.
45. I am effective at adapting the gospel message so that it connects with an individual's felt need.
46. I believe that God will help me to accomplish great things.
47. I manage my money well in order to free more of it for giving.
48. I willingly take on a variety of odd jobs around the church to meet the needs of others.
49. I genuinely believe the Lord directs strangers to me who need to get connected to others.
50. I am conscious of ministering to others as I pray.
51. I am committed, and schedule blocks of time for reading and studying Scripture, to understand biblical truth fully and accurately.
52. I can adjust my leadership style to bring out the best in others.
53. I enjoy helping people sometimes regarded as undeserving or beyond help.
54. I boldly expose cultural trends, teachings, or events which contradict biblical principles.
55. I like to provide guidance for the whole person—relationally, emotionally, spiritually, etc.
56. I pay close attention to the words, phrases and meaning of those who teach.
57. I can easily select the most effective course of action from among several alternatives.
58. I can identify and effectively use the resources needed to accomplish tasks.
59. I can adapt well to different cultures and surroundings.
60. I can visualize how something should be constructed before I build it.
61. I like finding new and fresh ways of communicating God's truth.
62. I tend to see rightness or wrongness in situations.

63. I reassure those who need to take courageous action in their faith, family or life.
64. I invite unbelievers to accept Christ as their Savior.
65. I trust God in circumstances where success cannot be guaranteed by human effort alone.
66. I am challenged to limit my lifestyle in order to give away a higher percentage of my income.
67. I see spiritual significance in doing practical tasks.
68. I like to create a place where people do not feel that they are alone.
69. I pray with confidence because I know that God works in response to prayer.
70. I have insight or just know something to be true.
71. I set goals and manage people and resources effectively to accomplish them.
72. I have compassion for hurting people.
73. I see most actions as right or wrong, and feel the need to correct the wrong.
74. I can faithfully provide long-term support and concern for others.
75. I like to take a systematic approach to my study of the Bible.
76. I can anticipate the likely consequences of an individual's or a group's action.
77. I like to help organizations or groups become more efficient.
78. I can relate to others in culturally sensitive ways.
79. I honor God with my handcrafted gifts.
80. I apply various artistic expressions to communicate God's truth.
81. I receive affirmation from others concerning the reliability of my insights or perceptions.
82. I strengthen those who are wavering in their faith.
83. I openly tell people that I am a Christian and want them to ask me about my faith.
84. I am convinced of God's daily presence and action in my life.
85. I like knowing that my financial support makes a real difference in the lives and ministries of God's people.
86. I like to find small things that need to be done and often do them without being asked.
87. I enjoy entertaining people and opening my home to others.
88. When I hear about needy situations, I feel burdened to pray.
89. I have suddenly known some things about others, but did not know how I knew them.
90. I influence others to perform of their best capability.
91. I can look beyond a person's handicaps or problems to see a life that matters to God.
92. I like people who are honest and will speak the truth.
93. I enjoy giving guidance and practical support to a small group of people.
94. I can communicate scripture in ways that motivate others to study and want to learn more.
95. I give practical advice to help others through complicated situations.
96. I enjoy learning about how organizations function.
97. I enjoy pioneering new undertakings.
98. I am good at and enjoy working with my hands.
99. I am creative and imaginative.
100. I can identify preaching, teaching or communication which is not true to the Bible.
101. I like motivating others to take steps for spiritual growth.

102. I openly and confidently tell others what Christ has done for me.
103. I am regularly challenging others to trust God.
104. I give generously due to my commitment to stewardship.
105. I feel comfortable being a helper, assisting others to do their job more effectively.
106. I do whatever I can to make people feel that they belong.
107. I am honored when someone asks me to pray for them.
108. I discover important biblical truths when reading or studying scripture which benefit others in the body of Christ.
109. I am able to cast a vision that others want to be a part of.
110. I enjoy bringing hope and joy to people living in difficult circumstances.
111. I will speak God's truth, even in places where it is unpopular or difficult for others to accept.
112. I can gently restore wandering believers to faith and fellowship.
113. I can present information and skills to others at a level that makes it easy for them to grasp and apply to their lives.
114. I can apply scriptural truth that others regard as practical and helpful.
115. I can visualize a coming event, anticipate potential problems, and develop backup plans.
116. I am able to orchestrate or oversee several church ministries.
117. I am able to design and construct things that help the church.
118. I regularly need to get alone to reflect and develop my imagination.
119. I can sense when demonic forces are at work in a person or situation.
120. I am able to challenge or rebuke others in order to foster spiritual growth.
121. I seek opportunities to talk about spiritual matters with unbelievers.
122. I can move forward in spite of opposition or lack of support when I sense God's blessing on an undertaking.
123. I believe I have been given an abundance of resources so that I may give more to the Lord's work.
124. I readily and happily use my natural or learned skills to help wherever needed.
125. I can often make people feel at ease even in unfamiliar surroundings.
126. I often see specific results in direct response to my prayers.
127. I confidently share my knowledge and insights with others.
128. I figure out where we need to go and help others to get there.
129. I enjoy doing practical things for others who are in need.
130. I feel compelled to expose sin whenever I see it and to challenge people to repentance.
131. I enjoy patiently but firmly nurturing others in their development as believers.
132. I enjoy explaining things to people so that they can grow spiritually and personally.
133. I have insights into how to solve problems that others do not see.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ANSWER FORM

Directions

1. Using the grid below, write your response to each of the corresponding numbered statements on page 6 (Spiritual Gifts Assessment Questions). *Important:* Answer according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be.

2. Use the following scale:
 - 3** = Consistently, definitely true
 - 2** = Most of the time, usually true
 - 1** = Some of the time, once in a while
 - 0** = Not at all, never

3. Add up the 7 answers from each column to find your highest totals. Use the Key on the left to determine your Spiritual Gifts.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133
COLUMN TOTALS																		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S

KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A = Administration B = Apostleship C = Craftsmanship D = Creative Communication E = Discernment F = Encouragement G = Evangelism H = Faith I = Giving J = Helps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K = Hospitality L = Intercession M = Knowledge N = Leadership O = Mercy P = Prophecy Q = Shepherding R = Teaching S = Wisdom |
|--|--|

	Spiritual Gift	
Highest letter total _____	=	_____
2nd _____	=	_____
3rd _____	=	_____

Takeaways

Talk to a few people about the test and see if they agree with your results. It would be helpful if they can think of tangible examples for you.

Find someone who can help you and mentor you in your gifts. Likely, finding someone already serving well in this gift is a good start.

Gifts can be grown and developed over time. Choose a book or two that may help you and develop you.



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