

Before you take the gift assessment

Please read the following to understand what the assessment will and will not show you. *The Spiritual Gifts Inventory is available through our Welcome Class.*

*The Holy Spirit indwells believers and Spiritual gifts come through the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:28)*

- Spiritual gifts are given to all those who understand their need of a Savior and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- If you do not fully understand the need for a Savior, have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, or are confused about these statements, please understand that God loves you and wants you to fully know His will. First Baptist Church is full of people who can lovingly explain their faith in Christ. Please don't hesitate to talk with someone. You are special to God. The Spiritual gift assessment will not be useful to you at this time. It will simply show you what you do in the world.

Spiritual gifts are not the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.) These character traits are a sign of a believer's maturity.

*Spiritual gifts show how you minister (work or what you do) within the Body of Christ.*

- This Spiritual gift assessment is geared towards those who are 'doing' ministry in the body.
- If you are a new believer or someone who does not participate in ministry, this gift assessment may not accurately show your areas of gifting (see next page). Please note that 'doing ministry' is not just functioning within the four walls of First Baptist Church. Many believers use their gifting in wonderful ministries throughout the community and the world!
- All believers have a valuable place in the body of Christ! If even one person does not function in his or her area of gifting, the entire Body suffers.

Please remember the following as you take the assessment:

- Spiritual gifts are not skills or natural talents. You may be a wonderful singer but your Spiritual gift may be administration.
- Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles or offices. Elders, deacons, trustees, are not giftings. Believers who fill these roles will bring multiple gifts to the group they are serving with.
- Spiritual gifts are not given fully developed. Some gift may not be readily apparent at this point in your journey with Christ, but will become more apparent over time as you minister and mature in your walk with the Lord.

**Please find a quiet place and uninterrupted time to prayerfully fill out the assessment. (Turn off the cell phone!) Fill out the answer sheet without looking at the gift key. This is a time between you and God for self-examination. He loves when His children come to Him looking for guidance and direction! Once you finish the assessment take time to look at the results and think about what it has shown you. Come back next Sunday for discussion and encouragement with the Body.**

*If you are a new believer or are not participating in a ministry:*

This assessment is geared toward what you normally find yourself doing when involved in a church ministry. If you are a new believer and just getting involved with church ministry or are someone who has been a part of the church but never participated beyond coming on Sunday morning to hear the sermon, then this gift assessment will probably not accurately reveal your gifts.

- Please read through the assessment to better understand how the gifts function. You ARE gifted by God and the more you understand their use in the church, the more likely you are to begin recognizing your God given role.
- Keep this assessment and retake it on a yearly basis for several years.

*How do I begin to discern my Spiritual gifting?*

- Participating with God's family in ministry is where your gifts will be revealed.
- Anyone who has ever joined a discipleship group or helped in a ministry for a length of time will notice that people in the group begin to show areas in which they are particularly strong. Some will show the ability to pray easily and frequently, others will show an exceptionally warm personality and desire to welcome everyone. Still others will share God's word in a manner that is understandable and applicable to growth in Christ. There will be certain members who others go to for advice or understanding when life gets hard. Someone will always be there to set up the room or make a class list or help organize a meal for a member who is sick. What you will see is the Spiritual gifts each member has been given working to make sure God's children are growing in discipleship and shining the Light of Christ in a dark world. (As you gain knowledge about the gifts of the Spirit and how they function within a church, you should see the gifts of intercession, hospitality, teaching, pastoring/shepherding, mercy, wisdom, exhortation, helps, service, administration in the above situation.)

*So.....participate in a ministry!*

- Don't fret over if it is the right group, just begin! God will be able to steer you to your area of gifting if you are moving into ministry. (Have you ever tried to steer a parked car?)
- Give yourself months to work within a group, not just a few random 'visits'. The ministry you begin with may not be the one God will eventually lead you to, but it will help you learn to function with other believers in love and will also begin to show you what strengths you bring to the group.
- God will also use your personality and passions to help you find your fit. Numerous people will have the gift of teaching, but one person may love children and another be called to teach adults and a third may be a writer and use the teaching gift for curriculum writing.
- Your gifting, your personality and your passions will all come together to create the spot God has called you to minister in His Body.
- You are fearfully and wonderfully made and loved by the Creator of the Universe!

Now that you have taken the assessment, what is your next step?

Remember what the gifts are for.....so that the world may believe in Jesus Christ.

- Spiritual gifts are not for self-gain. Romans 12:3
- Realize that using your **gifts without love is worthless.** *"I may be able to speak the languages of men and angles...I may have all knowledge...and all the faith to move mountains-but if I have not love, I am nothing...it does no good."* 1 Cor. 13

Spiritual gifts are God working through your life, but it requires your participation!

- Using your gift(s) is not optional.
- Gifts are not given fully developed. Do not be intimidated because you see others doing a much better job of it! If you have the gift of evangelism, don't compare yourself to Billy Graham. God has given you the gift for a reason and that reason may be to bring ONE person to the Lord!
- *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* (1Peter 4:10) Just as God holds us accountable for the material things He has placed under our control, our time, our money, or possessions, we are also accountable for the use of the Spiritual gift(s) He has given us. Get to know your gifting!
- Knowing your Spiritual gifting will help you find a fulfilling place in a ministry and will help you determine your priorities. We have many things to do and not enough time to do them all. Knowing your gifting will help you sort out where to focus your energy.
- Knowing your gifting will help you discern God's will.
- Your gifts are to serve and build the Body of Christ in unity! Gifting is highly diverse, but we are one Body. (1 Cor. 12) Be very diligent and gentle about working together with your brothers and sisters in the Lord.
- Learn about ALL the gifts. Don't hesitate to share what you see in others as areas of strength. We can help each other find and use our gifts for the glory of God!
- Beware of expecting the same gift to function the same way in all individuals. We are unique individuals created by God and He will use us to advance His kingdom in very different ways. One who teaches God's word to children through puppets and fun will have a different look than a teacher who teaches poor, single moms through a daycare center. Understand your unique personality and skills and passions and don't try to serve like someone else.

*Choose to participate in a ministry for a specific season of time.*

- Pay attention to how you function in that group or what you are 'itching' to try or do. Don't demand your way, but gently help where you see need. You and those you work with will begin to see where your strengths are and you should feel a joyful comfort level doing those things.
- The ministry you work with may change over time as you develop a passion for certain groups, but your gifting transfers to numerous ministry opportunities. As you grow in maturity, you will be able to see where your unique gifts will most impact the work of the body of Christ and be confident that you are following God's will.

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