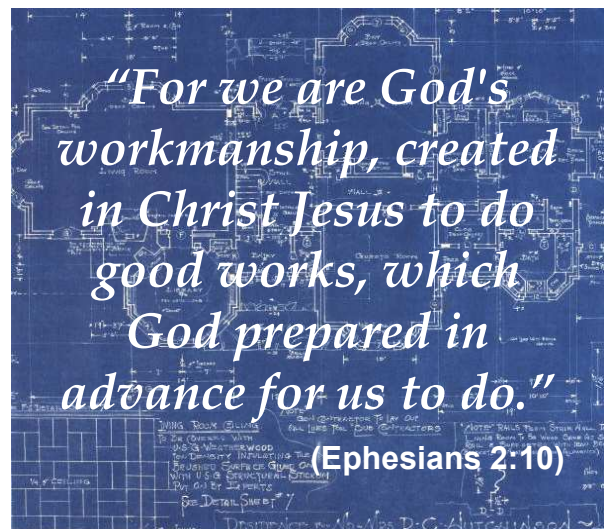


Identifying & Using Your Abilities, Talents and Spiritual Gifts



Royal Oak Church of Christ - fall 2008
248-548-1333 - www.royaloakcoc.org

Using Your Abilities, Talents and Spiritual Gifts

- The Master's Purpose and Plan -

God has a great purpose and plan for His family, which is called the church. We are thankful and excited that God has led you to be a fellow member of our family at Royal Oak. We are uniquely created to serve in the body of Christ and each individual member is indispensable and vitally important to the function and growth of the whole. (1 Corinthians 12).

Every member of the Royal Oak Church has a part and responsibility to God and each other. We are counting on you as you allow God to work through you as we equip and encourage the family, bring people to Jesus and serve and teach those around us. Read the verses listed below and consider God's plan for your life. Then stop and pray, asking God to bless you as you seek to serve Him and fulfill the mission and plans that He has for you.



- Exploring the Scriptures -

Ephesians 4:11-16

"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."



REFLECT AND RESPOND:

- God wants leaders in His church to teach, train and mentor me in order that I can work and minister in His Kingdom. Remember: "We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9).
- When each one is united, committed and involved great growth will occur naturally as God works through us (consider: Philippians 2:1-11).
- God's will and His work is the priority over my own personal wants and desires.

PRAYER THOUGHT:

Father, thank you for allowing me to be a child of Yours and to have brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank You for the leaders that You have put in my life to teach, train and encourage me to grow in understanding of Your will. Help me to clearly identify the gifts and talents that You have given to me and I pray that I will use them daily as I express my love, worship and devotion to You. Thank You for Jesus and His example of service, faithfulness, love and sacrifice. I want to be like Him. In His name, Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen”.

REFLECT AND RESPOND:

- My abilities, talents and spiritual gifts are a gift from God (see: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26).
- I must use my God given gifts to serve and bless others, not myself.
- Every word I speak and every thing I do should glorify, honor and praise God.

PRAYER THOUGHT:

Thank You, Lord, for giving me so many good things. Help me that I will be faithful to You as I use the abilities, opportunities, time, money and possessions that You have loaned to me to serve You and others. Remind me that I am a manager, not the owner. Forgive me when I am selfish and allow You to be crowded out of my life. I acknowledge that You are the only One who deserves my devotion and adoration. Help me to love You with all of my heart, all of my soul, all of my mind and all of my strength. Through Jesus, Amen.

Ephesians 2:10

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

REFLECT AND RESPOND:

- God has uniquely designed and created me to do good works for Him.
- I must clearly understand and follow God's plan if I want to please Him.
- Others are depending on me to make God's purpose and plan become a reality.

**PRAYER THOUGHT:**

Father in heaven, You are a great and awesome designer and creator. Thank You for making me just the way You wanted so that I could fulfill Your work. Help me not to compare myself with others or envy what others have or who they are. Help me to embrace Your plan for my life, because I want to please You in all things. Open my eyes

to the many daily opportunities that I have to lead others to You through my words and actions. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Romans 12:3-8

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”



REFLECT AND RESPOND:

- I must be humble and have an honest assessment of myself.
- I am uniquely created and my strengths and weaknesses are not the same as other people.
- There are many members in God's family who have a variety of functions.
- As a part of the body of Christ, I must be relationally connected to others and we must all work together in harmony for the common goal.

PRAYER THOUGHT:

Holy God, help me to be humble, just like Jesus who gave up His place, position, and power in heaven to become like me, so He could lead me, love me and save me. Thank You for the people that You have put into my life. Give me patience and strength as I accept, serve and love people that are different and difficult to get along with. I want You to work in my life so that we can make a difference in this world and in eternity. Because of Jesus, Amen

- Seven Gifts of Ministry -

The seven gifts listed in Romans 12 are:

1. **Prophecy** – an intense passion to learn and boldly proclaiming the truth
2. **Serving** – joyfully helping with everyday tasks and physical work
3. **Teaching** – detailed study and then teaching God's Word to a group or individually
4. **Encouragement** – motivating and inspiring others through positive words and actions
5. **Giving** – assisting with the physical and spiritual needs through sharing finance, possessions
6. **Leadership** – motivate, direct and train people toward the vision, may also be a good administrator

7. **Showing Mercy** – has compassion and empathy, ministering to those in pain or distress

Some Christians aren't sure what works they should be involved in. There are many ministries and various tasks that are being done regularly at West End. If you wonder which one to serve in, take a few minutes to take the "Gifts Inventory Survey". This may help you focus your attention to specific areas. There are also other helpful ideas to consider as you find your place to serve the Lord and His people.

- Finding and Using My Gifts -

I have been uniquely designed just the way God wanted me to be. I want to be used by Him in His Kingdom for His glory. How can I identify the gifts and talents that God has given to me? Below are a few ideas that may help us get started on this journey of walking in the path that God has planned for us. At the end there is a "Gifts Inventory Survey" that may identify some specific areas.

PRAY

God created you and He knows you better than anyone else. He intimately knows every feeling in your heart and every thought in your mind. God discerns your thoughts, your desires and your dreams. He will help you identify the areas where you are gifted to minister, because He gave you the gifts. He will give you opportunities to serve and the strength to finish the task.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." Jesus told us to ask for and seek God's will in our lives. In Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

You can also ask close friends to pray with you and for you as you seek God's plan and purpose for your life.



CONSIDER YOUR INTERESTS – Look in the Mirror

Self reflection can be helpful. It helps us refocus and consider our priorities. When you think about how God has made you, ask yourself questions and write down your honest answers.

- What things are you really interested in?
- Why did you choose the education / career path and are you still interested in these things?
- What are your hobbies and interests when you have extra time?

- If you had a week off to do whatever you wanted, what would you do?
- What kinds of things do you think about when no one else is around?
- What things do you talk about most?
- How do you spend your money?
- Do you enjoy working more with people or projects?
- Are you more of a leader or someone who follows well?

SEEK ADVICE FROM OTHERS

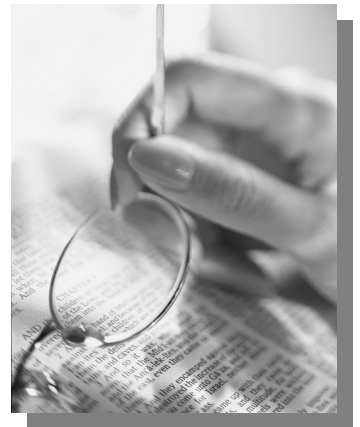
Sometimes those closest to us see things in our lives that we miss or don't want to admit. Asking for their honest assessment can be valuable and helpful in determining our strengths and weaknesses. However, if you ask for candid feedback, be gracious in receiving it (especially if it is not what you were expecting to hear). Advisors may help you identify and encourage you in your strengths as well as pointing out your weakness. The wise man writes in Proverbs 15:22, *"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."* And again Proverbs 19:20, he says, *"Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise."*

BIBLE STUDY

As you read, study and meditate on God's Word, what areas tend to excite you. What moves you when you read through the gospels and you see the life of Jesus? When you read about the work of the church in the New Testament or when you study the stories and lessons in the Old Testament, which ones are you drawn to and relate to? What have you been studying lately? What kinds of Bible classes do you attend or teach? What things do you regularly pray about?

Just thinking about the life of Jesus, where do you connect?

- Feeling for the people, Jesus served and met the physical needs of those around Him
- A compassionate friend, God in the flesh accepted and ministered to the outcast and "sinners"
- He was a faithful Son and had a continual, personal relationship with His heavenly Father
- Like a loving parent, Jesus spoke tender words to and welcomed the children
- The times when Jesus had to take a firm stand and strongly rebuke those living in error
- Considering how much Jesus sacrificed and gave up, brings tears to the eyes
- Jesus was deliberate in fulfilling the plan of God and trained others to be great leaders



JUMP IN

Like eating brussel sprouts, sometimes you don't really know if you are suited for the task until you have tried it. Commit to serving in a ministry for a few weeks on a trial basis to see

if you connect. For example, if you weren't sure about teaching a children's class, you could be a teacher's assistant for a quarter. If you enjoy it and want to continue, take a turn teaching. However, just because you were a little uncomfortable leading the class the first time, doesn't mean it's not your gift. Give it some time. On the other hand, if you dread going to Bible class because you are the teacher and you really don't like kids (as if there is anyone who doesn't love God's little ones), perhaps you should look at another ministry.

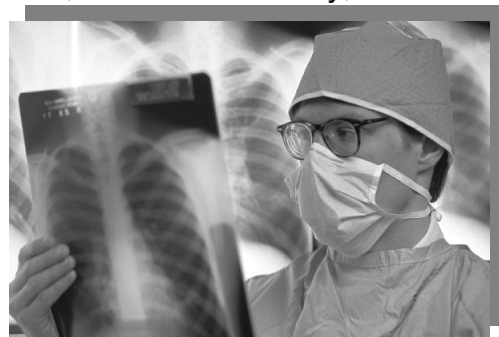
PROBLEMS AND PAIN

Some people have a great ministry through their own experiences, even (or especially) the difficult ones. Those who go through a very difficult circumstance can later relate to and encourage those who are going through similar life-struggles. There is a unique connection when people share intense challenges like: the death of a spouse; addiction recovery; coping with cancer; or surviving a difficult divorce.

Paul said that his trials and troubles opened a door of opportunity to minister to others. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

"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 have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If

we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort."



- *Spiritual Gifts Inventory Survey* -

The following Inventory Survey is designed to help you think about your desires and aptitude in order to help identify those areas where you are gifted. There is no right or wrong answers. Please answer each question as honestly as possible. Do not evaluate the questions on what a Christian ought to do, what you wish you were doing or what others expect of you.

Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts

Please answer these questions based on how you believe and feel right now and on your real life situations. Do not answer based upon what you should do, plan to do, or what a Christian ought to do. Your answers should be based upon your own personal experience. There are no right or wrong answers.

Use the following number system to indicate your response:

1 = Almost Never

2 = Seldom

4 = Frequently

5 = Almost Always

- (a) ____ I lead people to a relationship with Christ.
- (b) ____ God gives me insight to handle complex situations.
- (c) ____ I choose to read the Bible over other books or watching television.
- (d) ____ I give advice to other people.
- (e) ____ I am very sensitive to the needs of others.
- (f) ____ I am willing to do any work, even if it is mundane, insignificant or humbling.
- (g) ____ I am conscious of being a wise steward of all God has given me.
- (h) ____ I enjoy serving on committees and shaping the future of the church.
- (i) ____ I see myself as a mentor helping others on the road of life.

- (a) ____ It is easy and natural for me to speak about my faith to others.
- (b) ____ My intuition about people or circumstances often turns out to be accurate.
- (c) ____ When I hear or read something questionable, I will research for truth.
- (d) ____ I console those who are suffering, depressed or discouraged.
- (e) ____ I try to bear one another's burdens as the Bible says.
- (f) ____ When doing a task, I go above and beyond what is expected.
- (g) ____ I am eager to lend anything I own when someone needs to borrow it.
- (h) ____ I find a place for everything and everything is put in its place.
- (i) ____ I often think about helping others mature in Christ.

- (a) ____ I have spiritual conversations with co-workers or neighbors.
- (b) ____ I am able to make wise and appropriate decisions.
- (c) ____ I use Biblical examples over personal stories.
- (d) ____ I am a better talker than a listener.
- (e) ____ I easily relate and empathize with those who are hurting.
- (f) ____ I enjoy doing good things even if I am not recognized.
- (g) ____ I am mindful that everything I own belongs to God.
- (h) ____ I can easily delegate work to others to accomplish.
- (i) ____ I am often asked to counsel others who are in a difficult time.

- (a) ____ I am prepared and capable of teaching others the plan of salvation.
- (b) ____ I feel a burning inside when people change, twist or incorrectly handle God's Word.
- (c) ____ I correct others who teach or say something that is incorrect.
- (d) ____ I believe that a lesson without practical application is incomplete.
- (e) ____ I can sense when someone is hurting inside even if they don't say it.
- (f) ____ I find it hard to say "No" when people ask me to serve.
- (g) ____ I believe that God has blessed me so I can help others.
- (h) ____ I like being on planning committees.
- (i) ____ I am comfortable going to those who are struggling spiritually or caught in a sin.

- (a) ___ I enjoy telling others how much Jesus means to me and how He has changed my life.
(b) ___ I am uncompromising in the truth, even when others don't agree.
(c) ___ I collect too much information to present in any given Bible Class.
(d) ___ I tell people that I appreciate their work.
(e) ___ I cry with others when they are in a difficult situation.
(f) ___ When I have been given a task, I finish it to be best of my ability.
(g) ___ I am glad to share all that God has given me with others.
(h) ___ I feel frustrated at the lack of organization and progress.
(i) ___ When seeing someone in need, I ask them if we can pray together.
- (a) ___ I think that we need to focus on seeking and saving the lost.
(b) ___ I detect problems before others see them.
(c) ___ I like explaining the details so people can reach the right conclusion.
(d) ___ People enjoy being around me.
(e) ___ I am comfortable visiting the terminally ill or the bereaving.
(f) ___ People tell me that I am too busy helping others.
(g) ___ When a special need arises at church, I give what I can without a second thought.
(h) ___ I pay attention to details, organization and structure.
(i) ___ Others tell me that I am a good counselor.
- (a) ___ I find conversations turning toward spiritual things.
(b) ___ People say that I am too opinionated.
(c) ___ I think that education is the key to a relationship with God.
(d) ___ I talk to people, or write cards to others to make their day better.
(e) ___ I am moved to tears when someone else is hurting.
(f) ___ People often ask me to help them with a task.
(g) ___ I help others, even if they may take advantage of me.
(h) ___ I remind others of our purpose in life.
(i) ___ I call or visit those who aren't doing well spiritually.
- (a) ___ I pray for people by name who are not Christians.
(b) ___ Others tell me or imply that I am too hard when it comes to sin.
(c) ___ I spend a lot of time each week in personal Bible study.
(d) ___ I am patient with Christians who are slow to mature.
(e) ___ I am sensitive to the needs and pain of people who are suffering.
(f) ___ I usually do a job rather than ignore it or expect someone else to do it.
(g) ___ I give money away anonymously.
(h) ___ I see myself as a team leader and team builder.
(i) ___ Other Christians ask my advice, for ideas and direction.
- (a) ___ I come across a little pushy when I talk to unbelievers about Jesus.
(b) ___ I believe that being right is more important than how people feel.
(c) ___ People often say that I am a good teacher.
(d) ___ I have great faith in people and know that God can work in them.
(e) ___ I enjoy visiting people who are in the hospital.
(f) ___ I notice those in need before others do.
(g) ___ I feel joy when I can share what I have with others in need.
(h) ___ I believe the church must be well organized to fulfill God's work.
(i) ___ I feel a deep concern about Christians being led astray.

*1 = Almost Never**2 = Seldom**4 = Frequently**5 = Almost Always*

- (a) ___ I enjoy hearing and am motivated by lessons on soul winning.
 (b) ___ I have strong convictions on issues, which I need to share.
 (c) ___ I get excited about teaching the Bible to others in a class setting.
 (d) ___ I enjoy showing others how the Bible applies to their life.
 (e) ___ People say that they feel better when I have visited with them.
 (f) ___ When I see a need, I stop to help.
 (g) ___ I sacrifice my time and resources to serve others.
 (h) ___ I regularly have several projects on the go at any one time.
 (i) ___ I want to help new Christians mature in their faith.

Add the score for each letter (ie. there are 10 (a) letters and add the numbers beside the (a) below [maximum of 50 points])

(a) ___ (d) ___ (g) ___
 (b) ___ (e) ___ (h) ___
 (c) ___ (f) ___ (i) ___

Plot these numbers on the chart below.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Evangelism	Perceiver Prophecy	Teaching	Encouraging	Showing Mercy	Serving	Giving	Administrator Leading	Shepherding Counseling

This instrument is designed to help you see where your strengths and weaknesses may be. There are no right or wrong answers.

Wisely and diligently use the gifts God has given you and at the same time be sensitive to those areas where you need to grow.

To gain further insights to the gifts and talents God has given you, seek input and advice from faithful and intimate Christian friends or mentors.

As you use the opportunities and blessings God has given you, He will strengthen you and continue to bless you in additional ways.

- *Spiritual Gifts Inventory Interpretation* -

After you have taken the Spiritual Gifts Inventory, you might want to learn more about the type of gifts that are listed.

. PROPHECY / PROCLAIMER . – in proportion to your faith

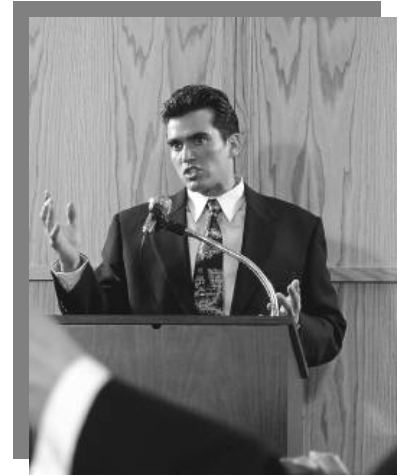
A prophet's main task was not foretelling the future, but calling people back to the original plan. Even in the Old Testament most of the lessons were reminding people of God's law, covenant and promises.

Today the prophet is a gifted person who has an intense passion to learn and boldly proclaiming the truth from God's Word. He, like men of old, will remind people of the past and prepare them for the future. This is one who boldly declares the will of God and unashamedly stands for truth. They meet an important spiritual need in the church by keeping us centered on spiritual principles.

The prophet is one who can quickly assess and judge the situation and he immediately determines whether it is good or bad; black or white; right or wrong. There is no middle ground and no grey area. It is either in God's will or it is not. They often see or perceive things that others miss (even after they explain them several times).

These people speak with conviction, passion and power and constantly go to the Word. Prophets in the Bible were men who clearly understood their message and mission and spoke with clarity and conviction.

One New Testament example is John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12; 14:1-4) who was willing to tell people the way it was, no holds barred. Eventually, he was beheaded because he continued to speak about and expose the immoral relationship Herod had with his brother's wife. He just couldn't overlook, justify, excuse or keep silent about "living in sin."



PROPHETS' OVERVIEW

- Knows and understands the Word of God
- Clearly identifies right and wrong
- Has very strong convictions
- Has concern and distress over all wrongdoing
- Speaks the truth at every opportunity
- Everything is black or white - there is NO compromise
- Has an opinion on everything
- More than willing to share their conviction
- No problem speaking their mind - "in-your-face" direct
- Have the image of perfection
- Have few friends – they tend to turn people off
- They may expect or welcome persecution

PROPHETS BEWARE

- Do not be judgmental in opinions
- Get all the facts before reaching a conclusion
- Choose your battles wisely
- Guard attitudes toward others
- Look for some good in everything
- Listen openly to others with opposing view points
- Be patient with progress, even if it is slow
- Make sure God is speaking through you (1 Peter 4:11)
- Remember love is the priority (1 Corinthians 13)

EXAMPLES OF PROPHETS

- Nathan who told David of his sin (2 Samuel 12:1-10)
- John the Baptist rebuking the unrepentant (Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 6:16-29)
- Stephen who was killed because he preached Jesus (Acts 7:54-60)
- Jesus confronted and condemned the religious leaders (Matthew 23)

PROPHETS' FAVORITE VERSES

- Mark 11:15-19 - Jesus cleared the temple of swindlers
- Acts 5:1-11 - Peter confronts Ananias and Sapphira with their lie
- Galatians 2:11-21 - Paul rebuked Peter for his hypocrisy
- Matthew 10:22 - all men will hate you because of Me
- Acts 7 - Stephen boldly preaches the gospel and was killed

WORK FOR THE PROPHET

- Teach a Bible class
- Share your faith with the lost
- Mentor new Christians
- Write lessons for publication
- Go on mission trips
- Distribute flyers in the neighborhood
- Work in the library
- Serve on a committee

. SERVANTS . – serve faithfully

A servant is one who joyfully helps with everyday tasks and the physical work that needs to be done. They are people who offer practical service, assistance and help. Often times they do the work that no one else will do. They can identify a work to do and are eager to begin and complete the project.

If something needs to be done others don't see it, ignore it or walk around it, but not the servant. They roll up their sleeves and get the job done. They don't have to be told repeatedly to get involved. They keep the work moving and want to know what needs to be done, because they are ready to work. They are action oriented people. When there is

a need, they do not organize a committee or wait to be asked, seek permission or wait for applause. They will respond immediately and passionately.

SERVANTS' OVERVIEW

"Servant" (NIV); "Ministry" (KJV); "Practical Service" (The Amplified Bible)

Receives great joy in helping others

Eager to assist others

Carry out instructions and pay attention to detail

Quickly identifies a need and immediately acts

Sensitive to the needs of others

Willing to go the extra mile

Have a good memory for details

Entertains people (hospitable)

They finish what they start

They enjoy immediate projects, not long-term goals

They don't like planning meetings, give them a job

They want to show their love rather than say, "I love you!"

High energy level

Supportive of the direction and work



SERVANTS BEWARE

Don't say "YES" to everyone and everything

Don't get over-involved and burned out

Don't neglect your own family and other responsibilities

Pray before you say "yes" to anymore work

Seek advice before taking on more commitments

Allow others to get in the work too - share the load

Don't be too quick to judge those who are not servants

Don't take over work that needs to be done by others

Allow others to serve you once in a while

Don't be too busy to neglect spiritual growth

EXAMPLES OF SERVANTS

Jesus washing feet (Luke 22:27; John 13:1-17)

Timothy (Philippians 2:19-24; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3)

Seven men chosen to serve (Acts 6:1-4)

Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)

SERVANTS' FAVORITE VERSES

Matthew 20:25-28 - to become great among you must be a servant, the first must be the slave, Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many

Mark 9:35-37 - the greatest will be the servant

Matthew 25:31-46 - whatever you did to the least, you did it to Jesus

John 13:1-17 - Jesus washed the feet of the disciples

Acts 9:36 - Dorcas was always doing good and helping the poor

WORK FOR THE SERVANT

- Serving at potlucks
- Setting up
- Yard work
- General cleaning around the building
- Teach in the nursery
- Host a LIFE Group
- Prepare communion trays
- Invite new members into your home
- Building security before and after events
- Mow the lawn
- Serve at retreats and seminars
- Prepare meals for members who are in sick
- Assist with van operations
- Work at V.B.S.
- Distribute flyers in the neighborhood
- Hospital visits
- Visit widows, shut in, etc.

. TEACHERS .

– teach God's Word

Teachers enjoy detailed, investigative study and then having the opportunity to teach what they have learned to others. They are good communicators in groups, classes or individually. They are great learners of the Bible. Since they want to know as much as they can, they extensively research history, biographies and commentaries. They fulfill the mental need in the body of Christ by keeping us learning, studying and applying God's will.

The gospel of Luke was written by a man with a teaching gift. This is how Luke begins, "Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." Although others have researched the life of Jesus, Luke wanted to do the investigation himself. He states that he was careful in his investigation and wrote an orderly account so that we may know with certainty.



TEACHERS' OVERVIEW

- Enjoys research
- Wants to know truth
- Wants all the facts
- Reads, studies extensively

They are great learners (Hebrews 5:11-5:3)
They will take a stand when error is taught
Prefers Biblical examples over personal stories
Has a large vocabulary
Checks out the source (Acts 17:11)
Goes to the Bible for answers
Appeals to the mind (intellect) more than the heart (feelings)

TEACHERS BEWARE

Beware and be responsible (James 4:1)
Factual must meet practical
Be open to other teachers
Remember 1 Corinthians 8:1 "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."
Can become very legalistic (Pharisee)
Don't look down on others who don't study as much as you
Be humble!

EXAMPLES OF TEACHERS

Jesus' followers respond (Matthew 7:28-29)
Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:26-27)
Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)
Timothy (1 Timothy 4:9-16)
King Solomon (Proverbs)

TEACHERS' FAVORITE VERSE

John 8:32 - you will know the truth and the truth will set you free
Romans 10:17 - faith comes from hearing the message (the word of Christ)
Acts 17:11 - the Bereans were eager to learn and examined the Scriptures daily
Acts 18:24-26 - Apollos was learned with a thorough knowledge of the Scripture and spoke with boldness and great passion and was able to refute in public debate that Jesus was the Christ
Acts 19:8-10 - Paul established a preacher school in the lecture hall of Tyrannus
Acts 20:17-31 - Paul taught the whole will of God publicly and in many houses

WORK FOR THE TEACHERS

Teaching Bible class
Training new Christians
Lead a devotional
Evangelism
Teach a ladies Bible class
Help out at CBH and CUC
Mentor teens in the youth group
Teach at VBS
Lead a home Bible study
Write lessons for publication
Counseling
Go on a mission trip

Grade WBS courses
Work in the library
Distribute flyers in the neighborhood
Work in benevolence
Visit new members

. ENCOURAGEMENT . – encourage everyone

Encouragers have the ability to motivate and inspire others through positive words and actions. They encourage personal progress and forward movement. They can see the positive side of people or programs and lend moral support. They are the people who see the glass half full, not half empty. They often have many friends, because people want to be around positive, upbeat, cheerful people.

They meet a psychological need in the church by keeping the focus optimistic and the momentum positive. A Christian in the early church named Joseph had the gift of encouragement and they changed his name to Barnabus, which means Son of Encouragement (Acts 4:36).



ENCOURAGERS' OVERVIEW

The Encourager (Exhortation)
Appeals to the heart more than the head
Wants others to succeed (Philippians 3)
Believes the best in people
Likes to see visible results and growth
Seeks for application more than research
Offers practical steps for application
Enjoys working with people
Personal counseling
Optimistic and positive
Less judgmental of others
Is often accepted and loved by others
Popular speakers, teachers, writers
Has high goals and expects to attain them
Encourager - Be Careful
Avoid validity through Pragmatism
Find truth first then apply it (don't proof text Scripture or take it out of context)

ENCOURAGERS BEWARE

Listen to others and don't be so eager to give input
Don't be too simplistic in solution
Be patient with progress

EXAMPLES OF ENCOURAGERS

Jesus gives peace to the disciples (John 16:33)
Barnabus welcoming and giving (Acts 4:36; 9:26-27; 11:22-26)
Deuteronomy 3:28 - Moses told to encourage and strengthen Joshua
Timothy, a genuine concern for others (Philippians 2:19-22)
Titus cares for others (2 Corinthians 8:16-24)
Paul building intimate relationships (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

ENCOURAGERS' FAVORITE VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:11,14 - encourage each other and build one another up, encourage the timid
Hebrews 3:13 - encourage one another every day
Hebrews 10:24-25 - spur one another on toward love and good deeds, encourage one another more

WORK FOR THE ENCOURAGERS

Be a greeter / welcome center worker
Mentor teens in the youth group
Calling and Caring ministry
Call, write or visit new members
Mail encouraging cards
Build up the discouraged
Counseling
Teach a Bible class
Distribute flyers in the neighborhood
Take communion to the shut-ins

. GIVERS .

– give generously

Those with the gift of giving realize that they have received abundant blessings from God and are motivated to share what is in their trust. When Jesus instructed His disciples to teach others, He reminded them, “freely you have received, freely give”. (Matthew 10:8). Givers are eager to assist with the physical and spiritual needs of others through sharing finance and possessions. There are many opportunities to do good to those in need (Galatians 2:10), especially those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10).

GIVERS' OVERVIEW

Gives freely of money, possessions, energy, love and time
No strings attached
Non judgmental of those in need



No ulterior motives
Everything belongs to God and should be used for Him
Likes giving in secret (Matthew 6)
Don't control the gift
Don't neglect family
Don't spoil family
Don't seek praise for your sacrifice
Don't use giving money as an excuse to do nothing more

GIVERS BEWARE

Don't pressure others to give as much as you
Don't control the gift
Don't neglect family
Don't spoil family
Don't seek praise
Don't use giving money as an excuse to do nothing more

EXAMPLES OF GIVERS

Jesus gave up heaven and gave His life (Philippians 2:5-11)
King David giving what belongs to God (1 Chronicles 29:14-20)
Widow gave all she had to live on (Mark 12:41-44)
A woman poured very expensive perfume on Jesus' feet (Matthew 26:8-10)
Macedonians gave out of their poverty (2 Corinthians 8)
Zaccheus gave to the poor (Luke 19:1-10)
Magi gave gifts to Jesus at His birth (Matthew 2:1)

GIVERS' FAVORITE VERSES

Matthew 6:2 - When you give to the needy
Matthew 6:19-21 - store up treasure in heaven
Acts 4:32-37 - Christians sold and shared possessions to help those in need
2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - Macedonians joyfully, passionately gave out of their poverty
2 Corinthians 9:6-11 - God loves a cheerful giver, all we have comes from Him

WORK FOR THE GIVERS

Contribute to the church
Share with those in need
Donate money or items for the pantry
Take visitors/members to lunch
Lend what you have for others to use
Finance committee
Go on a mission trip
Invite others into your home

. LEADERS . – lead diligently

God has given some people a gift of leading, motivating, directing and training people toward a specific vision and goal. They are usually good planners, organizers and administrators. They are good at developing strategies that are demanding, yet attainable. They have an eye for detail and strive for excellence in everything they do. They often have the same high standard for others. These people help us stay focused on our primary goals and are talented in developing creative ways to meet our target. A leader is one who has a clear sense of where they are going and inspires others to follow.

LEADERS' OVERVIEW

Rule, stand over, preside, superintend
Able to see the overall picture (good and bad)
Enjoys planning and organizing people and programs
Has a clear vision for the future
Often uses lists, charts and illustrations
Can organize others to effective work
Can delegate responsibility
Clearly communicates the plan to others
Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24



LEADERS BEWARE

Help people see the entire picture
Don't become proud or power hungry
Be patient with others who don't share your vision or goals
Don't be competitive
Employ people who are spiritual
Remember the needs of people
Be realistic in goals and schedules
Don't use people to accomplish goals

EXAMPLES OF LEADERS

Jesus - with 12 uneducated, ordinary men turned the world upside down
Joseph - over all of Egypt in abundance & famine
Moses – leading Israelites out of Egypt
Joshua - leading people into Canaan
Nehemiah - rebuilding the city of Jerusalem
David - military leader and righteous king

LEADERS' FAVORITE VERSES

John 10:1-18 - the good shepherd and the sheep
Luke 14:25-33 - counting the cost before following Jesus
Luke 16:1-12 - parable of the shrewd manager
Acts 6:1-7 - servants appointed so apostles could focus on their ministry
2 Timothy 2:2 - training leaders who will train others

WORK FOR THE LEADERS

- Mentor young leaders
- Help deacons and elders plan for the future
- Teach leadership classes
- Serve on committees
- Advisor to others
- Write or teach lessons on leadership
- Plan seminars and retreats
- Counseling

. SHOWING MERCY . – with cheerfulness

These are kind-hearted and compassionate people who relate well with others, especially when they are hurting and have pain. They have the gift of empathy (being able to put themselves in someone else's position and feel what they feel) and are able to minister to those in grief or distress.

They provide personal and emotional support to those who are suffering. They meet an emotional need in the body of Christ and help us keep right attitudes and relationships. They are sensitive and aware of the demeanor of others.

They are often good at visiting people in the hospital, cancer ward or funeral homes. They are often less judgmental of people, not being so concerned about how they got here (whose fault) but what can we do now to help and comfort.



MERCY GIVERS' OVERVIEW

- Can sense sadness, distress, concern, heartache
- Can understand how people feel
- Desire to remove hurt and bring healing
- Have greater concern for emotional needs over physical needs
- Sensitive to words and actions of others
- Think the best of others
- Non-judgmental over motive or fault
- Thinks of others over own needs
- Helping those who are in need: hospital visit, shut ins. helping the poor, outcast – rejected, bereavement / funeral, mental or physical challenged
- Addicts

MERCY GIVERS BEWARE

- Don't neglect the root of the problem or pain
- Don't resent those who aren't as merciful
- Don't rely on emotions only for guidance
- Don't get in the middle of other people's fights
- Be careful with members of the opposite sex

EXAMPLES OF THE MERCIFUL

Jesus forgiving His enemies on the cross (Luke 23:34)
Jesus with the sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50)
Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-27)
Esau forgave Jacob after stealing the blessing (Genesis 33:10-11)
Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:16-18)
Rahab hiding the spies (Joshua 6)

MERCY GIVERS' FAVORITE VERSES

Romans 12:15-16 - rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn, do not be proud, but associate with people of low position
Matthew 5:7 - blessed are the merciful
Matthew 5:43-48 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
Matthew 11:28-30 - Jesus gives rest, strength and comfort to the burdened
Luke 10:30-37 - the good Samaritan who showed mercy

WORK FOR THE MERCIFUL

Be a greeter
Take communion to the shut-ins
Visit the new members
Work in benevolence and FISH
Visit with the discouraged
Work with the Calling and Caring ministry
Participate in recovery groups
Visit members and others in hospitals and shut-ins
Make funeral visits and continue to visit and encourage the bereaving

OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Servant Driven Church, *Ray Fulenwider*
Equipping the Saints, *Jim Woodell*
Rediscovering Church, *Bill Hybels*
Ministering Thru Spiritual Gifts, *Charles Stanley*
Discovering Your God Given Gifts, *Don Fortune*

What Makes You Tick?, *Mels Carbonell*
The Purpose Driven Life, *Rick Warren*
Body Language, *David T. Moore*
Understanding Spiritual Gifts, *Robert Thomas*
Equipping to Serve (video series)

"FINDING YOUR GIFT INSTRUMENTS" ON-LINE

www.wecoc.org (members area)
<http://mintools.com/discovergifts.htm>
<http://www.uniquelyyou.net/index.php>

www.churchgrowth.org/analysis/intro.htm
<http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift>

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