

ekklesia
Christian Life Ministries

your unique
gifts & talents
SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY



EkklesiaChristianLife.org

Discovering Our Spiritual Gifts: A Seminar in Spiritual Formation

Welcome to this study of Spiritual Gifts! The material included in this booklet contains practical information and a variety of exercises designed to help you and the members of your congregation to discover and to explore your spiritual gifts, both individually and as a church family. In this material, you will find:

An Inductive Bible Study of the 4 New Testament passages that describe Spiritual Gifts (Pages 3-9)

A Spiritual Gifts Inventory (Pages 10-16)

Definitions of the 20 Spiritual Gifts identified in the Spiritual Gifts Inventory (Pages 17-19)

Continuing to Learn About and Apply Your Spiritual Gifts (Pages 20-23)

Again, welcome to this process of discovery as you learn about your own giftedness and how you can use your gifts through Ekklesia Christian Life!

Let's begin!

The Basics about Spiritual Gifts

Greek Words Used to Denote Spiritual Gifts

Charismatos (literally "grace gifts" and pneumatekon (literally "air gifts")

New Testament Passages That Describe Spiritual Gifts
Romans 12:1-13
I Corinthians 12:1-31
Ephesians 4:1-15
1 Peter 4:7-14

One Definition of A Spiritual Gift
A Spiritual Gifts is an ability, skill, or talent given through the activity of the Holy Spirit working in the life of each individual Christian. Collectively, the spiritual gifts possessed by the members of a local congregation enable that congregation as the body of Christ to perform the mission and ministry to which it has been called by God

An Inductive Study Bible Study

What is An Inductive Bible Study?

In an inductive study of the scriptures, you first identify every passage in the Bible that addresses the topic in which you are interested. A high quality study Bible or concordance will help you to identify these passages.

Next, you read these passages. As you read, you will begin to notice common themes, images, and words in these passages. You will also begin to form general impressions and ideas about your topic.

As you reread these passages, take notes, listing the common themes, images, words, ideas, and your own impressions.

Based on your reading and your notes, you should be able to develop a deeper understanding of and feel for the topic that you have chosen to study. This approach to Bible study is a helpful alternative to the deductive approach most often used in Sunday School classes.

The first step in our process of discovering our spiritual gifts is a careful reading of the four New Testament passages that describe spiritual gifts. The four passages are:

Romans 12:1-13
I Corinthians 12
Ephesians 4:1-15
I Peter 4:7-14

In these passages, two Greek words are used to denote spiritual gifts:

- *charismatos*, which literally means “grace gifts,” and
- *pneumatekon*, which literally means “air gifts.”

In this study, you will be asked to use an inductive approach. As you read each passage, you will be asked to respond to several questions. Please jot down your responses to these questions in the spaces provided. After you have read all four passages, you will be asked to integrate your responses to these questions and your impressions about these passages. As a result of this portion of the study, you will:

- Identify common themes and images used in these passages.
- Write your own definition of a spiritual gift.
- List all of the spiritual gifts included in these passages.

Study Tip: It is often helpful to read from several different versions of the Bible. Each version will add a slightly different perspective in your study. Further, various versions use different English words to denote the same spiritual gift. Note these differences as you participate in the study process.

How Do You Discover
the Will of God? Use
Your Spiritual Gifts!
Romans 12:1-13

The first passage in our inductive Bible study is Romans 12:1-13. Please read this passage from one or two different translations of the Bible. As you read, respond to the following questions:

Background Information

Though Paul had not yet visited the Christian community in Rome, he felt compelled to write a pastoral letter to that congregation.

The resulting correspondence, the New Testament book of Romans, contains challenging and provocative instructions for Christians who wish to understand and to grow in their relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

- In practical terms, what does it mean to present your bodies as a living sacrifice”?
- In verse 2, we read, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God.” Restate this phrase in your own words.
- In verses 3-4, Paul also used a particular metaphor or image to describe the church and the interrelatedness of all Christians. What image did Paul use to describe the nature and function of the church?
- In verses, 6-13, which spiritual gifts are listed?
- After reading the entire passage, what is your assessment of the relationship between understanding the will of God and using your spiritual gifts?
- In general, what have you learned about spiritual gifts based on your reading of this passage?

Advise to Those Battling Corinthians

1 Corinthians 12

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31. As you read the passage, answer the following questions:

- Why are spiritual gifts given? (Verses 4-7)
- Who receives a spiritual gift? (Verse 7)
- According to verse 11, what is the source of all spiritual gifts?
- What image of the church is used in this passage? (Refer specifically to verses 13-26)
- In light of the situation described in the sidebar, what is the significance of this image with regard to giftedness?
- Which spiritual gifts are identified in this passage?
- How does this teaching about spiritual gifts relate to the famous Love Chapter (1 Cor. 13) which follows?

Background Information

The first century city of Corinth was a major Roman sea port. It was a bustling, raucous town, filled with merchants, traders, and sailors. The town was also a noted center of pagan worship.

A temple dedicated to the goddess of sex was located in the city. Sacred prostitution and ecstatic forms of worship were conducted in the area around the temple. Local craftspeople also produced and sold idols associated with the worship of this goddess.

Into this chaotic, heathen city came Paul, preaching the Gospel. Several Gentiles in the city responded to his message and became Christians. A fledgling church was established. After working to create a solid faith foundation for these former pagans, Paul moved on to other cities. From time to time, Paul heard disturbing reports about the church at Corinth.

Many biblical scholars believe that the book that we now call 1 Corinthians was a letter written in response to one of these reports. Paul penned these words of advice and correction to address a number of important issues that faced that congregation.

One of these issues was glossolalia—commonly known as speaking in unknown tongues. It seems that, in their previous pagan worship services, forms of ecstatic speech were interpreted as a sign of special favor with the gods. The Corinthians, when converted, brought these forms of ecstatic expression into their Christian worship. The unruly use of glossolalia was causing disruption in the fellowship.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul attempted to address the inappropriate display and the disruptions that it caused. But rather than focusing exclusively on the misuse of glossolalia, Paul provided the longest, most complete teaching on the topic of spiritual gifts in the New Testament.

Ephesians 4:1-15

Read Ephesians 4:1-15. As you read, consider the following questions:

- According to verses 1 and 2, describe the “calling to which we have been called.”
- In verses 3-6, how is the theme of unity described?
- Who receives a spiritual gift? (Verse 7)
- List the spiritual gifts named in this passage. (Verse 11)
- Why are spiritual gifts given? (Verse 12)
- What image of the church is used in this passage?
- How does this image of the church relate to the idea of Christian body building”?

Background Information

In his teachings about spiritual gifts in the book of Romans, Paul gave individual Christians advice about how to discover the will of God. In that book, he told the reader to present his or her entire life as a living sacrifice. He urged the reader to avoid a life based on the principles of this world; rather he counseled the individual to come to a new understanding of God's principles and how these principles might be played out in the world. His advice to the individual Christian was in order to discover the will of God for your life, discover and use your spiritual gifts! In his letter to the Christians at Ephesus, Paul shifted his attention from the commitment of the individual Christian to the commitments displayed in the life of the church. In his view, the church was a unique community established by God to continue the work of Jesus Christ. While Romans 12 focused on the person and his or her giftedness, Ephesians 4 focused on the church and its community giftedness.

Background Information

While Paul often wrote to specific churches with which he had some associations, this epistle from Peter was probably circulated among a number of churches in rural Asia Minor. It is further believed that the letter was written in response to a local or regional persecution of Christians.

As a respected leader of the church in Jerusalem, a letter above the signature of Peter would have carried much weight with these persecuted Christians. They would have been comforted and challenged by his words of support and advice. It is also important to note that two of the major leaders of the New Testament church wrote about spiritual gifts—Paul, writing to three separate and prominent congregations, and Peter, writing a general epistle with a wide circulation. These key leaders felt that developing insights into giftedness was important in discovering the will of God, in settling a church controversy, in describing how the church should function, and in providing stability in the face of persecution.

Developing an understanding of giftedness was very important to those first century Christians, for a variety of reasons. The same can be said of our contemporary context; giftedness is an equally important concept for twenty-first century Christians

Stewards of the Grace of God

1 Peter 4:7-14

Read 1 Peter 4:7-14 and answer the following questions:

- Describe the overall tone of this passage.
- According to verse 10, who receives a spiritual gift?
- Which spiritual gifts are identified in this passage? (Verse 11a)
- According to verse 11b, why are spiritual gifts given?
- Based on your reading of this passage, what have you learned about spiritual gifts?

Integrate the Results of Your Inductive Study

Congratulations! You have completed the first part of your inductive study of spiritual giftedness. Now it is time to integrate the results of your study. Complete the assignments listed in the following:

What common themes, images, and words did you find in these four passages? List them in the space below:

In the space below, list all of the spiritual gifts that you discovered in your reading of the four passages. Depending on the version or versions of the Bible that you used, you should have found between 20 and 22 different gifts.

Incorporating everything that you have learned in this study, write your definition of a spiritual gift.

Based on your understanding of giftedness, respond to the following questions:

Assuming that talents are abilities received at birth or skills developed over time, what is the difference between talents and spiritual gifts? Are the two related? If so, how?

A well-meaning Christian says, "I have no spiritual gifts." How would you respond to this person?

To what extent is this statement consistent with your understanding of giftedness?

Spiritual gifts are congregational, not personal.

This study is based was developed around the following definition of a "spiritual gift:"

A Spiritual Gifts is an ability, skill, or talent given through the activity of the Holy Spirit working in the life of each individual Christian. Collectively, the spiritual gifts possessed by the members of a local congregation enable that congregation as the body of Christ to perform the mission and ministry to which it has been called by God.

How does your definition compare with this definition? What points of clarification would you raise? Record your responses in the space below:

Congratulations! You have successfully completed an inductive Bible study of the four New Testament passages that describe spiritual giftedness. The next section of the study contains A Spiritual Gifts Inventory designed to help you identify your own individual gifts.

A Spiritual Gifts Inventory

A Spiritual Gifts Inventory is a personal assessment tool developed to assist you in the process of identifying which spiritual gifts you may possess. This inventory consists of one hundred (100) statements. Some of these statements communicate concrete actions; some are descriptive terms; others are statements of personal values and beliefs.

Directions As you read each statement, decide to what extent that statement is characteristic of or descriptive of you (as you are now, not as you might like to be). Use the following scale to make your assessment: Select the appropriate numerical response for each item and record that number in the space provided. Read each statement once and record your initial reactions; do not spend too much time on any one item. In general, your immediate response is the best one. Please response to each item.

- 5Highly Characteristic of Me (90% or more of the time)
- 4 Very Characteristic of Me (75%)
- 3Mildly Characteristic of Me (50%)
- 2 Only Somewhat Characteristic of Me (25%)
- 1Not At All Characteristic of Me (Less than 10% of the time)

- 1 ___ I love to praise God through singing or playing a musical instrument.
- 2 ___ I always tell the whole truth, as I see it, even when it difficult or unpopular to do so.
- 3 ___ Looking back on my faith pilgrimage, I can identify specific situations in which my personal experience and God’s Truth have interacted in powerful ways.
- 4 ___ I am a biblical scholar.
- 5 ___ In a classroom context, I am able to explain God’s Truth in such a way that others are able to understand it and apply it to daily Christian living.
- 6 ___ I take initiative to help others grow in their faith.
- 7 ___ I actively seek opportunities to share the Gospel message with persons who have not yet professed faith in Jesus Christ.
- 8 ___ I feel spiritually refreshed and closer to God when I pray in tongues.
- 9 ___ When I see a person struggling with a problem, I am compelled to offer words of support and encouragement.
- 10 ___ Shortly after I meet a person for the first time, I have a good sense of that person’s character and abilities.
- 11 ___ When visitors come to my place of business or my church, I make sure that I meet them and talk to them.

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- 12 ___ It is important for me to know the names of as many members of my church as possible.
- 13 ___ I empathize with people who suffer physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual distress.
- 14 ___ I have an acute awareness of such emotions as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger in others.
- 15 ___ When I see a person in need, I immediately take action to provide assistance.
- 16 ___ The first and most important goal for the church is to serve humanity in the name of Christ.
- 17 ___ God owns all of my "possessions." I serve as God's steward of those resources.
- 18 ___ I sense when others need prayer support.
- 19 ___ I seem to be "out front" in faith ventures, and others often follow my lead.
- 20 ___ I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
- 21 ___ In congregational worship, music is a spiritual aide to worship, not a performance.
- 22 ___ When I discover a new insight in the Bible, I am eager to tell other people what I have learned.
- 23 ___ It is quite natural for me to embody biblical truth in my daily life.
- 24 ___ I find it easy to identify complex spiritual insights—in the Bible, in literature, in art—wherever these insights might be found.
- 25 ___ I believe that Sunday School should be a "laboratory for Christian living," not a lecture hall.
- 26 ___ I am often asked to give spiritual guidance to others.
- 27 ___ I believe that the first and most important goal of the church is to win persons to Jesus Christ.
- 28 ___ God has enabled me to interpret messages spoken in a heavenly language.
- 29 ___ People who need comfort, reassurance, and encouragement often seek my help.
- 30 ___ Often, I am able to affirm skills and gifts in other people that they may not see in themselves.
- 31 ___ I make strangers and newcomers feel comfortable when I meet them.
- 32 ___ I enjoy introducing members of my church family who do not know one another
- 33 ___ I take the initiative to help people who are hurting

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34___I have immediate compassion for persons who have spiritual, emotional, or physical pain.

35___While my own needs and the needs of my family are important to me, I still feel a driving desire to address the needs of strangers and the underprivileged.

36___I think of cleaning, typing, caring for buildings, ushering, caring for children, mowing, setting up chairs and other acts of service as significant ways to worship God.

37___I carefully manage my own income in order to share my financial resources with those in need.

38___When I hear a request for prayer, I immediately begin to offer prayers of intercession.

39___I have clear dreams and visions about new ministries that our congregation might offer.

40___I am energized by organizing a project, working out the details, getting the right people in the right places, and accomplishing the objectives.

41___After I have sung or played music in worship, members of the congregation have told me that they felt a special sense of God's presence.

42___I am sensitive to issues of right and wrong, of justice and injustice. I am compelled to express my opinions on these issues.

43___When faced with difficult choices, I find it best to make decisions based on biblical principles, not on immediate consequences, no matter how appealing those consequences may be.

44___I enjoy the challenge of exploring passages of scripture that are controversial or difficult to interpret.

45___I am aware of the ways in which the gathered life of the congregation educates the preschoolers, children, youth, and adults of the church family.

46___When I see others grappling with issues of faith, I am willing to listen to their stories and to support them in their struggles.

47___I have led many people to make an initial commitment to Jesus Christ.

48___I often sense that praying in tongues strengthens and encourages my spirit.

49___By living out my faith daily, I encourage and motivate others to do the same.

50___I have a good sense of "the right person for the right job."

51___New people are not strangers—they are just friends in the making

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52___At church, I intentionally try to create a warm and caring environment for fellowship and spiritual growth.

53___I often feel compelled to pray for the physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual well-being of others.

54___Care giving (in nursing homes, hospitals, hospice situations, etc.) is a part of my personal ministry.

55___I enjoy helping other people as a direct expression of my Christian faith.

56___Because of the special closeness to God that I feel when I do any kind of ministry, I am quick to volunteer.

57___I experience a deep sense of joy when I share my resources with others.

58___Of all spiritual disciplines, prayer is my favorite

59___At a time when there was tension and discord in my church family, I provided a stabilizing presence and a clear head.

60___All ministries should be amply planned, sufficiently staffed, and carried out to the fullest detail.

61___When I sing or play music, I feel a special sense of God's presence flowing through me.

62___I see clear connections between biblical truths and contemporary life. I am compelled to express these connections publicly.

63___The biblical themes of love, righteousness, grace, and peace, though very complex and rich in meaning, are easy for me to translate into practical acts in my daily life and in the life of the congregation.

64___While the names, dates, and places identified in the Bible are important, the meanings and overtones of biblical themes and principles are more important.

65___I find it stimulating to explore how biblical truth impacts my own life and I am moved to share my discoveries with others.

66___I have led other Christians to explore and develop their own personal ministries and their role in the overall ministry of the church.

67___I actively cultivate friendships with persons who do not profess faith in Jesus Christ.

68___I enjoy studying scripture about the gift of tongues and helping others understand its purpose and proper use.

69___When I see potential in another person, I do everything I can to name and to encourage that person to reach his or her potential.

70___I can tell when a person is genuine and honest.

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71___I am happy to open my home to and share my possessions with persons who are new to the neighborhood, community, or church.

72___I like to participate in activities in which all members of the church family are invited to be together and to work together toward a common purpose.

73___God uses my concerns and my efforts as a means to heal the distress of others.

74___I am drawn to people with troubles and special needs, and I get special joy by helping them.

75___I do not need to get recognition for my service to others.

76___I serve others as a way to glorify God.

77___Giving my time, talents, energy, and money is an everyday expression of my Christian commitment.

78___Through my prayers, I believe that I serve as a channel for God's energy and concern.

79___I am able to effectively communicate my own Christian principles to others in such a way that they are also able to articulate their own principles, even if they are different from mine.

80___I enjoy showing others how they can work for God in the church and in the community.

81___I know which musical pieces seem right for specific events in the life of the congregation.

82___As a result of my relationship with God, I have felt compelled to share words of advice, caution, instruction, and encouragement with others.

83___In my faith pilgrimage, I have learned how to discern God's will, both in my personal life and in the life of the congregation.

84___It is obvious to me how biblical stories and teachings relate to universal human needs.

85___Teaching is more than transmitting biblical truth; teaching is embodying biblical truth in such a way that students are motivated to do the same.

86___I encourage other Christians to think theologically about their life experience.

87___I have a strong desire to tell others about the impact that Jesus Christ has in my life.

88___I believe that the gift of tongues should be used to glorify God and to build up the body of Christ.

89___I am able to help others who are troubled, depressed, or confused.

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90___I often affirm the gifts of persons who are trying new avenues of ministry and service.

91___My home tends to be a gathering place for friends, neighbors, and other guests.

92___The first and most important goal of the church is to create a sense of Christian community.

93___Through my advice, touch, or prayer, people experience physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual healing.

94___I empathize with the feelings of those in distress.

95___I am drawn to people with troubles and special needs.

96___I enjoy working behind the scenes to meet the physical needs of others.

97___My stewardship of resources is motivated by joy and gratitude, not a sense of duty.

98___I am often moved to pray for others, even though I do not know them.

99___Through my initiative, my congregation has developed a new and exciting ministry.

100___When I take on projects, my planning, detail work, and supervision lead to a good end result and a cooperative spirit among participants.

For scoring directions, please turn to the next page.

Directions for Scoring the Inventory

Transfer your numerical responses to each statement to the appropriate place in the table below. Write a number in each space. When all responses have been transferred to the table, total the number in each row. Record the totals in the last column of the table.

	#	Resp.	#	Resp.	#	Resp.	#	Resp.	Total
Spiritual Gifts	1		21		41		61		81
Music	2		22		42		62		82
Prophecy	3		23		43		63		83
Wisdom	4		24		44		64		84
Knowledge	5		25		45		65		85
Teaching	6		26		46		66		86
Mentoring	7		27		47		67		87
Evangelism	8		28		48		68		88
Tongues	9		29		49		69		89
Exhortation	10		30		50		70		90
Discernment	11		31		51		71		91
Hospitality	12		32		52		72		92
Community Builder	13		33		53		73		93
Healing	14		34		54		74		94
Mercy	15		35		55		75		95
Helps	16		36		56		76		96
Service	17		37		57		77		97
Giving	18		38		58		78		98
Prayer	19		39		59		79		99
Leadership	20		40		60		80		100
Administration									

Each row in the table represents a spiritual gift described in the scriptures. Based on the information that you provided about yourself in the inventory, the total scores recorded in the last column of each row are an indicator of which spiritual gift(s) that you might possess. A high score (between 20 and 25) in one or more 16 of the twenty categories means that you have described yourself as having characteristics highly consistent with that gift. These scores, however, are only an initial indicator of your giftedness. As you continue to explore your giftedness using these materials, please feel free to challenge, to disagree with, or to affirm the results of the inventory as appropriate.

An Initial Listing of My Spiritual Gifts

In the space below, please record the three (3) spiritual gifts on which you received the highest scores:



Tips on Taking and Interpreting the Inventory

1. If you received a high score on several of the gifts (i.e. no one or two gifts stand out among the others), take the inventory a second time and be more discriminating about your responses (i.e. fewer 5's and 4's).
2. If you received low scores on all of the gifts (i.e. no one or two gifts stand out among the others), take the inventory a second time and be less discriminating about your responses (i.e. more 5's and 4's).

Questions for Interpreting the Results of Your Inventory

Do you agree with the results of your inventory?

Were you surprised by any of the results?

Have other persons affirmed these same gifts in you?

Are these gifts consistent with your understanding of your own personality?

Can you identify ways in which these gifts may be integrated and used in ministry?

For More Information

For more information about the nature of the individual gifts listed in this inventory, please turn to the next section—Definitions of the 20 Spiritual Gifts Identified in a Spiritual Gifts Inventory.

Definitions of the Twenty Spiritual Gifts Identified in A Spiritual Gifts Inventory

This section of the study material lists a definition for each of the twenty spiritual gifts described in the inventory. Carefully read all of these definitions in order to develop a better understanding of the meaning of each gift. Focus your attention on those gifts on which you recorded the highest scores in the inventory.

The twenty gifts identified in the inventory and defined below are listed in the four biblical passages that describe giftedness. This material is not meant to be an inclusive list of all spiritual gifts. Many biblical scholars, theologians, pastors, and Christian educators believe that there are many gifts not listed in scripture.

Examples of these other gifts might include craftsmanship, faith, humor, voluntary poverty, martyrdom, and singleness.

As you explore the twenty gifts defined below, you are encouraged to explore other gifts listed in other resources.

Prophecy-The capacity to receive, to reveal, or to interpret God's Truth, publicly, no matter what the consequences.

Knowledge - The capacity to cognitively comprehend the complexities of God's Truth and to explain these complexities to others.

Mentoring - The ability to affirm, to equip, and to support other Christians in spiritual formation and Christian ministry.

Music - The capacity to create or perform lyrics and melodies that lead others to praise God through worship.

Wisdom - The capacity to convincingly illustrate the mystery of God's Truth in very concrete, practical, and specific ways.

Teaching - The capacity to create an environment in which obedience to God's Truth can be practiced.

Discernment - The ability to recognize and to affirm the skills, talents, and spiritual gifts of other people, especially other Christians.

Community Builder - The ability to help create koinonia, that unique type of inclusive fellowship that characterized the early Christian church.

Mercy - The ability to identify with and to feel the pains and hurts of another person and the capacity to help that person move beyond those pains and hurts.

Evangelism - The capacity to discern when and how the Gospel message should be communicated to persons outside the Christian community.

Exhortation - The capacity to inspire, to motivate, and to encourage others in their spiritual formation and personal ministry.

Hospitality - The ability to meet the basic social needs of and to extend care to strangers, persons beyond one's immediate circle of friends.

Healing - A sensitivity to the pains and hurts of other persons and the capacity to participate in addressing these pains and hurts.

Service - The ability to perform the most basic acts of kindness as a means to glorify God and to embody the Gospel.

Tongues - The divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately.

Prayer - The ability to sense whom and for what to pray.

Administration - The ability to organize resources and persons for effective ministry.

Giving - The capacity to manage one's own resources (income, time, energy, skills, and gifts) in such a way that there is more than enough to share with other people.

Helps - The ability and overwhelming desire to aid persons in need.

Leadership - The ability to understand one's own principles and vision, to communicate those principles and visions to others, and to challenge others to move into the future, all in a nonreactive way.

Continuing to Learn About and Apply Your Spiritual Gifts

After identifying your spiritual gifts, it is important to nurture them for God's glory and the edification of His church.

The Greek word koinonia (κοινωνία) is a New Testament term that is most commonly translated as fellowship, communion, participation, or sharing. It refers to a deep, spiritual connection and partnership among believers, rooted in their shared faith in Christ and their relationship with God.

Biblical Context of Koinonia

Koinonia is used to describe the intimate bond of fellowship that Christians experience:

1. With God: Through the Holy Spirit, believers share in communion with God (1 John 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14).
2. With Other Believers: Christians are united in Christ and called to live in loving fellowship with one another, sharing life, resources, and burdens (Acts 2:42, Philippians 2:1).

Modern Application of Koinonia

Koinonia challenges believers to cultivate deep, authentic relationships with God and with one another, characterized by:

- Unity: Pursuing oneness in Christ despite differences (Ephesians 4:3).
- Generosity: Sharing resources, time, and support with others in need (2 Corinthians 8:4).
- Encouragement: Building up one another in love and faith (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- Service: Partnering in ministry and mission to spread the Gospel (Philippians 1:5).

Koinonia goes beyond surface-level friendships or gatherings. It involves living life together as a spiritual family, sharing joys and burdens, and working as partners in God's mission.

Continuing to Learn About and Apply Your Spiritual Gifts

Another crucial aspect of koinonia, or Christian fellowship as defined in the New Testament, is the discovering, developing, celebrating, and sharing of our spiritual gifts. In the list of gifts associated with this study, at least four spiritual gifts are specially associated with this type of koinonia fellowship—exhortation, discernment, hospitality, and community builder. Prayerfully, our church is blessed with many members who possess and use these gifts to call forth the gifts of others. There are, however, several strategies that each member of our church can use to assist in the development of a koinonia fellowship.

Here are practical steps to help you grow:

1. Pray for Guidance and Confirmation

Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal how He wants you to use your spiritual gifts.

Seek confirmation through scripture, reflection, and advice from trusted spiritual mentors.

2. Study Biblical Examples

Dive deeper into passages like Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12–14, and Ephesians 4.

Reflect on how biblical figures used their gifts and learn from their examples.

3. Seek Mentorship

Connect with a mentor or ministry leader who has maturity in a similar gift.

Observe and learn from their experiences while seeking guidance on how to refine your gifts.

4. Serve in a Ministry or Small Group

Join a ministry within the church where your gifts can be exercised (e.g., teaching, hospitality, intercession, service).

Small groups are safe spaces to practice your gifts and receive feedback.

5. Be Open to Feedback

Share your spiritual gifts with trusted church members and leaders. Invite constructive feedback to help you refine and grow in your understanding and application of your gifts.

6. Take Action Consistently

Look for opportunities to use your gifts regularly in real-life situations.

Examples include:

Teaching: Lead Bible studies or teach Sunday School.

Hospitality: Host fellowship events or welcome newcomers.

Intercession: Commit to prayer for individuals and ministries.

7. Attend Workshops or Classes

Participate in workshops or classes that focus on specific spiritual gifts. Learn from guest speakers or ministry experts to gain deeper insights and training.

8. Collaborate with Others

Partner with individuals who have complementary gifts to achieve ministry goals.

Example: A leader can work with those gifted in service or administration to organize outreach events.

9. Journal and Reflect

Keep a journal to record how you are using your gifts and the lessons learned from each experience.

Reflect regularly on how God is working through you and shaping your spiritual journey.

10. Commit to a Lifelong Journey

Understanding and applying spiritual gifts is a lifelong process.

Stay committed to growing in faith, studying scripture, and serving the body of Christ as God expands your gifts.

Let's Work Together:

God has uniquely equipped you with spiritual gifts to make an impact for His kingdom. If you have questions or need guidance, reach out to your ministry leaders or pastors. Let's walk this journey together as we grow in Christ and build His Ekklesia!

