

## DSBC - DISCOVERING MY MINISTRY CLASS 301

(Primary Source: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO KNOW: Part 10 Spiritual Gifts by Adrian Rogers)

In this class, you'll learn how to **discover** your giftedness and have a **ministry** in our church.

**Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.**

**Every Christian is responsible to do ministry.**

***Ephesians 4:11-12** Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.*

**We minister to God:**

***1 Corinthians 10:31** So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

**to other Christians:**

***Hebrews 6:10** For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.*

**and to unbelievers:**

***Matthew 5:14-15** "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

### 1. Christians Best Minister By DISCOVERING and USING Our SPIRITUAL GIFT(S).

***1 Corinthians 12:7** A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*

God gives a spiritual gift(s) to every **CHRISTIAN** at the moment of **SALVATION**. It's up to us to **DISCOVER** and **USE** them. A spiritual gift is **NOT** a natural talent; it's a **SUPERNATURAL ABILITY**, given by God **FOR SERVICE TO HIM**, and for the benefit of **OTHER CHRISTIANS** – the church. A spiritual gift may be **LINKED** to natural talents, but it goes beyond natural talents.

**Paul gave three different lists of spiritual gifts, and none of the lists are the same.** It's safe to say that these lists don't include **EVERY** spiritual gift, so we can't limit them just to these.

Here's a good rule: **FIND OUT WHAT GOD BLESSES WHEN YOU DO IT – AND DO IT!**

Peter mentioned spiritual gifts in **1 Peter 4:10-11**, but here are the two main lists:

***Romans 12:6-8** In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to **prophecy**, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is **servicing** others, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, teach well. <sup>8</sup> If your gift is to **encourage** others, be encouraging. If it is **giving**, give generously. If God has given you **leadership** ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing **kindness** to others, do it gladly.*

***1 Corinthians 12:8-10** To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give **wise advice**; to another the same Spirit gives a message of **special knowledge**. <sup>9</sup> The same Spirit gives great **faith** to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of **healing**. <sup>10</sup> He gives one person the power to perform*

*miracles, and another the ability to **prophecy**. He gives someone else the ability to **discern** whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to **speak in unknown languages**, while another is given the ability to **interpret** what is being said.*

God doesn't **GIFT US** for our own **ENJOYMENT**, but for **EMPLOYMENT**! Our spiritual gifts are **TOOLS**, not **TOYS**! **My gift will bless YOU and your gift will bless ME**. Furthermore, God doesn't **CONSULT US** about our gifts. He gives us what He wants us to have. We have no choice in the matter. God knows how He made us and He knows what we're best at.

**1 Corinthians 12:11** *It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*

## **A. THREE BASIC CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

Since the lists given in the Bible aren't the same and must not be **EXCLUSIVE** – they must not be the **ONLY** spiritual gifts - **it helps to group the gifts**. No matter what our gift is, it will fall under one of these categories to be used for one of these purposes to build up the church.

### **1. Teaching/Leadership Gifts**

All of these involve leading a group, taking charge, speaking out, and presenting God's truth. Everyone is called to be **EVANGELISTIC** – to share the Gospel – but not everyone is called to **LEAD GROUPS OF PEOPLE**. If you don't have one of these gifts but try to serve in a way that requires them, you'll hate what you're doing, not be very good at it, or both.

**a. Leadership (Romans 12:8)** – the ability to see the big picture and to bring coordination and cooperation for a common goal, for God's glory. Leadership requires standing before a group, giving vision, and pointing out the way.

Paul focused on the leadership gifts for the local church in his **Ephesians 4** list: **Ephesians 4:11-12** *Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, and the **pastors and teachers**. **12** Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.*

**b. Prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:10, Romans 12:6)** – the ability to speak for God. Most people think of "**predicting the future**" when they think of a prophet, and the Biblical prophets did some of that. But mostly, they **REMINDED PEOPLE OF THE TRUTH GOD HAD PREVIOUSLY REVEALED**. The **SPIRITUAL GIFT OF PROPHECY** is reminding people of God's truth. In no way does this gift mean that God gives **NEW TEACHING/INSTRUCTION/TRUTH** to people today. There is **NO NEW REVELATION FROM GOD**. He gave us **everything He wanted us to have**. We don't need **NEW** word from God; we need to obey the Word He's already given us.

**c. Teaching (Romans 12:7)** – the ability to clarify truth. The prophet **DECLARES** truth, while the teacher desires to **EXPLAIN IT**. Teachers like to learn, study, and present truth, and they have to stand before a group.

**d. Encouragement (Romans 12:8)** – the ability to help others grow in their faith and love Jesus more. Encouragers like to counsel others by showing the practical side of things and the action steps necessary to mature spiritually. They see problems as tools for growth.

**e. Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)** – the ability to see life from God’s perspective and to share it with others. Wisdom isn’t intelligence or common sense. It doesn’t come from education, but from God. The gift of wisdom results in helping others **see what God is doing and how they can follow Him**.

**f. Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)** – the ability to know if something is of God or of Satan. Lots of stuff that’s **SPIRITUAL** isn’t of God. Never equate “**spirituality**” with Christianity. Satan is the prince of this world and God has given him permission to work here on earth. He’s the master deceiver and “**spirituality**” is one of his weapons.

## 2. Service Gifts

Not every Christian is called to teach or lead a group. Some are called to **SERVE** and that’s where they find their fulfillment and passion. Jesus’ life was marked by service. Every Christian is a **SERVANT** and **MUST SERVE**, but some are called to **SPECIFIC** roles of service.

**When the teachers/leaders are allowed to use their gifts because the servants are using theirs**, everyone is serving from their giftedness and you have a **well-oiled machine**. But when people try to do things **OUTSIDE** their giftedness, it doesn’t work, they aren’t happy or fulfilled, the machine is a big rattle trap, and ministry is a **BURDEN**.

**a. Service/Ministry (Romans 12:7)** – meeting spiritual needs in a practical way. People with this gift are motivated to help by **DOING** – whatever may be necessary to make a task work properly or better. Much service/ministry takes place behind the scenes, which makes it possible for those with teaching/leadership gifts to focus on their own areas of giftedness. These people don’t care who gets the credit.

**b. Giving (Romans 12:8)** – using your own resources to help others. We’re all commanded to give, but some people are **GIFTED** in giving. They entrust their own possessions and assets to God’s work and for God’s work. They tend to be skilled with finances and are wise in financial decisions.

**c. Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)** – This isn’t saving faith, because that’s common to **ALL** Christians. This is an unusual ability to trust God for special needs.

Kelley and I took Kate “home” with us to Embassy Suites in Raleigh on Friday, August 12. On Saturday, we had to go to the store and we took Kate. Walking to the truck, we passed a group of ladies and they wanted to see Kate. From their words, they sounded like Christians, so I said, **“If y’all don’t mind, please pray for us. We’re adopting her and we won’t know if we get to keep her until next Friday.”** One of them smiled and

said something like, *“Don’t even worry about it. It’s done, it’s done. We’ll pray believing that God’s going to work this out. That’s your daughter.”* I had doubt. That lady had faith – and it wasn’t even her problem.

**d. Mercy (Romans 12:8)** – the ability to identify with people, bring comfort to those who are in distress, and to show compassion. Compassion is pity/concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. People with the gift of mercy focus on the pain instead of what the person in distress may have done. (By contrast, a person with the prophetic gift might **FIRST** say, *“This wouldn’t have happened if you had obeyed God.”*)

### 3. Sign Gifts

The sign gifts were given to **AUTHENTICATE (to prove as true/real)** the work of the prophets and apostles. **Today, they are not NORMATIVE** – regularly occurring. They appear in only one book of the New Testament **outside of Acts** (which is **NOT NORMATIVE**), and in that church (Corinth), these gifts were causing **PROBLEMS**.

These gifts were **ABSENT** from church life for most of the history of the church – until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – and now, the only sign gift most Christians claim to have is the one that can’t be **PROVED OR DISPROVED** – the gift of **TONGUES**. With the widespread claim to the gift of tongues has come **CONTROVERSY, NOT THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH**.

I refuse to say that these gifts no longer exist. I’m not the judge of whether or not someone is truly speaking in tongues, **and I don't want to be!** God gave these gifts in the past and He can give them whenever He chooses. At the same time, we must recognize that the sign gifts come with the problems I just mentioned. (If you want to know more about these issues, ask me for the lesson on **Pentecostal Churches** from my **2016 Denominational Study**.)

**a. Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)** – the ability to know things that are impossible to know without divine intuition or revelation. Peter knew that Ananias and Sapphira were lying about money in **Acts 5**.

Satan counterfeits this gift and you see people who claim to have it on TV - psychics.

**b. Healings (1 Corinthians 12:9)** – the ability to bring instant, divine healing to the sick/lame. **I’ve never heard of anyone, outside the Bible, who had the gift of healing.**

God heals some people by miracle and some people by **medicine**. He heals some people **instantly**, and He heals other people in **time**. Thank God for **doctors**. **Luke**, the man who wrote the Books of **Luke** and **Acts**, was a medical doctor. Jesus said in **Mark 2:17**, *“Healthy people don’t need a doctor – sick people do.”*

People on TV who claim to have the gift of healing are con artists who worship money and fame, not Jesus. If they truly loved Jesus and truly had the gift of healing, they

wouldn't **PERFORM** in auditoriums and charge admission. *Adrian Rogers appropriately said, "I believe the hottest part of hell is reserved for people who merchandise people's maladies and sicknesses and pains with some charlatan act of healing."*

**c. Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10)** – the ability to perform supernatural feats. **I've never heard of anyone, outside the Bible, who had the gift of miracles.**

I believe God does miracles – supernatural feats – all the time. Maybe you've experienced something that couldn't be explained in any other way. **But don't go looking for people who have the gift of miracles. John the Baptist** didn't do any miracles, but his ministry was **second in power** only to Jesus. On the other hand, Jesus did all kinds of miracles and most people rejected Him. **People who need to see miracles to trust Jesus probably wouldn't trust Him if they got their miracles.** We come to Jesus because we **love** Him or we don't come to Him at all.

**d. Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)** – the ability to speak in an unknown language.

Paul gave instructions for speaking in tongues in worship in **1 Corinthians 14**: no more than **two** or **three** people should speak in tongues, they must **speak one** at a **time**, and there must be someone to **interpret** what's being said. If there is no interpreter, tongues isn't allowed in worship. And he gave this as the reason:

**1 Corinthians 14:33** *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace . . .*

## 2. DISCOVERING OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Sadly, many Christians have **NO IDEA** what their spiritual gift(s) is, primarily because they don't do what's necessary to **DISCOVER** them:

### A. SURRENDER

**Romans 12:1** *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

Surrender isn't necessary **JUST** at salvation, but **DAILY!** We have to **DIE TO SELF DAILY!** A sacrifice requires **DEATH**. We have to **KILL** our own will and surrender to God's will.

God can't fill us or use us when we're full of **SELF!** But when we give God permission to use us however He wants, He shows us what He made us to do in the first place.

### B. SERVE

**Romans 12:4-5** *Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

We can serve without being surrendered, but we won't **ENJOY** it. First comes **SURRENDER**, and then comes **SERVICE**. If you don't already know your gift(s), get busy! **Lazy people**

**never learn their gift(s).** Find out what your church needs help with and **HELP!** Get **INVOLVED!** **INVOLVED** means more than membership; it means being an active, contributing, necessary part.

You may try 10 things before you find your **AREA OF GIFTEDNESS**, but you'll know it when you find it.

As we serve in different areas, we discover what seems **NATURAL** and what gives us **JOY** and **FULFILLMENT**. We also discover areas that feel **UNNATURAL**, and they're more of a burden than a joy. Other Christians notice our gifts, too, **OFTEN BEFORE WE DO**. They encourage us to use our gifts and they give us opportunities to use them. Look for areas where you're particularly **EFFECTIVE**, and look for others to **CONFIRM** your effectiveness in that area. **Discovering our spiritual gift(s) isn't a game or a maze; it happens as we SERVE.**

As we use our gifts for God's glory, the Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS** us and gives us **CONFIRMATION** that we're doing exactly what God made us to do.

*1 Timothy 1:12 "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him . . ."*

### C. FIVE WARNINGS/CAUTIONS

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).  
**Fruit** shows my **MATURITY**. **Gifts** are shown through my **MINISTRY**.
3. Don't expect everybody else to have **YOUR** gifts, or to serve like you, or to get the same results (good or bad) as you.
4. Don't think that your gift makes you superior to others.

*1 Corinthians 12:18-21 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. <sup>19</sup>How strange a body would be if it had only one part! <sup>20</sup>Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*

5. Know that using your gift without love is worthless.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.*

## 3. HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN MINISTRY

### A. Ministering With Your Abilities and Interests

Think about how you are made. What do you do **well**? What do you **enjoy**? Where do those things **OVERLAP**? Just because you do something well, it doesn't mean you enjoy it.

And just because you enjoy something, it doesn't mean you do it well. But there **ARE** some things you both **ENJOY** and are **GOOD** at.

**Now, is there a way for you to MINISTER through those things?** You may have never considered that. And just because we don't currently have a ministry at our church in those areas, it doesn't mean we **CAN'T** or **SHOULDN'T**. Maybe you're the one to start it.

For example, former divorcees who lead the ministry "**DivorceCare**."

**LIST SOME THINGS YOU ENJOY DOING**

**LIST SOME THINGS YOU ARE GOOD AT**

**"PEOPLE COMPLIMENT ME WHEN . . ."**

**Notice, the SERVICE/MINISTRY gifts have unlimited applications.** They allow you to use the areas you're good at and enjoy doing to build up the church/help others.

- Some people have used their skill with auto mechanics to help others in their church at little or no cost. Some of them have a special compassion for the elderly or single mothers.
- Some people are great handymen and donate some time each month to help church members who can't afford needed home repairs.
- Some take meals to the homebound or take those who can't drive grocery shopping.

Even if it takes you **YEARS** to discover that you have a **TEACHING/LEADERSHIP** gift, you can be serving in **other ways** - and we have **NO EXCUSE NOT TO BE SERVING IN OTHER WAYS**. Every member should be a **FUNCTIONING** part of our church, not just an attender.

Abilities without God are just **TALENTS**.

Abilities with God are **OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY**.

### **B. Ministering With Your Personality**

Some personalities are naturally suited for some ministries but not others.

**Write your name in the space below:**

**Now write your name with your opposite hand:**

What happened the second time you wrote your name? Does this describe it?  
***"I felt uncomfortable." "It took extra time and effort." "I didn't do it well."***

The same things are true when we try to minister in areas that aren't suited to our personality. There's not a **RIGHT** or **WRONG** personality. God loves variety and He made us all a little different. **The personality you were born with is hard to change.** *Kelley and I are both natural introverts. Kate is a natural extrovert. She talks to people no matter where we are and seeks out attention. Nobody had to teach her those things: she was born that way. I can try to impose my introverted nature on her, but it will only frustrate her **AND** me.*

**We're not going to do a full personality test, but consider these four questions:**

- 1. HOW AM I AROUND OTHER PEOPLE?**
- 2. HOW DO I MAKE MY DECISIONS?**
- 3. HOW DO I HANDLE MY RELATIONSHIPS?**
- 4. HOW DO I USE MY TIME?**

**1. Around others I am more RESERVED/OUTGOING:**

**Outgoing:** social and energized by people; lonely when not with people; last to leave; easily connect with strangers; lots of relationships.

**Reserved:** drained by people; not bothered by being alone; likes solo activities or just a few people; enjoys others but feels drained afterwards; limited relationships.

**2. My decisions are based more on FACTS/THINKING or FEELINGS:**

**Facts/Thinking:** likes facts, trusts facts; rooted in reality; appreciates past experience; notices details; practical.

**Feelings:** scan, glance, miss details because head is in the clouds; futuristic thinking; doesn't care about past, wants to know what's ahead; great imagination; speculative and works on hunches; doesn't care what's practical.

**3. In my relationships I tend to be more DEPENDENT/INDEPENDENT:**

**Dependent:** needs people; high expectations of others; rely on people to be there during tough times; need others to validate me; need to talk feelings out; external.

**Independent:** doesn't need others; low expectations of others; rely on self to get through tough times; seek validation from self; figure out my own feelings; internal.

**4. My use of time is more DETERMINED/SPONTANEOUS:**

**Determined:** fixed; organized; plan ahead; closure; deadlines

**Spontaneous:** flexible; adapt as you go; open ended; plenty of time so what's the rush?

- How does your personality give you a natural advantage for some areas of ministry and a natural disadvantage for others?**
- Do you see/recognize that your personality is suited for some ministries and not others?**

- **What happens when a person with a personality NOT SUITED for a particular ministry is trying to serve in that area? What should the person in that situation do?**

### **C. Ministering With Your Past Experiences**

*Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

*Philippians 1:12-13 And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. <sup>13</sup> For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ.*

Often, our greatest potential for ministry comes directly from our past experiences, particularly our past **PAINFUL** experiences.

*2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. <sup>9</sup> Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. <sup>10</sup> That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

God uses our experiences to help others, with or without our consent. We can be a great example, even of what **NOT** to do, and even if we aren't trying to teach anybody anything. But it's **MUCH BETTER** to be a **WILLING PARTICIPANT** as God uses us for His glory.

Think about these areas:

- **YOUR SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES:** How you came to know Jesus; How decisions you've made both for and against God worked out; Your history with God.
- **YOUR PAINFUL EXPERIENCES:** Your problems, hurts, sufferings, etc., whether you brought them on yourself or not, and the lessons you've learned from them.
- **YOUR EXPERIENCES AS AN UNBELIEVER:** What was your life like before you surrendered to Jesus? How is your life different as a Christian?

To complete this class you must take a **Spiritual Gift Inventory** that's available on our website.  
<https://www.doublesprings.org/spiritual-gifts/>

In conclusion to this whole class on **DISCOVERING MY MINISTRY**, we'll never feel as **USEFUL** as when we're **INVOLVED** in a local church, doing what God made us to do.

**DSBC - Discovering My Ministry Class 301 Covenant**

1. TO DISCOVER MY GIFT(S), I WILL SURRENDER TO GOD DAILY AND I WILL SERVE MY CHURCH IN VARIOUS WAYS TO SEE WHAT BRINGS ME JOY/WHAT GOD BLESSES WHEN I DO IT.
2. I WILL DISCOVER THE BASICS OF MY PERSONALITY AND WHAT AREAS OF MINISTRY I AM NATURALLY SUITED FOR AND NOT SUITED FOR.
3. I WILL TAKE THE SPIRITUAL GIFT INVENTORY AND TURN IT IN WITH THIS COVENANT FORM.
4. I WILL USE MY SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) IN MINISTRY AT DSBC.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_