

# Discovering your spiritual gifts...

[Click here for the Spiritual Gifts Discovery tool](#)

## What is a spiritual gift?

“Spiritual gifts are special divine abilities given to every Christian, by the grace of God, through the Holy Spirit, to be used to serve and strengthen one another, and to glorify God.”<sup>1</sup>

The important things to note in this excellent description are that these abilities are given by the Holy Spirit, we do not choose them for ourselves. They are given to *every* Christian as a gift, they are not something we have earned, and they are given to fulfill God’s purposes and call upon our lives.

## How are spiritual gifts different from talents or skills?

Talents can stem from a person’s spiritual gifts but they are two distinct types of abilities. While every person has certain talents, they are often based on physical attributes and can be influenced by personal choice or developed through training and experience. Spiritual gifts are given to Christians only by the Holy Spirit and are broader abilities meant to both build up the body of Christian believers and to glorify God. Look at the differences in these examples...

### Spiritual Gifts:

Teaching: divinely able to understand and clearly explain the word of God.

Mercy: divinely able to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need.

Evangelism: divinely able to communicate the Gospel to unbelievers.

### Talents:

Fast swimmer

Good at solving puzzles

Sings on key

Tasteful decorator

## Why is it important for me to know my spiritual gifts?

Discovering your unique spiritual gifts will help you to understand God’s design and purpose for your life. Also, your relationship with God can grow and mature as you allow Him to work through the gifts He has given you.

When you serve God within your giftedness, your ministry efforts will be more effective and personally fulfilling.

## How do I find out what my spiritual gifts are?

Discovering your spiritual gifts is as easy as taking the [online assessment tool](#) provided. It will only take a few minutes but will provide great insight into the way God has individually designed you to be His beloved disciple. When choosing a ministry in which to serve, it is most fruitful to consider those that are a good match to your strongest three or four spiritual gifts. This information will be provided at the end of your assessment. For additional help contact Beth Federman in the Office of Lay Ministry at [bfederman@hillsideumc.org](mailto:bfederman@hillsideumc.org) or at 770-924-4777 x114.

## Scriptural references to explore...

Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:1-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11

<sup>1</sup> Cartmill, Carol and Gentile, Yvonne. [Serving from the Heart](#). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.