

UNDERSTANDING MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

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INTRODUCTION

The following verses of the Bible give us the motivational gifts.

Rom 12:6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

Rom 12:7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

Rom 12:8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The seven motivational gifts are:

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leadership/Administration
- Mercy

The motivational gifts are spiritual gifts from our physical birth, which add to our natural spiritual abilities. We may have expressed them in part from birth, but supernatural power is increased to them when you are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. Like the natural gifts, we must discover, develop them, and use them according to God's plan for our lives. From the beginning, God planned and equipped us with all our gifts to fulfill His plan.

YOUR MOTIVATIONAL IDENTITY

Motivational gifts show what makes us tick. We experience success, satisfaction, fulfillment, and happiness when we use them to express our inner inclinations and identity.

The understanding of motivational gifts is essential to unlocking the ability to understand yourself and others. It will help you to observe and direct your spiritual, mental, and behavioral patterns.

Psychologists implemented a similar concept with attitude and intelligence tests. These tests can be helpful but of limited impact, because they consider only the mental dimension and ignore the spiritual one.

In addition to Motivational Gifts, God gave us some other spiritual gifts when we were born again. These gifts include the Charismatic Gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and the Ministry Gifts in Ephesians 4. As believers who understand the eternal importance of

the spiritual realm, we see that we must consider spiritual gifts in any analysis and insight of ourselves, especially in light of the following Scripture.

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

God designed you before you came into this world and established your potential. Thrust in God's plan for you, and let Him guide you to fulfill your destiny. Who God calls, He also equips. You can know the will of God for your life. Your part is to respond to the call you discovered by the gifts He has given you. Align your will with His Plan by developing the gifts that He has given you. It will result in the best possible outcome for your life.

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

As you identify your spiritual gifts, you start understanding how God wants to use you for His Kingdom. With each discovery, you will see better the invisible thread running through your life and experience an 'a-ha' confirmation or even an 'oh no, that's the one I didn't want to be!'

From the questions I received in teaching about them, I can see that many made discoveries and had confirmations about their gifts. You will make many more valuable discoveries as you study the Scriptures on all the spiritual gifts.

OUR COLORED GLASSES

We interpret reality based on our experience. We develop a strategy to cope with the outer world as infants, which often biases our perspective even as adults.

Note that each gift has a corresponding attitude when you manifest it according to God's intention. You can quickly determine your attitude and the associated judgment.

However, you have experienced many changes and in particular that of being born again. It helps you when you learn to see everything from a new perspective. Now, you must learn to see things from a Kingdom of God perspective. Understanding spiritual gifts will change your life strategy and help you apply your gifts and fulfill your God-given destiny.

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

If you are not active in your church, you are not an operating member of the Body of Christ. You are hurting the body by not contributing and hurting yourself by not developing your gifts.

You will learn how to apply these spiritual discoveries to your life. For now, I will summarize what I shared about motivational gifts. I hope these summaries help you to discover the ones you and others have.

When you know and understand your gifts:

- You can realize why you act as you do.
- You can discern the gifts that others have and can understand and encourage them.

I pray that the Spirit of Revelation will open your eyes, and that of Wisdom will teach you how to apply the truth you receive in your life.

THE MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF PROPHECY

DEFINITION

Rom 12:6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if PROPHECY, in proportion to our FAITH;

- This gift provides the ability to have spiritual insight into people and situations from God's perspective.
- Its purpose is to exhort, encourage, and motivate others.
- Greek: *Prophēteia*
 - This word has four different meanings
- Prophecy as a prediction of future events, Mat 13:14; 2Pe 1:20-21;
- Prophecy as a gifted faculty of setting forth and enforcing revealed truth, 1Co 12:10; 1Co 13:2;
- Prophecy as a matter of divine teaching set forth by a special gift, 1Ti 1:18.
- Prophecy as a Motivational gift, Rom 12:6
 - This gift is not the Ministry of the Prophet - Eph 4:11
- But prophets have this Motivational Gift
 - It is not the charismatic gift of prophecy – 1 Cor 12:10
- People with the charismatic Gift of Prophecy may have this Motivational Gift

ATTITUDE

- Faith

EXAMPLES

- Prophets have this gift.
- John the Baptist, Moses, Paul

CHARACTERISTICS

- This gift gives you insight into people and situations
 - Seeing things and people in light of moral standards

- Discerning people's characters and motives
- Bringing people to accountability
- Discerning evil and not tolerating it
- The gift makes you need to express what you see
 - You are direct and honest with others
- Your authority comes from Scriptures, not yourself
- You break up and prompt brokenness in others as you share your message
 - You want outward repentance
- You set standards based on the Word
 - Expecting excellence
 - Identifying with and loving those who you counsel and wanting to help them to escape from sin
- You exhort, encourage, comfort, and confront people
 - Repairing, improving, and building up
- You have not with a suspicious, critical spirit but see good and evil motives.
 - Not tearing down and destroying
- You are honest with yourself
 - Wanting others to identify your blind spots

MISUNDERSTANDINGS & WEAKNESS

- People interpret his frankness as harshness
- Your interest in the Body of Christ is perceived as you are not interested in individuals
 - "Focusing on the Word."
- Because you may use gimmicks to convey messages, people think that you are not spiritual
 - Ex. Ezekiel's visual lessons
- People interpret your focus on right and wrong as intolerance
 - You want to see decisions and commitment
- Your boldness and strict standards hinder personal relationships
- People interpret your desire to speak the truth as not listening to another point of view

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF SERVING

DEFINITION

Rom 12:7 if SERVICE, in our SERVING; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

- Greek: *Diakonia*
 - Serving, service, waiting, attendance, the act of rendering friendly help, aid, and ministry
 - Often translated ministry, but that gives the wrong understanding

- Meeting others' needs through practical assistance and love
 - Servers desire to help people in need
 - Demonstrated by words and deeds
 - You see what is needed and will jump in to do it

ATTITUDE

- **Serving**

EXAMPLE

- Martha
- It is an easy gift to discern

CHARACTERISTICS

- Servers detect and meet practical needs before others notice them
 - Servers can recall the likes and dislikes of people
 - They can see sincere appreciation
- Servers may pick up and take off in your kitchen even without being asked
 - Often, people with this gift are gifted with their hands and equipped with physical stamina
- You can be swamped because you cannot say "No."
- You want to do the job correctly and enjoy doing extra things even when not asked
- You enjoy reaching short-term goals but are frustrated by long-term goals.
 - You don't like long-term goals. You want to do it right away
 - You don't see the overall picture
 - You are a doer, not a planner, or organizer
 - You don't like time limitations
- Servers have physical stamina and may disregard weariness
- You are willing to use personal funds to get things done instead of waiting
- Servers are not leaders/administrators

MISUNDERSTANDING/WEAKNESS

- Your quick responses may appear pushiness
 - You dislike delays, may do tasks others want, and produce friction
 - Your eagerness for service can be interpreted as self-promotion
- Your helping too quickly practical needs may interfere with spiritual lessons for others
- The disregard of personal needs can create needs in your life and family
 - Servers may have a difficult time being served
- You may be critical when others do not detect and meet obvious needs.
- For the desire of appreciation, you may be easily hurt

- You may misunderstand the need of others
- Your stamina may be interpreted as a lack of sensitivity for others
- Your enjoyment of short-term achievements may produce poor long-term organization and results
 - Your desire of getting things done may result in not following directions

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF TEACHING

DEFINITION

Rom 12:7 if service, in our serving; the one who TEACHES, in his TEACHING;

- Greek: *Didasko* = To teach and instruct, public speaking, give direction
 - A vital gift to lead people to the truth
 - It is a gift that blesses others
 - Often, it works in parallel to the motivational gift of prophecy
- If you have this gift, it does not mean that you have the 5-fold Ministry Gift of Teacher

ATTITUDE

- **Instructing, directing**

EXAMPLE

- The Apostle Paul

CHARACTERISTICS

- Teachers focus on the truth
- Teachers believe that their gift is fundamental
 - Teaching the Word of God is the foundation of ministry
- Teachers emphasize the accuracy of words
 - They love Word Studies
- You test the accuracy of people teaching
 - They question other teachers. Does this truth apply? Where is that concept in the Scriptures?
- You search to validate the truth
 - For you the study the Word is a priority
 - Finds new ways to establish God's instructions
- Teachers validate new information by established truth
 - They confirm understanding of Scriptures with other truths
- They present truth in an ordered sequence

- They avoid illustrations from non-Biblical sources, basing their credibility on the Scriptures
- You use Scriptural illustrations always in the context
 - You are turned off by using Scriptures out of context
- You have greater fulfillment in the study than the presentation

MISUNDERSTANDING/WEAKNESS

- Your emphasis on interpretation may seem to neglect the application
 - You may give too much focus on accuracy
- Too much mental study can distract you from Holy Spirit
- Your focus on details may seem unnecessary
 - Loving details, you expect others to love them too
 - Your objectivity may appear as lacking warmth
 - Others may be impatient, not needing details, and wanting more application
- Your testing other's knowledge and accuracy may appear prideful
 - You are picky about what others say
 - You may say, "That teacher said... that's is not Scriptural." And others react, "Who do you think you are?"

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF EXHORTATION

DEFINITION

Rom 12:8 the one who EXHORTS, in his EXHORTATION; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- The Exhorters are very positive people encouraging personal progress and stirring people toward abundant life in Christ
 - They want the Word to become flesh
- Greek: *Parakaleo* = exhort, encourage, incite, entreat, comfort, console, support, cheer you up, call you along, strengthen
- The Holy Spirit is called the PARACLETE = One standing by to help you, Advocate, Helper

ATTITUDE

- **Encouraging. motivating**

EXAMPLE

- Barnabas

CHARACTERISTICS

- *Exhorters focus on people*
- Exhorters are loved because they love people and have a positive attitude and outlook
- You are not self-introspecting and remain self-accepting even under stress
- Your truth is from experience and the Bible
 - You look to human experience in validating and applying Scriptures
 - Your experience comes first, then the Word. Teachers are the opposite
- Exhorters need full attention from listeners. They are offended if they don't get it.
 - You depend on visible acceptance when speaking
 - You appeal to the will with their message
- You visualize specific achievements and prescribe precise Steps for Action
 - You emphasize planning and action
 - You avoid information without practical application
- You see how tribulation produce maturity
 - You look for positive results
 - You show how to use your trials to grow
- You enjoy counseling people eager to follow steps of action and see positive results
 - Teaching that is not grasped and applied grieves you
 - You love counseling and seeing results
 - You have steps to put the Word to work

MISUNDERSTANDING/WEAKNESS

- Your emphasis on steps is seen as an oversimplification
 - A 3 Step Formula often will not work
- Your stressing of planning appears as overconfidence
 - You may forget the spiritual issue behind
- Your emphasis on being an example appears as disinterest in reaching out and evangelism
 - Your "Give the example, and they will get hungry for Jesus" does not always work
 - Different people need different ministry
- You may take Scriptures out of context to use them in practical application
 - This misuse can make other critical
- Your emphasis on steps and actions may appear as disregard for the feelings of those counseled.

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF GIVING

DEFINITION

Rom 12:8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who GIVES, in GENEROSITY; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Givers are motivated to give to God. They do it by sharing their personal, financial, and material assets with generosity for the needs of people and God's work.
 - This gift is not usually the predominant motivational gift.
 - The two Greek words describing this gift are:
- "Metadidomi" = **the act** of sharing, giving a part, imparting, and contributing
- "Haplotēs" = **the attitude** of generosity and liberality

Many Scriptures in the Old and New Testament give God's perspective about giving to God and people in need. They show that giving is an activity with significant benefits to the giver and the receiver.

Luk 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Act 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

- This gift helps you to overcome selfishness

The New Testament use of "metadidomi."

Luk 3:11 He answered and said to them, "He who has TWO TUNICS, let him give to him who has none; and he who HAS FOOD, let him do likewise."

- For sharing of things, food, and possessions

Rom 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

- For imparting spiritual gifts

Eph 4:8 Therefore He says: "When he ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

- Jesus gave the 5-fold ministry to the church.

1Th 2:8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

- Paul shared the Gospel, his soul, time, energy, and commitment

A Powerful Spiritual Principle of Giving

2Co 9:6 But this I say: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Your Motivation and Attitude are Critical in Giving

2Co 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

It Has a Natural and Spiritual Impact

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

2Co 9:9 As it is written: "he has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

Your Source Is God, not People or Your Job.

2Co 9:10 Now may he who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

2Co 9:11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

ATTITUDE

- **Generosity, liberality**

EXAMPLES

- God
- Jesus
- Mary, the sister of Martha

CHARACTERISTICS

- Givers make wise investments and purchases.
 - They are not materialistic.
- Givers desire to give quietly to God's work.
- The reason why givers give is correct.
 - Not giving for manipulation or payback
- Givers will use their giving to motivate others to give.
 - You know that giving will bless you.

- You enjoy meeting needs without the pressure of appeals.
- Givers are alert to valid needs.
- They are joyful when their gifts are an answer to a specific prayer.
- They depend on their partner's confirmation on the amount.
- They do not give cheap gifts.
 - Ex. Mary Gift to Jesus
- Givers feel they are part of the work they support through their gifts.

MISUNDERSTANDING/WEAKNESS

- Givers' emphasis on money may appear to be unspiritual.
 - They testify about financial blessings.
 - They are criticized that "All they think is about money."
- People who try to control ministries with money are not givers but manipulators.
- Givers are often taken advantage of by people who are not honest, but they are not negatively affected because they give to the Lord.
- A giver may judge others by their financial assets.
 - They may think that lack of assets is a sign of a lack of spirituality.
- They may hinder believers who should be learning a lesson.
- Giver frugality may be interpreted as selfishness.

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT: ADMINISTRATION

DEFINITION

Rom 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; HE WHO LEADS (KJV Rules), WITH DILIGENCE; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- LEADS = Proistemi = rules, leads, administer = literally, one who stands in front of others.
 - Setting goals to accomplish tasks
 - Facilitating things by planning the details
 - Not enjoying doing but organizing people to do things

Tit 3:14 And let our people also learn to MAINTAIN good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

- MAINTAIN = Proistemi = Organization is a maintenance work

ATTITUDE

- **Diligence**

EXAMPLES

- **Joseph, Nehemiah**

CHARACTERISTICS

- Administrators/Leaders see the overall picture and organize tasks for the long-term goal.
 - They organize what they are responsible for, do not try to takeovers others' jobs.
 - They do not procrastinate and desire to complete tasks quickly and efficiently.
 - They naturally go from one challenge to the next to take new responsibilities.
 - They supervise or lead even when not in a structured position.
- They are aware of the resources available to complete the task.
- They know who can handle specific tasks—this spiritual ability to pick the right person for the job.
- They can be good delegators.
- They are on the sidelines until the responsibility is turned over to them.
- They are not pushy and grab the job without being asked.
- Organizers are fulfilled and satisfied by seeing the task progressing and others enjoying the final product.
- They desire to see God's work and people work together.
- Leaders can endure adverse reactions of workers because they are focused on accomplishing the task.
- They are not critical of people for being disorganized.
- They are organized at home, in their garage and closet.

WEAKNESSES/MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- Leaders' ability to delegate may appear as avoidance of work.
 - They are not lazy but want to see others accomplishing the goal.
 - Their willingness to endure reaction may appear not to care for others.
 - "He does not care what I want."
- You may go ahead and get the job done without asking.
 - You are highly motivated but neglect to motivate others.
- Their neglecting explanations may fail to generate motivation.
 - They may not motivate people to volunteer.

- You may place more emphasis on projects than people.
- You see people as resources and tools
- You are overly controlling projects and people
- You do not want to delegate because you can do it better.
- Your desire to complete the tasks quickly may appear as insensitivity to others' priorities and needs.
 - Other reaction: "I cannot put in that much time."

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF MERCY

DEFINITION

Rom 12:8 he who EXHORTS, in exhortation; he who GIVES, with liberality; he who LEADS, with diligence; HE WHO SHOWS MERCY, WITH CHEERFULNESS.

- MERCY = Eleeo = have compassion or pity, helping someone in trouble
 - It is a feeling of pity and sympathy for those in misery and an outward manifestation of actions.
 - Assumes need of he who receives,
- CHEERFULNESS = *hilarotes* = willingly, alacrity = cheerful readiness

No observation of External Rules but the Inner transformation

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but A NEW CREATION. [the new man]

True Israel in the Spirit – The Prince of God

Gal 6:16 And as many as WALK ACCORDING to this rule, PEACE AND MERCY be upon them, and upon the ISRAEL OF GOD.

- The Marks of New Creation: PEACE inside yourself, MERCY towards others
- Go often together: Inside you, it produces mercy for others. Our compassion creates peace in them.

You will experience mercy in trouble if you are merciful.

Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

God was merciful even in the Old Testament.

- The Mercy Seat covered the Ark of the Covenant.

- Once a Year, on the Day of Atonement, the priest would sprinkle the blood of a slain lamb on the Mercy seat and the ground before it.
- We have access to the Mercy Seat because of the blood.
- The Mercy Seat is God's footstool, and He talks to His people from above it.
- He can talk to you because of the blood of Jesus.
- Jesus did more than giving us grace, giving gifts we did not deserve because of sin; He gave us mercy, He had compassion for our infirmities and weaknesses, and died for the ungodly.

ATTITUDE

- **Cheerful readiness, willingness**

EXAMPLES

- The Good Samaritan,
- Jesus Christ

CHARACTERISTICS

- The merciful can sense an atmosphere of Joy and Distress in people and groups.
 - You are sensitive to people's feelings, reactions, and emotions.
 - You identify the emotional states of others and experience their pain and distress.
 - You are different from servers who are more motivated to help people with physical problems.
- You are attracted and understand people in distress.
 - Ex. Children bringing home stray animals, adults helping people in trouble
- You desire to remove hurts and bring healing.
- You are more concerned about mental than physical distress.
- You avoid firmness unless it brings benefit.
- That is not sloppy agape but careful timing.
- You are sensitive to words and actions that hurt others.
- You use words carefully.
- You can discern sincere motives in others.
- You like to associate with others who are merciful.
- You close your spirit to those who are insensitive.

MISUNDERSTANDING/WEAKNESSES

- Avoiding firmness may appear weakness and indecision.
- Showing mercy may appear illogical because you are too emotionally involved.
 - Showing mercy is spiritual and emotional.
- The opposite sex may misinterpret your attraction to those in distress.
 - That is a real danger in counseling situations.
 - People should be cautious about this.
- Your sensitivity may pick up offenses of others like yours.
 - Do not take sides for the offended.
- Detection of insincerity may alienate you from people.
- You may not get along with those with the gift of prophecy.

APPLICATION

DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS AND UNITY

You may have only some of the characteristics and weaknesses of a gift. The difference depends on many factors, including your examples, environment, specific experiences, humility, and maturity.

The Word says:

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

This verse explains many things that we can see in life and ministry.

Because God gave gifts to you before he created you, the characteristics and fruits, both positive and negative, that you will manifest will change according to your spiritual condition. God has provided the potential. Your choices determine the results, the rewards, and the fulfillment of your destiny.

May you hear the Lord say, "Well done you, good and faithful servant."

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN GOD'S PLAN?

To find fulfillment in our Christian life, we must become an active part of the Body of Christ.

That means practically that we integrate ourselves into a local church, and we use the spiritual gifts that God has given us to minister to the members of the Body of Christ and reach out to others.

Jesus said that the Gates of Hell would not prevail against the church He created. The Great Commission gave us His power to reach out to the world and make new disciples. But if we look at the present statistics, we can see that the number of people identifying themselves as Christian is decreasing at an accelerated pace. This number includes both believers and nominal Christians.

However, the history of the church shows something different. For the last few centuries, the Holy Spirit has been revealing and restoring Scriptural Truths abandoned for a long time.

Now, the church age is coming to an end, and God is restoring the church to the beginning's truths, effectiveness, and power. The Holy Spirit is cleaning the church of the doctrinal errors and practices introduced with men traditions.

A breakthrough happened when the Holy Spirit restored the baptism of the Holy Spirit about one hundred years ago. After that, He revealed other Scriptural truths. These revelations were the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit and were not limited to a specific person or group. But, the implementations failed because they could not function in the church's organization.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD IS DOING

The Parable of the New Wine and Old Wineskins explains the resistance that new revelations encounter. That resistance is the old man's response coexisting in believers with the new man created in Christ Jesus. We cannot implement some truths until we also receive other related revelations.

One example of this Old Wineskins resistance is the attempted restoration of discipleship and the 5-fold ministry that were unsuccessful. Those revelations were Scriptural. The reason for their failure was not theological opposition. Their "restorations" require a church structure and organization like that of the early New Testament church. That church structure and functioning allow the fulfillment of God's Divine Order and the manifestation of His power.

The following Scripture says:

Luk 13:18 Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?"

Luk 13:19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

Here the kingdom of God symbolizes the church. The birds represent men and spirits, both good and evil. The New Testament church had problems and conflicts. Still, with the proper organization and leadership, it dealt with them and operated in the power of God, even if she suffered cruel persecution. Today, the church must return to the ways of the New Testament Church to produce the same results and impact. It must implement the characteristics of the church in the book of Acts.

The critical issue is that the Holy Spirit, not men, must control it,

HOW TO BE IN GOD'S PLAN

To achieve such results, it is not enough that each believer is born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. We all need to be Disciples, trained to walk in the Spirit in unity. We must learn to know the Scriptures and our spiritual gifts and use them to minister to the body. We must remove the unscriptural separation of clergy and laity. All believers are full-time disciples and ministers. House churches must become places for worship, fellowship, and discipleship. They must be all locally connected under the 5-fold ministry to ensure accountability and unity.

These changes are impossible tasks if we try to do them in our strength. But a church based on our abilities is not the church Jesus built. It must be Spirit-led. God gave us the model to imitate in the Bible. Nothing else will work.

Eph 1:22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

I know churches that successfully implemented these ideas. We don't need to imitate them but make incremental developments to implement the truths given in the Scriptures.

Now you have enough information to write an initial identification of your primary and secondary gifts. It would help if you also related these gifts to your previous life and work experiences and your present goals, priorities, commitments, and availability. Integrating the finding of each church member will enable us to start operating according to the Biblical church model. The members voluntarily contribute according to their spiritual motivation.

Please note that not all the possible skills or abilities are included in the spiritual gifts because we also have natural gifts -- such as writing, a good memory, or physical strength. However, their presence or absence can positively or negatively affect the manifestation of your spiritual gifts. So, if you have physical strength can help you to do more than someone physically weak.

An example in the Bible of negative impact is in Moses' ministry. Although Moses had unique supernatural gifts in prophesy and leadership, he said, "I am not a man of words ... for I am of slow speech, and of a slow tongue." For that reason, he needed to depend on Aaron in his ministry. But that was part of God's plan. It demonstrates that the distribution of the gifts in the Body of Christ shows us the need for each member to contribute his share to the whole body's well-being, which parallels the integration of all members needed in our physical body.

Now, applying what we learned will produce spiritual fruits in your life and our church. These teachings can help you to know and walk in the Will of God and fulfill your destiny.

WHAT'S NEXT?

You can proceed in prayer seeking the Holy Spirit's direction for the following steps and decisions. Write down your findings because your understanding will change and grow in time as you seek the Lord.

1. First, identify your gifts and their relationships.
2. See how the gifts operated in your life, how they changed from when you were born and after you became born again and spirit-filled.
3. Pray to see and find opportunities to apply them for the Lord and in the church. This step will involve you interacting with others. You cannot use your gifts in isolation.
4. Determine what preparation you may need before you start.
5. Determine your priorities, willingness, and availability to commit to these new activities
6. Make a plan. This plan is not rigid. It will evolve as your gifts will develop.

Let us pray for one another. May the Holy Spirit inspire and motivate us to apply ourselves to perceive God's plan and fulfill it for our lives and our church by sharing our gifts for the profit of the whole body.

I pray that the Spirit of Revelation and Wisdom may guide your steps in God's will and fill you with God's joy, glory, and power. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

Pastor Maurizio