

## Lone Oak UMC | Spiritual Gifts Inventory

adapted from *Understanding Spiritual Gifts* (Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2010), 85-96

*Rank each of the statements below on the following scale:*

7-always    6-almost always    5-often    4-sometimes    3-rarely    2-almost never    1-never

1	I'm able to help people make choices and clarify decisions.	
2	I'm aware of things without having to be told by anyone.	
3	I easily delegate authority and responsibility to others.	
4	I enjoy sharing my faith with the homeless and impoverished to offer hope.	
5	I enjoy teaching the Bible to a small group.	
6	I believe that God will help anyone in need.	
7	Through prayer, I see God's miraculous work in my life.	
8	I don't mind being made fun of for what I believe.	
9	I'm able to organize human and material resources to serve the needs of others.	
10	I enjoy giving money to support the work of God.	
11	I like to work with people who are considered by others outcasts in their communities.	
12	Praying for the sick is a critical part of their healing.	
13	I can tell when Christian speakers or groups are being honest and faithful.	
14	I listen to others as carefully as I want them to listen to me.	
15	I would rather be a secretary in a group than the leader or chairperson.	
16	Whenever I share my faith, I ask others to share theirs as well.	
17	I help anyone in need, regardless of whether they deserve or appreciate the help.	
18	I'm ready to counsel people who have spiritual, emotional, or physical problems.	
19	I can speak a foreign language fluently.	
20	I can follow the conversation of a foreign language I never studied.	
21	I'm good at seeing many different sides to an issue, and helping others do the same.	
22	Things I understand by faith are confirmed by facts, experiences, or information.	
23	When I make a decision, I stand firmly behind it.	
24	I enjoy being part of ministries that didn't exist before.	
25	I'm an effective mentor to other Christians.	
26	I see God at work in both good times and bad.	

*Rank each of the statements below on the following scale:*

7-always    6-almost always    5-often    4-sometimes    3-rarely    2-almost never    1-never

27	I'm aware of God's miracles every day.	
28	Others tell me I'm a good public speaker.	
29	Working with others to meet people's needs is more enjoyable than doing so by myself.	
30	I have enough money to give generously to important causes.	
31	I like to visit people wherever they are: in homes, hospitals, prison, or nursing homes.	
32	I believe that the healing power of God shows itself in different ways, not just physically.	
33	I'm able to identify the flaw in an argument, idea, or presentation.	
34	I learn best when I can discuss what I read in scripture and share ideas with others.	
35	I'm good at attending to the "busy work" that others tend not to enjoy.	
36	An invitation to discipleship should be extended at any gathering to worship or study.	
37	I give practical, material assistance to those who are in need.	
38	I'll work hard to support any group that's fully committed to a good cause.	
39	Foreign languages are easy for me to learn.	
40	I intuitively understand the meanings of most foreign words and phrases.	
41	Others are surprised by my depth of understanding and the integrity of my advice.	
42	I'm good at sensing other people's moods and concerns just by being with them.	
43	I'm effective at organizing projects for ministry.	
44	I desire the opportunity to be a missionary.	
45	I feel a strong responsibility to point out dangerous or erroneous teaching to others.	
46	I pray for people who have lost their faith.	
47	I believe that God works miracles through the faith of Christian believers.	
48	I find practical applications to real-world situations when I read the Bible.	
49	I find it easy to ask for help from others for worthy projects.	
50	I feel a strong desire to give money to Christian ministries.	
51	I want to help as many people as I can, regardless of the reason for their need.	
52	I pray for healing for the sick and afflicted.	
53	I know when someone is accurately presenting the Gospel or spiritual teaching.	
54	It's troubling when people are misled by false or biased messages about Christianity.	
55	I give whatever time and energy is needed to finish a project or meet a deadline.	
56	I feel comfortable sharing the importance of Christian belief with non-Christians.	

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57	I prefer working in the background rather than the spotlight.	
58	I'm patient with and tolerant of others who are less mature in their spiritual development.	
59	I communicate easily with members of other races, cultures, or generations.	
60	I understand and easily accept the values, behaviors, and interests of other generations.	
61	I know some things without fully understanding how I know them.	
62	I see potential problems that others are unaware of.	
63	I focus on the big picture instead of the details.	
64	I am comfortable with non-Christian lifestyles and customs.	
65	I look for ways to help others grow as Christian disciples.	
66	I spend long periods of time in prayer.	
67	I pray for things that other people feel are impossible.	
68	I enjoy showing people how the Bible relates to everyday life.	
69	I enjoy participating in ministries for the poor, needy, and marginalized.	
70	I am a cheerful giver of money.	
71	I am drawn to people suffering physical, emotional, or spiritual pain.	
72	When I pray for someone's healing, I don't limit how God might work in their life.	
73	I know when people are speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit.	
74	I see and understand the connections between the Old and New Testaments.	
75	Being thanked isn't important to me; I serve regardless of recognition.	
76	It's important to me to introduce others to God and to Jesus Christ.	
77	I'm more interested in meeting people's physical needs than their spiritual needs.	
78	People seek out my advice and opinion on personal matters.	
79	I can speak or sign a language that I never formally studied.	
80	I'm accepting of beliefs and behaviors of people even when they're contrary to mine.	

### *Scoring*

LINE	+	LINE	+	LINE	+	LINE	TOTAL	GIFT
1	+	21	+	41	+	61		wisdom
2	+	22	+	42	+	62		knowledge
3	+	23	+	43	+	63		administration
4	+	24	+	44	+	64		apostleship
5	+	25	+	45	+	65		shepherding
6	+	26	+	46	+	66		faith
7	+	27	+	47	+	67		miracles
8	+	28	+	48	+	68		prophecy
9	+	29	+	49	+	69		leadership
10	+	30	+	50	+	70		giving
11	+	31	+	51	+	71		compassion
12	+	32	+	52	+	72		healing
13	+	33	+	53	+	73		discernment
14	+	34	+	54	+	74		teaching
15	+	35	+	55	+	75		helping/assistance
16	+	36	+	56	+	76		evangelism
17	+	37	+	57	+	77		servanthood
18	+	38	+	58	+	78		exhortation
19	+	39	+	59	+	79		tongues
20	+	40	+	60	+	80		interpretation of tongues

*The highest possible score for any one gift is 28; the lowest is 4.*

My Top 3 Gifts:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Definitions of Gifts*

Below you'll find brief descriptions of what each spiritual gift looks like. At the end of each description, there are examples of ministries in which a particular gift could be used; these aren't the *only* places where a gift might be employed—simply suggestions to help you connect your gifts with ideas of where they might be put to God's work!

**Wisdom.** The gift of translating life experience into spiritual truth and of seeing the application of scriptural truth to daily living. The wise in our faith communities offer balance and understanding that transcend reason. Wisdom applies a God-given common sense to our understanding of God's will. Wisdom helps us remain focused on the important work of God, and enables newer, less mature Christians to benefit from those who have been blessed by God to share deep truths. *Where could I serve?* Lay Leader, Church Board chair, Church Board member, Ministry Planning Team

**Knowledge.** The gift of knowing the truth through faithful study of scripture and the human situation. Knowledge provides the information necessary for the transformation of the world and the formation of the body of Christ. Those possessing the gift of knowledge challenge the fellowship to improve itself through study, reading of scripture, discussion, and prayer. *Where could I serve?* Intentional Faith Development team leader, Intentional Faith Development member, Sunday school teacher, Wednesday evening study teacher

**Administration.** The gift of organizing human and material resources for the work of Christ, including the ability to plan with people and delegate responsibilities, track progress, and evaluate the effectiveness of procedures. Administrators attend to details, communicate effectively, and take as much pleasure in working behind the scenes as they do in standing in the spotlight. *Where could I serve?* Lay Leader, Church Board chair, Church Board member, Ministry Planning Team, one of the Ministry Action Team leaders or members

**Apostleship.** The gift of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to other cultures and to foreign lands. Apostleship is the missionary zeal that moves us from the familiar into uncharted territory to share the good news. Apostles embrace opportunities to learn foreign languages, visit other cultures, and go to places where people have not had the opportunity to hear the Christian message. It's no longer necessary to cross an ocean to enter the mission field; even across generations, we may find that we need to "speak other languages" to communicate. *Where could I serve?* Risk-Taking Mission & Service team leader, Risk-Taking Mission & Service member, Extravagant Generosity Team leader, Extravagant Generosity member

**Shepherding.** The gift of guidance. Shepherds nurture others in the Christian faith and provide a mentoring relationship to those who are new to the faith. Displaying an unusual spiritual maturity, shepherds share from their experience and learning to facilitate the spiritual growth and development of others. Shepherds take individuals under their care and walk with them on their spiritual journeys. Many shepherds provide spiritual direction and guidance to a wide variety of believers. *Where could I serve?* Intentional Faith Development team leader, Intentional Faith Development member, Sunday school teacher

**Faith.** The gift of an exceptional ability to hold fast to the truth of God in Jesus Christ in spite of pressures, problems, and obstacles to faithfulness. More than just belief, faith is a gift that empowers an individual or group to hold fast to its identity in Christ in the face of any challenge. The gift of faith enables believers to rise above pressures and problems that might

otherwise hinder them. Faith is characterized by an unshakable trust in God to deliver on God's promises, no matter what. The gift of faith inspire those who might be tempted to give up to hold on. *Where could I serve?* Intentional Faith Development team leader, Intentional Faith Development member, prayer team coordinator, prayer team

**Miracles.** The gift of an ability to operate at a spiritual level that recognizes the miraculous work of God in the world. Miracle workers invoke God's power to accomplish that which appears impossible or impractical by worldly standards. Miracle workers remind us of the extraordinary nature of the ordinary world, thereby increasing faithfulness and trust in God. Miracle workers pray for God to work in the lives of others, and they feel no sense of surprise when their prayers are answered. *Where could I serve?* Prayer Team coordinator, Prayer Team

**Prophecy.** The gift of speaking the word of God clearly and faithfully. Prophets allow God to speak through them to communicate the message that people most need to hear. While often unpopular, prophets are able to say what needs to be said because of the spiritual empowerment they receive. Prophets do not foretell the future, but they proclaim God's future by revealing God's perspective on our current reality. *Where could I serve?* Lay Leader, Church Board chair

**Leadership.** The gift of orchestrating the gifts and resources of others to accomplish the work of God. Leaders move people toward a God-given vision of service, and they enable others to use their gifts to the best of their abilities. Leaders are capable of creating synergy, whereby a group achieves much more than its individual members could achieve on their own. *Where could I serve?* Lay Leader, Church Board chair, Church Board member, Ministry Planning Team, one of the Ministry Action Teams

**Giving.** The gift of the ability to manage money to the honor and glory of God. Beyond the regular response of gratitude to God that all believers make, those with the gift of giving can discern the best ways to put money to work, can understand the validity and practicality of appeals for funds, and can guide others in the most faithful methods for managing their financial concerns. *Where could I serve?* Church Board, Extravagant Generosity team leader, Extravagant Generosity member

**Compassion.** The gift of exceptional empathy with those in need that moves us to action. More than just concern, compassion demands that we share the suffering of others in order to connect the Gospel truth with other realities of life. Compassion moves us beyond our comfort zones to offer practical, tangible aid to all God's children, regardless of the worthiness of the recipients or the response we receive for our service. *Where could I serve?* Family Kitchen, Bereavement Team, Prayer Team coordinator, Prayer Team, Scholar House, PCM

**Healing.** The gift of conducting God's healing powers into the lives of people. Physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological healing are all ways that healers manifest this gift. Healers are prayerful, and they help people understand that healing is in the hands of God. Often their task is to bring about such understanding more than it is to simply erase negative symptoms. Some of the most powerful healers display some of the most heartbreaking afflictions themselves. *Where could I serve?* Prayer Team coordinator, Prayer Team, Bereavement Team, Passionate Worship member

**Discernment.** The gift of an ability to separate truth from erroneous teachings and to rely on spiritual intuition to know what God is calling us to do. Discernment allows us to focus on what is truly important and to ignore that which deflects us from faithful obedience to God. Discernment aids us in knowing whom to listen to and whom to avoid. *Where could I serve?* Lay Leader, Church Board chair, Church Board member, Intentional Faith Development team leader, Intentional Faith Development member

**Teaching.** The gift of bringing scriptural and spiritual truths to others. More than just teaching Christian education classes, teachers witness to the truth of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways, and they help others to understand the complex realities of the Christian faith. Teachers are revealers. They shine the light of understanding into the darkness of doubt and ignorance. They open people to new truths, and they challenge people to be more in the future than they have in the past. *Where could I serve?* Sunday school teacher, Wednesday evening study teacher

**Helping/Assistance.** The gift of making sure that everything is ready for the work of Christ to occur. Helpers assist others to accomplish the work of God. These unsung heroes work behind the scenes and attend to details that others would rather not be bothered with. Helpers function faithfully, regardless of the credit or attention they receive. Helpers provide the framework upon which the ministry of the body of Christ is built. *Where could I serve?* Radical Hospitality team leader, Radical Hospitality member, one of the Ministry Action Teams, nursery attendant, usher, greeter

**Evangelism.** The gift of an ability to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who have not heard it before or with those who have not yet made a decision for Christ. This gift is manifested in both one-on-one situations and in group settings, both large and small. Evangelism is an intimate relationship with another person or persons that requires the sharing of personal faith experience and a call for a response of faith to God. *Where could I serve?* Risk-Taking Mission & Service team leader, Risk-Taking Mission & Service member, Intentional Faith Development team leader, Intentional Faith Development member

**Servanthood.** The gift of serving the spiritual and material needs of other people. Servants understand their role in the body of Christ to be that of giving comfort and aid to all who are in need. Servants look to the needs of others rather than focusing on their own needs. To serve is to put faith into action; it is to treat others as if they were Jesus Christ. The gift of service extends our Christian love into the world. *Where could I serve?* Family Kitchen, Risk-Taking Mission & Service team leader, Risk-Taking Mission & Service member, one of the Ministry Action Teams, Scholar House, PCM

**Exhortation.** The gift of exceptional encouragement. Exhorters see the silver lining in every cloud, offer deep and inspiring hope to the fellowship, and look for and commend the best in everyone. Exhorters empower others to feel good about themselves and to feel hopeful for the future. Exhorters are not concerned about appearances; they hold fast to what they know to be true and right and good. *Where could I serve?* Lay Leader, Prayer Team coordinator, Prayer Team, Church Board chair, Church Board member, Ministry Planning Team, one of the Ministry Action Teams

**Tongues.** The gift of 1) the ability to communicate the Gospel to other people in a foreign language without the benefit of having studied said language, or 2) the ability to speak to God in

a secret, unknown prayer language that can only be interpreted by a person possessing the gift of interpretation. The ability to speak in the language of another culture makes the gift of tongues valuable for spreading the Gospel throughout the world, while the gift of speaking a secret prayer language offers the opportunity to build faithfulness within a community of faith. *Where could I serve?* Passionate Worship Team leader, Passionate Worship member, Family Kitchen, Risk-Taking Mission & Service team leader, Risk-Taking Mission & Service member

**Interpretation of Tongues.** The gift of 1) the ability to interpret foreign languages without the necessity of formal study in order to communicate with those who have not heard the Christian message or who seek to understand, or 2) the ability to interpret the gift of tongues as a secret prayer language that communicates with God at a deep spiritual level. Both understandings of the gift of interpretation of tongues are communal in nature: the first extends the good news into the world; the second strengthens the faith within the fellowship. *Where could I serve?* Passionate Worship Team leader, Passionate Worship member, Family Kitchen, Risk-Taking Mission & Service team leader, Risk-Taking Mission & Service member