

Class 301

Understanding your gifts

Liberty Worship Center

Class 301: Discovering Your Purpose

We are so glad you have chosen to invest in your personal growth by participating in this class. We trust you will gain a basic understanding of the purpose for which God created you and you will develop a better understanding of Spiritual Gifts. You will learn which gifts God has given to you and you will learn how your gifts can be expressed and used in ministry here at Liberty Worship Center.

This class is to be completed in one or two sessions. Each session is intended to be interactive, so feel free to ask questions and interrelate with your instructor.

Unless otherwise noted, all scriptures quoted in this booklet are from the New Living Translation of the Bible.

For this class, your instructor is: Christian Cole and Barry Hubble his phone 717-476-4529

email: christian@lwcff.org

The Baptism in The Holy Spirit

Why is the baptism in the Holy Spirit a big deal?

4 reasons:

1. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a high priority to God the Father

In Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33, we read this statement from John the Baptist: “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

God sent John the Baptist to announce the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

Of all the things that He could have had John announce, the one that He picked was the fact that Jesus would “baptize with the Holy Spirit.”

And God made sure that this announcement was included in all four gospel accounts in the New Testament.

This is amazing to think about. John could have been sent to say any number of things, but a main part of his function was to announce that Jesus will baptize people in the Holy Spirit.

This aspect of the ministry of Jesus is not something that should be set to the side. It should be near the center of our thinking. We need to understand what this means, and share this understanding with others. To say that “Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a big deal” is an understatement.

2. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a high priority to _____

Jesus personally trained His disciples for 3 years (many of them at least). These individuals received hands-on personal training and daily interaction with the perfect Son of God.

They heard all of His teachings in person. They watched Him do healings and miracles and cast out demons. They had opportunities to ask Him questions about things he said and did, to get more insight and instruction. They had the privilege of operating as apprentices and receiving direction and correction from Jesus Himself, in the flesh.

However, among the last instructions from Jesus to His disciples was to wait for the Holy Spirit baptism before they get started on their mission. (Acts 1:4-8)

Acts 1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

These were the last words of Jesus before He ascended and was glorified at the right hand of the Father.

As crazy as it sounds...being trained in person by Jesus was not enough. They needed something else if they were going to have maximum effectiveness. And this is not something I am making up, it is straight from the mouth of the risen Lord Himself.

We should not be so arrogant to assume that we do not need this same equipment. We can go to seminary and study doctrines, memorize the entire Bible, go to conferences, listen to sermons, fast, pray, and who knows what else. Learning, studying, receiving training, praying, and fasting are all good and helpful and important...but learning and training are only part of what is needed.

We will never come close to our potential if we neglect the supernatural empowerment that was spoken of by Jesus and is freely available to us even now.

3. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a high priority to the early church at Jerusalem

Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

In this story, a disciple named Philip has gone to Samaria and “preached Christ to them” (Acts 8:5). His preaching was accompanied by demonstrations of the power of God in healings, signs, and casting out demons.

Many people believed the gospel and received Jesus as their savior and were baptized in water (Acts 8:12).

Word got back to Jerusalem about what was going on. When the believers in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans were getting saved, the first action they took was to send Peter and John on a ~40 mile trip to minister the baptism with the Holy Spirit to the new believers.

This shows the priority that was placed on this by the early church at Jerusalem. It was at the top of their list for new believers to receive this. They wasted no time in bringing this Holy Spirit baptism to the new Samaritan believers.

This attitude is one that we should emulate. We should think about this the same way they did. Whenever someone believes in Jesus and receives salvation, the very next thing that we should tell them about is baptism in water and then to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is crucial, and the early church knew it.

4. It was a high priority to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

Read Acts 19:1-6. Here is a summary:

Paul goes to a place named Ephesus. He meets some people there that call themselves “disciples.” Paul assumes they are Christians and his first question to these new “disciples” was “did you receive the Holy Spirit when you first believed?” They answered “no, we didn’t even know there was a Holy Spirit.”

Paul is perplexed and asks more questions.

He learns that they are disciples of John the Baptist, but they haven’t heard the gospel yet. So Paul does

the following:

- 1 – Explain (preach) the gospel of Jesus to them
- 2 – When they believe and receive, he baptizes them in water
- 3 – When they come up out of the water, he places his hands on them to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit... and they speak in tongues as they receive it.

Take a look at Paul's attitude here. This is around 25-30 years after the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, and the very first thing he asks new believers about is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

When he finds out they aren't actually Christians yet, he leads them into salvation in Jesus, and then water baptism.

And then the next step is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

This is our pattern. This is our blueprint. This is what it should look like. This attitude is consistent through the book of Acts, and I believe we should have the same attitude today. After salvation through faith in Jesus, the next most important thing for any human being to receive is baptism in water and then baptism in the Holy Spirit.

How to be filled with the Spirit

We have great news: To receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, all you have to do is ask your heavenly Father for it. God wants every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in other

tongues.

Ask God right now. Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit just as you received Jesus—by faith, by believing God’s Word. You are His child and He is your Father. God is poised and ready to baptize you in His Holy Spirit when you ask Him.

Here is a sample prayer (it is not the prayer itself but the heart behind it, feel free to use your own words.)

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus, and I desire to be baptized with Your Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Your Word says that I can have it, and I believe what You have said. I receive this gift by faith in Jesus' Name. I thank You Father that I am baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues!

That’s it! You have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit! Pray this prayer every day, and ask God to lead you powerfully every day!

So, how did it feel?

It’s very possible that you didn’t feel *anything*. This, as salvation, is something you believe more than feel. Others feel intense excitement and a powerful new sense of power. But whether or not you feel anything, God has given it because He promised it.

In some cases, no new language comes out initially. But your receiving the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with initial feelings or what happens on the outside. God’s Word said that if you asked, you would receive.

That means by faith you have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Practice speaking in other tongues.

It doesn’t matter if you start with one syllable or how silly you sound. Just keep praying and God will strengthen you in your prayer language.

There are many people who receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and do not pray in tongues right away. Don’t be discouraged, it will come. Just don’t give up, and don’t stop believing!

More on the Purpose & Principles for this class:

God has given “some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors

and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up..."
Ephesians 4:11-13

From this great passage, we conclude:

- Pastors are the _____/preparers.
- People are the ministers/_____.

At the moment you gave your heart to Jesus you became a minister. Salvation in Jesus Christ automatically includes a call to ministry. Every believer is created, saved, called, gifted, authorized, and commanded to minister.

_____ is the beginning and the heart of the Christian life.

Matthew 20:28 states, *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

The Focus of This Class:

At Liberty Worship Center, our **focus** is on **you** as an individual. We want you to **dream** with us and to be **all** God has **called** you to be.

We will focus on some of the personal factors that have combined to **shape** the real you. By identifying the specific traits that you possess in each of these areas, the ministry God has designed you for will become crystal clear!

The Goals of this class:

1. That I will be baptized in the Holy Spirit!
2. That I will select and begin serving in the ministry of my church that best express what God made me to be and called me to do.
3. The objective of this class is to _____ an army of ministers who are maximizing their unique gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences in a meaningful place through our church.

Asking God for, and setting goals is very important!

Habakkuk 2:2-3, *Then the lord said to me, "Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."*

Joel 2:28-29, *“Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike.”*

Goals are dreams we convert to plans and take action to fulfill. People with goals succeed because they know where they’re going. The thing that contributes to anyone reaching the goal he wants is simply wanting that goal badly enough. The Holy Spirit will provide dreams and visions for those who ask.

Write your personal and professional goals for this year.

(If I could do anything and not fail at it, what would it (they) be?)

We Minister In 3 Directions:

1. To the Lord (_____)

Acts 13:2, *One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.”*

2. To other believers **(Over)**

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.*

3. To unbelievers (_____)

Matthew 5:13, *“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”*

Ways that we minister to others

1. The service of hiddenness cultivates tasks of service that remain generally unknown. If all our serving is so others can see us we become shallow people. This is a service that all people can engage in and brings joy to both the one being served and the one serving. The move of the Lord at LWC is nameless and faceless.

2. The service of _____ is tasks performed for another person sacrificially. These small things require constant sacrifice as opposed to the large tasks that require great sacrifice. Taking time out of your daily routine, such as taking someone to the store or taking the garbage out, are examples of the small things we do for others. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a story of servants faithful in a few things. Their reward? Managing bigger things!

3. The service of guarding the reputation is necessary if we are to be saved from backbiting or gossip. Titus 3:2 tells us to, "...not slander anyone..." Holding our tongue works wonders in all of us. It is a loyalty to others that is a deep and lasting service.

4. The service of being served is an act of submission on our part to allow others to serve us. Peter refused having his feet washed by Jesus because he thought his Master shouldn't stoop to such a menial service on his behalf. Although this seems to be an act of humility, in reality it was veiled pride. When we allow others to serve us, we are recognizing the divinely appointed leadership in the kingdom of God. (John 13)

5. The service of common courtsey is a service that shows acknowledgement to others and affirms their worth. Titus 3:2 says, "*be gentle and show true humility to everyone.*" Words of thank you, and yes please, along with returned phone calls, cards of appreciation, RSVP responses, etc. goes a long way.

6. The service of _____ gives people a chance to be together and share with one another. Opening up our homes to one another is a service we as Christian should be willing to do. 1 Peter 4:9 urges us to "*Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.*"

7. The service of listening shows others that they are truly loved. The beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. Compassion and patience are important requirements in listening. It is not necessary to have the correct answers to listen well. Often while we listen to others, we can hear God speaking to us through them. James 1:19 be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...

8. The service of bearing the burden of each other is a service that shows we care when others are hurting. Galatians 6:2 says, "*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*" The Law of Christ is the law of love. Love is most perfectly fulfilled when **we** bear the hurts and sufferings of each other. Weeping with those who are weeping is sometimes far better than words.

We Minister To 3 Areas of Need

1. People's _____ needs.

Matthew 25:35-36, "*For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.*"

Matthew 10:42, "*And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will*

surely be rewarded.”

2. To People's _____ needs.

1 Thessalonians 5:14, Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

3. To People's _____ needs.

2 Corinthians 5:18, And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

Colossians 1:28, So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.

Spiritual Giftedness affects how you do ministry!

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27, There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other... All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

God wants to use me to _____.

Why should I be interested?

1. I've been created for ministry!

Ephesians 2:10, For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

2. I've been saved for ministry!

Titus 2:14, He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

3. I've been _____ into ministry!

Isaiah 41:9-10, I have called you back from the ends of the earth, saying, 'You are my servant.' For I have chosen you and will not throw you away. Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Ephesians 4:1, Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

1 Peter 2:9-10, But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out

of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

I am not who **I** think I am, I am not who **you** think I am, But I really am who **God** says I am!

God takes what sin has distorted, and transforms your identity into what He originally created you to be.

Understanding Your Spiritual Gifts

Week two:

Homework take the test then discuss your findings

Discuss Spiritual Gifts Test

Define each gift

Help each person confess and explore THEIR gifts

Activate my gifts: find out about them, think about how to use them, then bless others with them.

Rom 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 **prophesy**, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is **serving** others, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, teach well. 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.*

Action Plan: What can you imagine? Pray and meditate on it. Speak it and write it down. Ask others what gifts they see in you. God gave you a gift for a specific purpose.

Discovering How God Has Shaped Me for Ministry

How Has God Shaped Me?

Job 10:8, *You formed me with your hands; you made me...*

God has been molding and shaping you even before you were born!

Psalms 139:14-16, *Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

1. I was _____ for a purpose.

2. I am unique!

3. I am _____!

God is keenly aware of who you are and desires to equip you to become an excellent minister! Ask God to

reveal what he has shaped your friends and family for. Then begin to pray and speak it over them and watch what God can do.

How has God used my past experiences to prepare me to minister?

What _____ experiences have I had?

Hebrews 5:12-13, *You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.*

What painful experiences have I had?

Proverbs 20:30, *Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart.*

2 Corinthians 1:4, *I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus.*

What _____ experiences have I had?

Proverbs 4:13, *Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life.*

What spiritual experiences have I had?

2 Corinthians 9:13, *As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.*

Your Ministry will be the most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of your HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCES to accomplish the call of God on your life!

Success is doing what God called me to do!

How Paul's Ministry Was "Shaped"

Paul's Spiritual Gifts

2 Timothy 1:11, *And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.*

Paul's _____

Romans 15:20, *My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.*

Galatians 2:8, *For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles.*

Acts 20:24, *But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord*

Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

How would you describe your heart? Who do you have a heart to reach? (Give an example, youth, other nations, your local community?)

Paul's Ability

Acts 18:2b-4, They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike.

Paul's Personality

Galatians 1:13-14, You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

Paul's

His Spiritual Experiences:

- Watching Stephen be stoned - Acts 8:1
- Conversion on the Damascus road - Acts 9:1-20
- Three years maturing in Arabia - Galatians 1:18
- Special vision from God - 2 Corinthians 12:2-7

His Painful Experiences:

2 Corinthians 11:23, 27, Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again...I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

2 Corinthians 12:7, even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

Paul's Ministry Experiences: read The Book of Acts!

Paul's Call on His Life

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

What the Bible Says About Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1, *Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this.*

Spiritual Gift: A special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the body of Christ.

1. Only _____ have properly ACTIVATED spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 2:14, *But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.*

2. Every Christian has at least one gift.

1 Corinthians 12:7 A spiritual gift **is given to each** of us so we can help each other. 3. No one receives all the gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:27, *All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.* 4. No single gift is given to everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:29-30, *Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30 Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!*

3. You can't _____ a spiritual gift.

Ephesians 2:8, *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.*

4. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get.

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.*

5. The gifts I'm given are _____.

Romans 11:29, *For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.*

6. I am to _____ the gifts that God gives me.

1 Timothy 4:14, *Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you.*

7. It's a sin to waste the gifts God gave me.

Matthew 25:29, *To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.*

8. Using my gifts glorifies God and grows me.

The Purpose Of Spiritual Gifts

1. Not for my benefit, but _____.

1 Peter 4:10, *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*

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

2. To Produce maturity and stability in our church family.

Ephesians 4:11, 13-14, *Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers...This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.*

Cautions About Spiritual Gifts

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.

2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22-23, *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

Fruit shows my _____.

Gifts show my _____.

3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.

Gifts are given to us by the Holy Spirit as He determines. They include: *Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Administration, Pastor, Hospitality, Evangelism, Intercession.*

Christian roles include the function and/or responsibility one has as a person and in the church and community he or she serves.

4. Don't project your gift.

Don't _____ others to serve the way you do and don't expect to have the

same results as others with gifts the same/similar to yours.

5. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others.

1 Corinthians 12:21, *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."*

6. Realize that using my gifts 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. 2If 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. 3If 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.*

How To Discover Your Gifts

Experiment with different areas of service. Take note of results.

Use the self-analyzing test provided in this class

Ask others who love you "what gifts do you see in me?"

Take advantage of training opportunities

Three Ways God Wants You to Use Your Gifts

1. Through an ongoing ministry.
2. Through short-term projects.
3. Through spontaneous situations.

Discovering Your Gift

Every leader is a _____. The moment you stop learning, you stop leading. We emphasize on-the-job training more than pre-service training. We learn best by doing. We delegate to develop people.

A Key Concept:

GOD DOES NOT call THE qualified.

HE qualifies THE called!

God will never place you in a ministry without the resources or abilities to accomplish it.

Isaiah 43:19, *For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

- Moses did not have the ability to speak well, so God gave him Aaron (Exodus 4:10-17).
- Isaiah was a man of unclean speech, but God cleansed him (Isaiah 6:5-7).
- David was a man small in stature, but God gave him victory over Goliath (1 Sam 17).

Why did these men succeed in ministry? Because they were willing. God uses willing people!

We expect excellence in ministry, not _____. Excellence is simply doing your best. God deserves our best. We encourage creativity and innovation in ministry, which assumes mistakes will be made. “No Mistakes” means you’re not growing or trying anything new.

We have no “failures” in ministry at LWC, only “learning experiences.”

A failed project does not mean a failed person. In God’s kingdom, we are not failures but successes!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST

How to take this test:

Romans 12:3 **3** Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

For the best results answer each statement below according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. How true are these statements of you? What has been your experience? What do others tell you? To what degree do these statements reflect your usual tendencies? Each question is very important, so try not to miss out on any. Your score is calculated at the end of the test.

Respond to each statement according to the following 0-5 point scale:

0 = Never; Not true 1 = Rarely; Seldom true 2 = Some of the time; Occasionally true 3 = Half of the time; Usually true 4 = Most of the time; Consistently true 5 = All of the time; Always true

Begin:

1. _____ I am skilled at organizing people to accomplish many different tasks and objectives.
2. _____ I like to venture out and start new projects.
3. _____ I can easily determine whether a statement is true to Scripture or not.
4. _____ I can clearly and effectively communicate the Gospel to others.
5. _____ I believe everyone needs encouragement in this life, and I love to give it.
6. _____ I live confidently knowing that God is intimately concerned and involved with my life.
7. _____ I live a simple lifestyle so that I can give a larger portion of my income to The Lord's work.
8. _____ People often ask me my perspective or interpretation of specific passages of Scripture.
9. _____ I have been told that I am a "dreamer."
10. _____ I have great empathy for those who are facing difficult life challenges.
11. _____ I am very protective of the spiritual well-being of others.
12. _____ At times God has given me a message for an individual or group and compelled me to speak it to them.
13. _____ I enjoy doing everyday tasks that support the various ministries of the church.
14. _____ I spend large amounts of time studying the Word of God knowing that my effort will make a difference in someone's life.
15. _____ I often have helpful insights into situations that have not been made clear to others.
16. _____ I can clearly see what needs to be done and implement a plan to make it happen.
17. _____ I am willing to take risks for the kingdom of God that others may not.
18. _____ I pay attention to what people say and how they say it, particularly those who teach.
19. _____ I feel a burden of compassion for those who are lost without Jesus.
20. _____ When people are discouraged, I remind them of the power and promises of God found in Scripture.
21. _____ I trust God completely to answer my prayers according to His perfect will.
22. _____ I consistently and joyfully give of my income - often more than a tithe.
23. _____ The Spirit has brought to my mind information that I have been able to use to minister to others effectively.
24. _____ I have a vision for my church or ministry and I know what needs to be done to accomplish

it.

25. _____ I see the sick or needy as those who most need the love and comfort that Jesus offers.
26. _____ I love spending time nurturing and guiding others in their faith.
27. _____ There have been occasions that I have received a revelation from the Lord and spoken it to the church.
28. _____ I readily volunteer to help in church when I know it will fill a practical need.
29. _____ I effectively communicate the Bible in ways that influence and motivate others to learn more.
30. _____ I have learned through my experiences in life and can often guide others who are facing similar difficulties or challenges that I have had.
31. _____ I am good at delegating responsibility and trust others to "do their jobs."
32. _____ I can minister to people in different cultures effectively.
33. _____ I am a quick and accurate judge of character.
34. _____ I seek ways to build relationships with non-Christians so that The Lord will use me to share the Gospel with them.
35. _____ I am compelled to challenge and inspire growth in those whose faith is stagnant.
36. _____ I know God will come through even if I don't see any possible solution to my problem.
37. _____ When I give it brings me great joy knowing that more people will be served and touched with the Gospel.
38. _____ I study the Bible regularly in order to share truth with others in and outside the church.
39. _____ I am not afraid to take risks to advance the kingdom of God through my church or ministry.
40. _____ I care deeply about those who are hurting and want to help them navigate through their tough times.
41. _____ I desire to help the wounded and lost find healing and shelter in Jesus Christ.
42. _____ The Lord has spontaneously given me information about an individual that I felt obligated to confront them with in order to restore them to God.
43. _____ I like to be in the background and have no need of recognition for my service in the church.
44. _____ I am able to explain deep theological truths in ways that even a child can understand them.
45. _____ I often help people by offering Scriptural lessons and principles as solutions to life's various challenges.
46. _____ I like to create ways to make things run efficiently in my life and work.

47. _____ God has given me influence over several different ministries and/or churches.
48. _____ I can readily sense the enemy or a demonic influence in a situation.
49. _____ I love to memorize Scripture to share with those who don't know Jesus as their Savior.
50. _____ I am not afraid to challenge someone if I know it will foster spiritual growth and boldness in their life.
51. _____ I will boldly move forward in a situation if I sense God's calling and provision to do so.
52. _____ I believe I have been blessed financially so that I may be a blessing to the church and her mission to reach the lost and help the poor.
53. _____ I retain most of what I learn and can recall it quickly when the need arises.
54. _____ I can readily identify leaders and love to help them grow in their gifts and abilities.
55. _____ I love to see people through the storms of life and show them the compassion that Jesus did.
56. _____ I care about the church and do all I can to see it grow and be built up in love.
57. _____ God has put in my mind urgent matters that were otherwise unknown that I have announced to the church.
58. _____ I set aside time in my week to help those in need in my church and community.
59. _____ I hate it when someone uses Scripture out of context for their own purposes.
60. _____ I can see where a group or individual's decisions and actions will lead them, and I offer to guide them in the right direction.
61. _____ Details matter to me and I pay special attention to make sure things are done correctly.
62. _____ I am qualified and able to establish and lead a new church or ministry.
63. _____ I can often tell if someone is being deceitful or dishonest before it becomes apparent to others.
64. _____ I love to share what Christ has done in my life and how He has changed me.
65. _____ Others have told me that my words have compelled them to step out and grow in their faith.
66. _____ Even when times are tough, I trust God completely to comfort me and provide for my needs.
67. _____ Stewardship is an important discipline in my daily walk with Christ.
68. _____ I like to share the truth and insights God has shown me with others.
69. _____ People often look to me to lead a group or project.

70. _____ I have been known to "care too much" and help others in their time of need.
71. _____ I long to see each person in the church fulfilling the Great Commission.
72. _____ I have suddenly received a message from God specific to our congregation and shared it for the edification of the entire church.
73. _____ If I recognize a need in the church I simply fill it without being asked.
74. _____ I pay attention to the words people use because each one is significant and has meaning.
75. _____ It is humbling to me when someone asks for my guidance, so I take great care to help them.
76. _____ I manage my time wisely.
77. _____ I have a strong desire to raise up leaders and pastors who will equip the church.
78. _____ Things tend to be black or white to me; I see things as good or evil, right or wrong, true or false.
79. _____ I am not afraid to plead with people to believe that Christ died for their sin and to confess Him as Lord and Savior.
80. _____ When others are faced with difficult situations, I boldly tell them of the faithfulness of God towards His people.
81. _____ I don't often worry because of my confidence in God's ability and willingness to see me through every circumstance.
82. _____ I seek ways to help others financially and share the love of Christ with them.
83. _____ I am able to relate the truth and realities of the Gospel to all aspects of life.
84. _____ I am not afraid to step up and take charge in a crisis situation.
85. _____ I seek out those who are deemed "lost causes" and aid them in restoring their lives.
86. _____ The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the foundation of my life and ministry.
87. _____ Others have recognized that often God has spoken clearly and directly to them through a message I have shared.
88. _____ I believe there is eternal significance in performing mundane tasks and service.
89. _____ I love discovering how the Gospel is woven throughout the entire Bible as I increasingly spend time in study.
90. _____ I can easily see which plan or strategy is the best one in a given circumstance.
91. _____ My desk or workspace is set up so I can access whatever I need quickly.
92. _____ Other pastors and leaders often come to me for help and guidance.

93. _____ Others have told me that my perceptions or judgments of people, situations, or statements have proved trustworthy.
94. _____ Most of my conversations with non-Christians lead to me speaking about my faith in Jesus.
95. _____ If a person or a group is stumbling or deviating from the life God has intended for them, I will speak up and press them to remember and return to joyful life in Christ.
96. _____ I consistently encourage others to trust God in everything.
97. _____ I give generously and without pretense to the ministry of God's people.
98. _____ I can usually recall a Scripture verse or passage that applies to a given situation.
99. _____ I am more "visionary" than detail oriented. I concentrate more on the big picture than the day-to-day particulars.
100. _____ Others have showed appreciation that I have comforted and ministered to them at a low point in their lives.
101. _____ I do not seek the "spotlight," but God has called me to shepherd His people.
102. _____ I am always listening for the Spirit of God and I am open to receiving whatever message He has for me to share.
103. _____ I find joy in being a helper and assisting others in their ministries.
104. _____ Often the Holy Spirit gives me just the right words to say when I am teaching an individual or group.
105. _____ I can often see through the confusion or conflict in a situation and provide a practical and Scriptural solution to it.

Scoring Directions:

1. Score yourself at the blank in front of each question.
2. Add the questions into the table below by the number of the question.
3. Add results at the bottom in the Totals block.
4. Use gift codes to discern high scores and mark your highest scored gifts

Scoring Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
Total Scores															
Gift Codes	Ad	Ap	Di	Ev	Ex	Fa	Gi	Kn	Le	Me	Pa	Pr	Se	Te	Wi

Gift Codes:

Ad = Administration **Ap** = Apostleship **Di** = Discernment **Ev** = Evangelism **Ex** = Exhortation **Fa** = Faith **Gi** = Giving **Kn** = Knowledge **Le** = Leadership **Me** = Mercy **Pa** = Pastor/Shepherd **Pr** = Prophecy **Se** = Serving/Ministering **Te** = Teaching **Wi** = Wisdom

Spiritual Gifts Definitions

Administrator: The gift of administration is the God-given ability to give direction and make decisions on behalf of others that result in efficient operation and accomplishment of goals. Administration includes the ability to organize people, things, information, finances, etc. Often the mark of an administrator is the ability to accomplish things in a fitting and orderly way; (1 Corinthians 14:40). Administrators often have a keen eye for detail. They may also possess the natural talents of organization, observing and using details, problem solving, and reasoning.

Discernment: The spiritual gift of discernment is the ability to quickly perceive whether such things as people, events, or beliefs are from God or Satan. People with the gift of discernment know that Satan and his demons

disguise themselves as holy (1 Cor. 11:14-15). They also know that Satan empowers counterfeit miracles (Ex. 7:11-22; 8:7; Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Tim. 3:8) to deceive people (2 Thess. 2:9), and that he empowers false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1), false prophets (Matt. 7:15), false apostles (2 Cor. 11:13), and false doctrines (1 Tim. 1:3; 6:3). Jesus was able to know the presence of Satan (Matt. 4:1-11), see when someone was influenced by Satan (Luke 22:31), and know when someone's words were influenced by Satan (Matt. 16:23). John (1 John 4:1), Paul (Acts 16:16-18), Peter (Acts 5:1-11), and the disciples (Matt. 10:1) all demonstrated the gift of discernment.

Evangelism: The gift of evangelism is the ability and desire to boldly and clearly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ so that non-Christians can become Christians. Evangelists often care passionately about lost people and have a strong desire to see them meet Jesus. They feel compassion for the lost and seek to earnestly understand their questions and doubts so that they can provide a compelling answer. An evangelist often prefers being with people in the culture rather than hanging out with Christians in the church.

Encouraging: The gift of encouraging involves motivating, exhorting, and consoling others so they mature in their walk with Jesus. Christians with this gift have an unusual sensitivity for and are attracted to those who are discouraged or struggling. As a result, people tend to pursue them for healing words, gracious truth, and compassionate counsel. These people also tend to have a high degree of patience and optimism. They may have a knack for one-on-one relationships and prefer working with an individual or small group.

Faith: The gift of faith is the ability to envision what needs to be done and to trust God to accomplish it even though it seems impossible to most people. Those with the gift of faith trust God in difficult, even impossible situations when others are ready to give up. These people are often visionaries who dream big dreams, pray big prayers, and attempt big things for Jesus. These people tend to be optimistic, hopeful, persevering, change-oriented, and future-focused. These people also tend to be very convincing about the truth of Scripture because they themselves are so convinced of the truth and power of God and his Word.

Giving: The gift of giving is the ability to give money and other forms of wealth joyfully, wisely, and generously to meet the needs of others and help support ministries. Regardless of the amount, people with this gift genuinely view their treasures, talents, and time as on loan from God and not their own. They are often moved to meet the physical needs of others. They enjoy giving of themselves and what they have. Even if they do not possess the resources to help, they earnestly pray for those needs to be met.

Knowledge: The word of knowledge is the ability to research, remember, and make effective use of a variety of information on a number of diverse subjects. These people love to study, love to learn, and are not content with a surface-level knowledge of topics. They are compelled to conduct thorough research and compile their findings so that others can benefit from their long hours of focused study. People with this spiritual gift love God with all their mind (Mark 12:29-30). And these people tend to like footnotes.

Leadership: The spiritual gift of leadership is found in people who have a clear, significant vision from God and are able to communicate it publicly or privately in such a way that they influence others to pursue that vision. These people tend to gravitate toward the point position in a ministry. Others tend to have trust and confidence in their abilities. They best serve others by leading them. They tend to operate with a strong sense of destiny.

Mercy: The gift of mercy is the capacity to feel and express unusual compassion and sympathy for those in difficult or crisis situations and provide them with the necessary help and support to see them through tough times. They have the ability to walk in another's shoes; and to feel the pain and burdens they carry. They desire to make a difference in the lives of hurting people without being judgmental. They may have a difficult time evaluating the intentions of others and at times appear naïve.

Pastoring: In one sense, pastoring is the office reserved for those men who meet the biblical criteria (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). In another sense, there is a pastoral gift also commonly known as shepherding or biblical counseling that God gives to people in the church beyond the pastors/elders. These people protect, guide, counsel, and disciple other people. The person with a pastoral gifting has a love for people that compels them to meet with people to care for them and guide them with biblical instruction. People with this gift find great joy in seeing people mature in their faith and overcome besetting sin and discouragement.

Prophecy: This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers certain Christians to receive revelation and speak powerful messages from God to people. See Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-5, 30-33, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 1:20-21. The spiritual gift of prophecy is listed among the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:10 and Romans 12:6. The Greek word translated "prophesying" or "prophecy" in both passages properly means to "speak forth" or declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is

designed to influence people. Many people misunderstand the gift of prophecy to be the ability to predict the future. While knowing something about the future may sometimes have been an aspect of the gift of prophecy, it was primarily a gift of proclamation (“forth-telling”), not prediction (“fore-telling”). Christians are to be very wary of those who claim to have a “new” message from God. It is one thing to say, “I had an interesting dream last night.” However, it is quite another matter to say, “God gave me a dream last night, and you must obey it.” No utterance of man should be considered equal to or above the written Word. We must hold to the Word that God has already given and commit ourselves to sola scriptura — Scripture alone.

Serving: The gift of helps or service is the ability to joyfully work alongside another and help that person complete the task God has given them. People with this gift generally prefer to work behind the scenes. They also tend to find joy in helping alleviate the burdens and responsibilities of others. This gift is usually accompanied with an attitude of humility and sacrifice, as well as an ability to perceive the needs of others. These people tend to demonstrate a servant attitude, loyalty, attention to detail, and responsiveness to the initiatives of others. They function well in positions of detail and assistant leadership.

Teaching: The gift of teaching is the God-given ability to understand and communicate biblical truth in a clear and relevant manner so that there is understanding and application. Learning, researching, communicating, and illustrating truth are qualities that an individual will manifest when exercising the gift of teaching. These people enjoy studying and learning new information, and find great joy in sharing it with others. The format of teaching varies from one-on-one discipleship to formal classes, informal Bible studies, large groups, and preaching, which is a form of teaching.

Wisdom: The gift of wisdom is the ability to have insight into people and situations that is not obvious to the average person, combined with an understanding of what to do and how to do it. It is the ability to not only see, but also apply the principles of God's Word to the practical matters of life by the Spirit of wisdom; (Eph. 1:17). These people often have an ability to synthesize biblical truth and apply it to people's lives so that they make good choices and avoid foolish mistakes. These people today function well as coaches, counselors, and consultants.

Answer Key 301

The Baptism in The Holy Spirit

2. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a high priority to Jesus

Purpose & Principles for this class:

- Pastors are the administrators/preparers.
- People are the ministers/workers.

Salvation is the beginning and the heart of the Christian life.

The Goals of this class:

The objective of this class is to train and equip an army

We Minister In 3 Directions:

1. To the Lord (UP)
3. To unbelievers (Down)

Ways that we minister to others

2. The service of small things is tasks performed

6. The service of hospitality gives people a chance to be together

We Minister To 3 Areas of Need

1. People's physical needs.
2. To People's Emotional Needs.
3. To People's spiritual needs.

God wants to use me to build up his body.

Why should I be interested?

3. I've been called into ministry!

How Has God Shaped Me?

1. I was shaped for a purpose.
3. I am wonderfully made

How has God used my past experiences to prepare me to minister?

What personal experiences have I had?

What educational experiences have I had?

How Paul's Ministry Was "Shaped"

Paul's Heart

Paul's Experiences

What the Bible Says About Spiritual Gifts

1. Only believers filled with the Holy Spirit have properly ACTIVATED spiritual gifts.
3. You can't earn a spiritual gift.
5. The gifts I'm given are permanent.
6. I am to develop the gifts that God gives me.

The Purpose Of Spiritual Gifts

1. Not for my benefit, but the good of others.

Cautions About Spiritual Gifts

Fruit shows my maturity.

Gifts show my ministry.

4. Don't project your gift. Don't expect others to serve the way you ...Discovering Your Gift

Every leader is a student.

We expect excellence in ministry, not perfection.