

TEENS FINDING & USING *[not naming]* YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT
[whatever it is]
 in youth ministry

1. Scripture says every believer *[yes, even believing children]* have a spiritual charis/grace *[GIFT]*.
2. Scripture doesn't say we were given only one or may not have more than one spiritual gift.
 The only exhibit in Scripture who seems to have more than one at a time is Paul.
3. Scripture doesn't say your gift can't change.
4. Scripture names between 15 & 18 gifts in 5 lists. None of the lists are the same. Go ahead, fill in the following blanks. It will take you about 3-5 minutes
 Romans 12.6-8 _____
 I Corinthians 12.8-10 _____
 I Corinthians 12.28-30 _____
 Ephesians 4.11 _____
 I Peter 4.10 _____
5. My opinion is that the lists are not complete.
6. Scripture never says that we must identify our gift by name, it only says we must use it.
7. Scripture never defines any gift except one. Those who claim to have a test which will identify your gift simply believe that their opinions and guesses about the gifts are correct even when they conflict with other godly "gift definers." *By the way, I made my own definitions* of the [17] gifts. I'll give them to you if you ask. But, you know, in a practical way mine are probably only 60% correct.*
8. Another Myers' opinion. Notice the gift of "serving, helping, ministering" is mentioned in Rom 12.7, I Cor 12.28, and I Pet 4.10. I believe helps-serving is the most prevalent of all the gifts and more people get pleasure out of "serving" in the Church than any other gift. My guess is that **probably 50% of the congregation** has this "gift." It is not just a willingness to be helpful. Zillions of unbelievers are helpful. It is the desire, yes hunger, to see God's work go forward and be available to help in anyway necessary. If you find a friend who can't seem to find his gifting, you're probably safe in tell him/her that he has the gift of helps.
 I put very little stock in "Spiritual Gifts" test. Many I've taken seems to be primarily personality tests *[identifying qualities even the unsaved person has]*.
9. While it is true that the "multiple choice quizzes" may be useful in knowing how to use your personality strengths *[and weaknesses]* in employing your gifting, the gift is probably best identified *[in my opinion]* simply and easily in this following 4-step experiment rather than in a multiple-choice test *[age 15 and older]*:
Here is my 4-point outline for my 30-minute sermonette on finding out where you fit in the body of Christ.
 - I. Read the 5 passages in the above chapters of Scripture.
 - II. Pick one you think appeals to you. _____
 - III. Try it out for six months every time you get a chance.
 - IV. See whether anyone affirms you. Or just observe whether they seem to appreciate your work even if they don't say anything to you. That's it!
10. Gifts *[in my long-term observation]* usually start to appear in junior high and may be full-orbed by high school graduation or soon after, if developed by the church staff.

It seems the most practical ministry of the Holy Spirit is that He designed and implanted a spiritual "charis" *[gift]* deep in your soul. Your gift will lead to your Holy Spirit appointed niche in the church. Some of the gifts *[15 to 18]* are specifically named in the Bible.

When Americans change churches, only 42% feel it is important to find a church where they can volunteer in some way. The other 58% are not actively looking for a place to use their gifts even they may not say it that way. They mostly are looking for a comfortable place to sit on Sundays.

Your job as a ministry worker is to find out where each of your teens will find himself most useful. Put him/her to work! Your job as a parent, in great part, is to help your kids opportunities where they can serve.

I am really big on helping teens find out what facet of the ministry of the church they enjoy the most! If we don't get them on track in high school, we may lose them in right after graduation.
 Topic for a Master's Thesis: **Do Kids Who Use Their Spiritual Gifts in High School Drop Out of the Church as Quickly as Kids Who Don't?**