



VICTORIOUS PRAISE FELLOWSHIP

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

2116 Page Rd. Durham (Research Triangle Park) NC 27703
(tel) 919.957.7500 | (fax) 919.957.7502 | www.victoriouspraise.org

SPIRITUAL GIFTS BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Gifted to Serve — Discovering Where You Fit in the Body of Christ

Foundational Scriptures

1 Peter 4:10 — “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Romans 12:4–6 — “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ... Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...”

Purpose of the Breakout Sessions

God did not give us spiritual gifts merely so that we could **identify them**. He gave them so that we could **use them**.

During these breakout sessions, participants should explore four questions:

1. **What is my gift?**
2. **How does my gift operate?**
3. **What are the strengths and potential weaknesses of my gift?**
4. **Where can I use my gift to serve God and His church?**

GROUP 1 — LEAD & GUIDE

Administration • Shepherding

Theme: “God has gifted me to help people move forward.”

ADMINISTRATION

Primary Function: Organizing, leading, planning, coordinating, and helping ministries accomplish their mission.

Biblical Examples: Nehemiah, Joseph

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8

Administration sees the **big picture** and begins asking:

“How can we make this happen?”

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SHEPHERDING

Primary Function: Caring for, guiding, developing, protecting, coaching, and spiritually overseeing others.

Biblical Examples: Peter, Timothy

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 4:11–12; 1 Peter 5:2–3

Shepherding sees **people who need direction and development** and asks:

“How can I help them grow?”

Breakout Discussion

1. Recognizing the Gift

- What characteristics of Administration or Shepherding do you recognize in yourself?
- Do people naturally look to you for leadership, direction, organization, or guidance?
- Do you enjoy managing **projects**, developing **people**, or both?

2. Strengths

Discuss how these gifts strengthen the church through:

- Leadership
- Organization
- Vision
- Accountability
- Discipleship
- Developing people
- Creating structure

3. Potential Blind Spots

What happens when these gifts are operating without maturity?

Discuss:

- Becoming controlling
- Impatience with people
- Caring more about the mission than the people
- Taking responsibility for everything
- Difficulty delegating
- Micromanaging
- Burnout

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Question: *How can I lead people without controlling people?*

4. Ministry Application

Where could these gifts serve effectively in our church?

Consider:

- Ministry leadership
- Small groups
- Discipleship
- Project management
- Department leadership
- Event planning
- Volunteer coordination
- Mentoring

GROUP CHALLENGE

Identify one ministry problem that people with Administration and Shepherding could help solve.

GROUP 2 — PROCLAIM & TEACH

Prophecy • Teaching • Evangelism

Theme: *"God has gifted me to communicate His truth."*

PROPHECY

Primary Function: Boldly proclaiming God's truth and calling people toward obedience to God's Word.

Biblical Examples: John the Baptist, Peter

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 14:3

Prophecy sees **truth that needs to be declared** and asks:

"What does God say about this?"

TEACHING

Primary Function: Explaining biblical truth clearly, accurately, and understandably.

Biblical Examples: Paul, Apollos

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Key Scriptures: Romans 12:7; 2 Timothy 2:15

Teaching sees **truth that needs to be understood** and asks:

“How can I help people understand this?”

EVANGELISM

Primary Function: Communicating the Gospel in ways that help unbelievers come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Biblical Examples: Philip, Paul

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:26–40

Evangelism sees **people who need Christ** and asks:

“How can I help them meet Jesus?”

Breakout Discussion

1. Recognizing the Gift

- Do you naturally enjoy explaining Scripture?
- Are you passionate about truth and biblical correctness?
- Are you burdened for people who don't know Christ?
- Which excites you most: **declaring truth, explaining truth, or sharing the Gospel?**

2. Strengths

Discuss how these gifts strengthen the church through:

- Biblical understanding
- Gospel outreach
- Spiritual conviction
- Discipleship
- Defending truth
- Communicating God's Word

3. Potential Blind Spots

Discuss:

- Truth without love
- Becoming argumentative
- Correcting everyone

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- Studying without serving
- Talking more than listening
- Measuring spirituality by biblical knowledge
- Becoming discouraged when people reject the message

Question: *How can we communicate truth boldly while still communicating grace and love?*

4. Ministry Application

Consider:

- Teaching
- Bible study
- Sunday School
- Evangelism
- Outreach
- New believers classes
- Online ministry
- Social media
- Discipleship
- Apologetics

GROUP CHALLENGE

Develop a simple 60-second explanation of the Gospel that someone in your group could share with another person.

GROUP 3 — ENCOURAGE & CARE

Exhortation • Mercy-Showing

Theme: *"God has gifted me to strengthen people."*

EXHORTATION

Primary Function: Encouraging, motivating, challenging, and helping people apply biblical truth to their lives.

Biblical Example: Barnabas

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:8; Acts 11:22–24

Exhortation sees **potential in people** and asks:

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“How can I encourage them to move forward?”

MERCY-SHOWING

Primary Function: Identifying with, comforting, and caring for people who are hurting or experiencing difficulty.

Biblical Example: The Good Samaritan

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:8; Luke 10:33–37

Mercy sees **pain** and asks:

“How can I help this person through what they’re experiencing?”

Breakout Discussion

1. Recognizing the Gift

- Do hurting people naturally open up to you?
- Do you instinctively encourage people when they become discouraged?
- Are you energized by helping someone recover, heal, or try again?
- Do you tend to see people’s **pain** or their **potential** first?

2. Strengths

Discuss:

- Compassion
- Encouragement
- Emotional support
- Motivation
- Restoration
- Hope
- Helping people through difficult seasons

3. Potential Blind Spots

Discuss:

- Taking on everyone’s problems
- Becoming emotionally exhausted
- Difficulty establishing boundaries
- Avoiding necessary confrontation
- Encouraging people without holding them accountable

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- Becoming frustrated when people don't take your advice

Question: *How do we care deeply for people without carrying responsibilities that belong to them?*

4. Ministry Application

Consider:

- Prayer ministry
- Hospital visitation
- Bereavement ministry
- Counseling support
- New member care
- Mentoring
- Recovery ministries
- Marriage and family ministries
- Senior ministry
- Encouragement teams

GROUP CHALLENGE

Identify three types of people in our church or community who may currently need encouragement, compassion, or support. How could your gifts minister to them?

GROUP 4 — SERVE & SUPPORT

Serving • Giving

Theme: *"God has gifted me to meet needs and advance ministry."*

SERVING

Primary Function: Providing practical assistance that enables others and the ministry to accomplish God's work.

Biblical Examples: Martha, Stephen

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10–11

Serving sees **something that needs to be done** and asks:

"How can I help?"

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GIVING

Primary Function: Generously releasing financial and material resources to advance God's work and meet the needs of others.

Biblical Examples: Barnabas, the Macedonian believers

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1–5

Giving sees **something that needs to be resourced** and asks:

“What can I provide?”

Breakout Discussion

1. Recognizing the Gift

- Do you naturally notice practical needs before other people?
- Do you enjoy working behind the scenes?
- Does helping someone else succeed bring you satisfaction?
- Do you enjoy financially or materially supporting ministry opportunities?
- Would you rather receive **recognition** or simply know that the need was met?

2. Strengths

Discuss:

- Reliability
- Generosity
- Practical ministry
- Resourcefulness
- Humility
- Faithfulness
- Meeting tangible needs

3. Potential Blind Spots

Discuss:

- Difficulty saying “no”
- Becoming overworked
- Feeling unappreciated
- Judging people who don't serve the same way
- Giving beyond healthy boundaries

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- Using money or resources to control outcomes
- Doing things for people that they need to learn to do themselves

Question: *How can we serve generously without becoming exhausted, resentful, or controlling?*

4. Ministry Application

Consider:

- Hospitality
- Ushers/Greeters
- Media/Technology
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Food ministry
- Community outreach
- Benevolence
- Missions
- Financial support
- Special projects

GROUP CHALLENGE

Identify one practical need and one resource need in our church or community. Develop a simple plan for how Serving and Giving could work together to meet them.

ALL GROUPS — FINAL DISCUSSION

From Discovery to Deployment

Bring everyone back together and ask:

1. DISCOVERY — What did you learn about yourself?

What characteristic of your spiritual gift describes you best?

2. DIVERSITY — What did you learn about someone different from you?

Which gift do you now appreciate more than you did before?

3. DEVELOPMENT — Where do you need to grow?

What weakness or blind spot associated with your gift do you need God to help you manage?

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4. DEPLOYMENT — Where can you serve?

What ministry opportunity could allow you to begin using your gift?

5. DEPENDENCE — Who do you need?

Which spiritual gift complements yours and could make you more effective?

CLOSING PRINCIPLE

MY GIFT IS NOT JUST ABOUT ME — MY GIFT IS GOD'S GRACE WORKING THROUGH ME FOR SOMEBODY ELSE.

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us that whatever gift we have received, we are called to use it to **serve one another**.

The goal is not simply:

"I discovered my spiritual gift."

The goal is:

"I discovered how God has gifted me, and now I am going to use that gift to build His Kingdom."

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