

APPLY

6) Who or what is the body of Christ?

7) In light of this passage, and thinking about your own gifts – what is your part in the body of Christ? How can you be actively using your gift(s) at church, FNL, bible study, school etc?

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY GIFT IS?

Purpose: The primary aim of spiritual gifts is so that the church is able to continue the ministry of Jesus. Our goal is to do God's work, God's way, with God's results. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus being formed within us. The gifts of the Spirit are the ministry of Jesus being accomplished through us. As these gifts are exercised by each person within their local church, that church is being built up, matured, and thus becomes stronger in character and maturity.

How do I discover my gift(s)?

- **Acceptance** – Accept and believe that God has given you the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that you have been called to serve Him through the powerful gifts that the Holy Spirit may activate in your life.
- **Prayer** – Pray that God will specifically reveal these gift(s) to you. Also invite other people to pray about this for you as well.
- **Awareness** – Know that ignorance is a liability (1 Cor 12:1) – therefore read and study relevant parts of the bible.
- **Submission** – Surrender to the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit by not imposing conditions and boundaries about what is / is not acceptable to you...be open!
- **Passion** – Your passion for certain areas of ministry will help guide you in discovering your gift.
- **Formation** – What experiences have been shaping your life so far? (Natural abilities, personality types etc)
- **Affirmation** – What do others see in me? What am I often asked to do? What am I never asked to do?
- **Practice** – Be willing to experiment – to take a risk and have a go. Your gift will be confirmed in the doing / action – not just in the theory!

The spiritual gifts that we are talking about do not come fully matured in our lives, and so our first attempts will often be clumsy and awkward – but be patient and persevering (like lots of other stuff to do with our faith – keep trying to understand and grow!)