

Spiritual gifts in marriage.

Take the Spiritual Gift Analysis at <http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift/>

List your top 3 gifts:

His	_____	Hers	_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

Review the following information on Spiritual Gifts in Marriage

What are the spiritual gifts, and how many are there?

Different views exist about the various spiritual gifts, and one should not become overly dogmatic about which view is taken. Several passages of Scripture list spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; and Ephesians 4:7-13). Below is one possible listing of gifts:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Prophecy | Teaching | Prayer/intercession |
| Pastor | Discerning of Spirits | Leadership |
| Missionary | Knowledge | Mercy |
| Evangelist | Giving | Faith |
| Exhortation | Helps | Administration |
| Craftsmanship | Hospitality | Service |
| Wisdom | Music | |

Each individual has been created to give God glory.

We have been made in God’s image, which means that every part of us is to be a reflection of our Creator (Genesis 1:26-27). However, this image is imperfect because of the presence of sin in the world. Our goal is to become more Christ-like so that He is glorified through our actions. Our desires, abilities, experience, personality, and spiritual gifts are all resources we have that can work together in our pursuit of serving God (Romans 15:6).

The Holy Spirit has given each Believer stewardship of a spiritual gift(s).

1 Peter 4:10 says, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” These abilities and desires are given by God for the common good of the body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and Romans 12:4-5). These gifts often work together with our personality and one’s personality may contribute to his or her ability to practice a spiritual gift.

Spiritual gifts are not earned, deserved, or given to only “special” people.

Since these gifts are God-given, we should not view or compare ourselves as better or worse than we are. Rather, we should seek to encourage each other to use our gifts by provoking one another to love and good works. (Rom. 12:3, 2 Cor. 10:12, Heb. 10:24)

Recognition of spiritual gifts is not pride.

Some Christians assume that recognizing they have a spiritual gift is the same as being proud. This is not accurate. Remember spiritual gifts are “bestowed” by God. The spiritual gifts are God’s, not yours. You are a steward who has been fashioned by God to serve Him. (Eph. 2:10)

You don’t have to be better than others.

God never intended for us to have to be “the best” at something in order for us to use our gifts. There will always be someone better than you (looks, intelligence, strength, social skills, humor, etc.). The sooner you accept this, the sooner you can stop trying to perform up to impossible standards or be someone you are not and start serving God the way He created you to be.

Spiritual gifts are for a purpose.

When striving together as a couple to discover your individual spiritual gifts, remember that design helps reveal purpose. Therefore, take note of the way you are each designed by God with desires and abilities. He equips us with gifts and desires that allow us to fulfill this purpose. Often, where you find yourself most effective and where you find the most satisfaction and joy indicate the presence of a spiritual gift.

Spiritual gifts are to be used.

Spiritual gifts are to be discovered, developed, and used through participation in the Body of Christ. Prayer, exploration, consultation with others, and a reliance on God for direction and guidance are all essential components when discovering and utilizing your spiritual gifts. (2 Tim. 1:6-7)

Using spiritual gifts leads to gratitude.

Acknowledging our place in the Body of Christ and the gifts given to each one of us cultivates gratitude for God. This gratitude leads us to desire to serve Him more fully and faithfully. (2 Cor. 9:15)

Don’t get side-tracked.

Focus on what God has asked you to do, and don’t get side-tracked by focusing on what you think others should be doing. (John 21:21-22)

Certain tasks can aid in the discovery of spiritual gifts.

Desire the knowledge of spiritual gifts in general and yours in particular. Pray specifically for God to help you understand and develop the spiritual gifts that He has given you.

(1 Cor. 12:31, 14:12)

Determine your gifts by reading about spiritual gifts in the Bible, getting feedback from those that know you well, and taking a spiritual gifts inventory.

Develop your gifts by learning about them, seeking ways to use them, and getting guidance and mentoring from others.

Diligently act on your knowledge, and be a good steward of the gifts that have been given to you. Actively practice your gifts for the edification of the Body of Christ.

Encourage each other.

Make sure you take the opportunity to build up and encourage your spouse by pointing out the areas in which you see God working in and through him or her. Thank God for how He created your spouse and how He is empowering you to bring Him glory, serve others, and experience joy.

You Are S.H.A.P.E.D for serving God.

Each of you has been uniquely created, gifted, and molded by God. Consider the five areas listed below and how each shapes who you are. If you submit your whole life as an offering to God, He can and will use these things to bring glory to Himself, help and encouragement to others, and joy to you.

Spiritual gifts: given to you by God to use for His glory and to strengthen the Church.

Heart: things you feel strongly about; perhaps a certain type of ministry that is particularly close to your heart (e.g., HarvestCall, working with children).

Abilities: natural talents you can use for Kingdom purposes (e.g., mathematics, music, sewing, mechanical abilities).

Personality: uniqueness in relating to others; perhaps your style of relating to others allows you to reach some people for the Lord more than others might.

Experiences: the things you have been through in life give you perspective; these experiences shape who you are and may allow you to minister to others in special ways.