

My Best Fit!

Galatians 5:13

*“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, **serve one another in love.**”*

It is the church’s goal is to help believers to be fruitful and fulfilled in a meaningful place of service. In our attempt to serve one another in love, we can easily “jump in” or get “pulled in” to serving. We can become very active, but may not be very effective. It is important that you know your best fit; that you are serving in a ministry that you are able to grow, as well as share your God-given gift with others.

I. What is a Spiritual Gift?

It is the special ability distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God’s design and grace for the common good of the Body of Christ! They are given to us according to God’s purpose for our lives. We discover them as we walk with Christ and serve Him. He has carefully selected each believer’s spiritual gift and place of service within the body.

I Corinthians 12:4-6

<u>Different</u>		<u>Same</u>
Gift	-----	Spirit
Service	-----	Lord
Workings	-----	God

II. What is a Passion?

A passion is the God-given desire that compels us to make a difference in a particular ministry.

- It helps you know where to serve, it gives you direction.
- It gives you motivation and energy to serve in a particular area of ministry.

Our purpose for serving in the church is to glorify God and edify others!

Servility:

Serving without love
 Obligation
 What others see
 It is not my job!

Servanthood:

Serving with love
 Obedience
 What God sees
 Whatever it takes

Servility: (Continued)

Serving without love
 Me first
 Pride
 Self-seeking

Servanthood: (Continued)

Serving with love
 Father first
 Humility
 God-glorifying

III. A Lifetime Commitment

God has not called us to be weekend worshipers with summers. Rather, we are living sacrifices, which means a life of worship. We are also to serve for a lifetime in the same way that we are to be stewards for a lifetime. (Romans 12:1, 1 Peter 4:10)

In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus rewards those who practiced wise stewardship of what they had been given. The one who buried his gift was minimizing his management of responsibilities. God has not called us to be token givers, but faithful managers of all He has entrusted to us.

IV. Two Ways we Can Serve

In Galatians 5:3, God commands us to “*serve one another*”. We are to serve for a lifetime. While there may be certain factors at a given season or stage of life that make it difficult for us to make our ***unique contribution*** (i.e., serving in the way that expresses your unique servant profile of passion, spiritual gifts and personal style), we should not overlook the opportunity to make a ***community contribution*** (i.e., involve the ongoing responsibilities of the church to provide a place for worship and ministry).

V. The Discovery of Gifts

(I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11;
 Peter 4:9-10)

___ **Administration** – the divine enablement to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:13-26)

___ **Apostleship** – the divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures. (1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12; Romans 1:5; Acts 13:2-3)

___ **Craftsmanship** – the divine enablement to creatively design and/or construct items to be used for ministry. (Exodus 31:3; 35:31-35; Acts 9:36-39; 2 Kings 22:5-6)

___ **Creative Communication** – the divine enablement to communicate God’s truth through a variety of art forms. (Psalms 150:3-5, 2 Samuel 6:14-15, Mark 4:2, 33)

___ **Discernment** – divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error. It is able to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong. (1 Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:1-4)

___ **Encouragement** – the divine enablement to present truth so as to strengthen, comfort, or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith. (Romans 12:8, Acts 11:22-24, 15:30-32)

___ **Evangelism** – the divine enablement to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward. (Acts 8:26-40, Ephesians 4:11, Luke 19:1-10)

___ **Faith** – the divine enablement to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purpose. (1 Corinthians 12:9, 13:2, Hebrews 11:1, Romans 4:18-21)

___ **Giving** – the divine enablement to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift do not ask, "How much money do I need to give to God?" but "How much money do I need to live on?" (Romans 12:8, 2 Corinthians 6:8, Luke 21:1-4)

___ **Healing** – the divine enablement to be God's means for restoring people to wholeness. (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30, Acts 3:1-16, Mark 2:1-12)

___ **Helps** – the divine enablement to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which free up, support, and meet the needs of others. (1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:7, Acts 6:1-4, Romans 16:1-2)

___ **Hospitality** – the divine enablement to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter. (1 Peter 4:9-10, Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:1-2)

___ **Intercession** – the divine enablement to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results. (Romans 8:26-27, John 17:9-26, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Colossian 1:9-12, 4:12-13)

___ **Interpretation** – the divine enablement to make known to the body of Christ the message of one who is speaking in tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:5, 26-28)

___ **Word of Knowledge** – the divine enablement to bring truth to the body through a revelation or biblical insight. (1 Corinthians 12:8, Mark 2:6-8, John 1:45-50)

___ **Leadership** – the divine enablement to cast vision motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God. (Romans 12:8; Hebrews 13:17, Luke 22:25-26)

___ **Mercy** – the divine enablement to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or in need, having compassion that is moved to action. (Romans 12:8, Matthew 5:7, Mark 10:46-52)

___ **Miracles** – the divine enablement to authenticate the ministry and message of God through supernatural interventions which glorify him. (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-29, John 2:1-11, Luke 5:1-11)

___ **Prophecy** – the divine enablement to reveal truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding correction, repentance, or edification. There may be immediate or future implications. (Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 13:2)

___ **Shepherding** – the enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward ongoing spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-4, John 10:1-18)

___ **Teaching** – the divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God, causing Christlikeness in the lives of listeners. (Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Acts 18:24-28, 2 Timothy 2:2)

___ **Tongues** – the divine enablement to receive a spontaneous message from God in public worship and to speak it in an unknown language that is then made known to the church through the gift of interpretation. (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-30, 13:1, 14:1-33, Acts 2:1-11)

___ **Word of Wisdom** – The divine enablement to effectively apply spiritual truth to meet a need in a specific situation. (1 Corinthians 12:8, 2:3-14, James 3:13-18, Jeremiah 9:23-24)

(Network by Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins and Bill Hybels modified for use at Second Baptist Church, Southside)

Scripture References

I Corinthians 12:8-10

⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

I Corinthians 12:28

²⁸And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

Romans 12:6-8

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Ephesians 4:11

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

I Peter 4:9-10

⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

SERVANT PROFILE



- **Personal Style:**
 - Answers the question of “How” we are designed to serve.
 - Does EXPLAIN our behavior, but it does not EXCUSE it.

A journey of discovery...

We want to experience the Body of Christ as we study the Body of Christ.

“It is about the right people...in the right places...for the right reasons!”

You are encouraged to take the 5-minute spiritual gifts assessment on the church’s website at <https://www.2bcsouthside.org/Announcements/announcements.html>

My three top gifts:

(Network by Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins and Bill Hybels modified for 2BC southside.)

Talents	Spiritual Gifts	Passion
Both should be used for God's glory and to minister to others; however...		
-are the result of genetics and/or training (i.e., music, art, etc.)	-are the result of the Holy Spirit	-is the God-given desire that compels us to make a difference in a particular ministry
-Can be possessed by anyone (i.e., Christian or non-Christian)	-only possessed by Christians	-is specific and can be developed
-can be used entirely for non-spiritual purposes	-are focused on these tasks (i.e., used for God's glory and minister to others)	
Scripture references:		
Exodus 31:1-6	Romans 12:3, 8; I Corinthians 12:8-11	