



## 06 Sign Gifts

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**0:00:00.3 Speaker 1:** Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual progress, feeling stuck without knowing why even after deliverance, prayers or years of therapy? Recover your dignity, find your purpose and discover the thrill of walking with God once again. Explore spiritual consultations with Sonja at biblestudyevangelista.com. Click go deeper on the home page, then one-on-one and find out how to co-operate more deeply with the Holy Spirit's action in your life with a spiritual consultation.

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**0:00:39.0 Sonja Corbitt:** It's the Bible Study Evangelista Show, I'm Sonja Corbitt, your catholic of Evangelista. We're in our spiritual gift series, and we are in the category of service gifts. As I mentioned last week, or actually the week before last, when we talked about equipping gifts, I just want to at this point, review the difference in those two categories. So equipping gifts, are preparing the hearts and the minds of God's people to do the work of ministry. Doing the work of ministry would fall under the service gifts. So I am using an equipping gift, a teaching gift to help equip you to prepare your... I am using my gift to prepare your heart and your mind to use your gifts, whatever those are. And so, I'm using an equipping gift, which is also an activity, right, I'm doing something, but I'm not actually doing the work of ministry in the sense that, say the Corporal Works of Mercy are, right?

**0:01:44.7 SC:** So, all of these areas of knowledge that we have in the Catholic Church, we have the virtues, we have the fruits of the spirit, we have the works of mercy, the spiritual and Corporal, all of that stuff, we integrate it as we use our gifts. But when we're talking about spiritual gifts, the equipping gifts then are... They equip God's people for the work of ministry. And what's interesting there is, Paul says in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 that... Well, in Ephesians Chapter 14, that it is the church's job to equip the saints for ministry. So it's not the pastor's job, it's those of us with equipping gifts. It's our job to help equip other people in the church to do... To use their service gifts and to... Or either their equipping gifts too, but to use their gifts for the service of the church. And so that's what I'm attempting to do. And we got through... And last week, we started to talk about service gifts, and we got through a whole bunch of them, there's a big list, and we looked...

**0:02:55.6 SC:** Let's see if I can kinda go back through those. We looked at administration, caregiving, craftsmanship, discernment, encouragement, faith, generosity, hospitality, intercession, mercy, mission, musicianship, servant leadership, trust, and we're gonna begin today with service. So service and helps... I've mentioned this several times, service and helps sometimes get lumped into the same category, but they're just a little bit different. Those with a service gift identify closely with the needs and the problems of others, not necessarily by providing answers or solutions, but by being willing to work in them no matter how small or how big the task is, and a lot of times they're

busy doing things that other people might consider menial, but they just... They're willing to pitch in and do whatever is needed, no matter how detailed or even tedious that task might be.

**0:04:03.7 SC:** And it's really necessary that we have those who have a service gift who use that gift, because they get the stuff done. So people who are gifted in the area of service, they have the ability to perform any task with joy that benefits others and meets their practical needs. They may have a tendency to disregard personal health and comfort to serve other people, they often have a difficulty saying no, when asked to serve, [chuckle] 'cause they see so many things that need to be done, and they have an affinity for details and appreciate having clear instructions. They just want to have... Just give them the job and let them do it, because they enjoy that, and it's very fruitful for them, and also the people that they're serving. They enjoy the process of serving as much as they do the end result, and they get a lot of satisfaction from being with other people who are also serving.

**0:04:54.4 SC:** So if you scored high in that area, you wanna consider being involved in some sorta ministry where your attention to detail and your faithfulness can be fully used. Now, service is different than helps, because service does the small, little jobs, it does them very often away from the public eye and is perfectly happy doing whatever needs to be done, no matter how detailed, no matter how menial. Whereas a helps gift, people who have the gift of helps, they want to help another person further a particular ministry by meeting the needs of either that person or that ministry, especially people who are in leadership positions, they sort of come alongside. They're like a Paraclete, that's the name, in the Greek, that the Bible gives to the Holy Spirit, the helper.

[chuckle]

**0:05:55.4 SC:** So they come alongside a ministry or a person who is leading a ministry, and they like to give that person or that ministry help. They want to relieve them of financial burdens or responsibilities, and they're willing to do whatever is needed, but they're more motivated by a desire to provide assistance than actually to accomplish the task. They just wanna help the Ministry or the person further their goals. So if you scored high in this area, you need to consider being involved in a ministry where you can assist someone else in a leadership role to help them be more effective than they would be without you. Now, my administrator has this gift. The gift of helps and probably administration together, but I think more helps than it is anything, because her desire, if I'm conveying this accurately, Mary Catherine, Her desire is more to help me further my ministry, she just wants to do whatever I need done, so that I can concentrate on the bigger direction and the meatier stuff.

**0:07:06.2 SC:** And so you can see then how service and help sort of go together. Service though is not so much focused on the big picture as it is just the little jobs, they just... They want to just do the little jobs, but you need both, right? One is not greater or better than the other. I'm just trying to kind of separate the two service and helps, so that you can sort of see the difference in the two. And Cara did a really good job in her talk of doing that, of separating them, although a lot of times when you see a gifts list, they're often kinda lumped together there. I don't know why, but communication was out of alphabetical order, so communication... The Holy Spirit enables some of us to communicate or understand, informs or communication, sometimes beyond the ordinary, but when you exercise the gift of communication, you sometimes understand a foreign language or something like sign language.

**0:08:05.9 SC:** But communication can also come out in things like writing, public speaking,

podcasts, anything that helps get a message across, and that can actually even be art, art or music, and in a lot of gift lists, communication is actually not even included, because it's lumped in with a teaching gift or a prophecy gift, the speaking gifts. But I like to include it, because a lot of times people who are gifted in writing say, or even podcasting, they're not good public speakers and they're not necessarily teachers, and they may not even have the gift of prophecy, but they're able to communicate a message or teaching, something like that through writing, especially if you have the personality and temperament that's more introverted, you're not comfortable being out front. So your communication gift wouldn't be in a public speaking kind of way, and it might not be in any sort of public way.

**0:09:07.5 SC:** But being able to communicate in writing is still very powerful. There are a lot of good writers who communicate effectively through their writing that don't speak to groups of people or even one-on-one, they don't teach or anything like that, so they don't have necessarily teaching gifts and they don't have prophecy gifts, most of the speaking gifts, we might call them, but they are still good communicators because they're able to write well and communicate that way. And then of course, we also have the Braille, the sign language, other things like that. And art of music, as I mentioned, those are also ways to communicate something without words. And so, all of those are ways of communication. Another really powerful way that this sort of manifests itself in the church is through technology.

**0:09:56.9 SC:** There are lots of people who are gifted at graphics, they're good at making graphics and communicating a message, say through social media or through videos, that kinda thing, that's all communication, but it's not in the way of teaching or speaking. So you can see how it envelops technology and videography and some graphic stuff, possibly social media, all of those are ways of communication. So if you're good at that stuff, but you don't feel like you're a teacher or a speaker, you likely have some sort of communication gift. It's just not one of those... It's not often set aside as its own gift, although at this point in our time of history, salvation history, I think it really should be, because... Especially because of technology, that's a way of communicating a message that's not speaking and not teaching necessarily.

**0:10:44.1 SC:** And then we have the gift of wisdom. Knowledge, the facts is the raw material that wisdom uses. Wisdom though, applies the facts in any particular situation. It's especially good at seeing patterns in events or relationships, that kind of thing, and it takes the facts and it applies the knowledge in the specific situation through the pattern. So, we see a really good example of that. And King Solomon, when he resolved that problem of the two women who both claimed to be the mother of the same baby. We also see it when Jesus advises the rich young ruler to sell everything that he had in order to join him in working for the kingdom. So that's... You can see Jesus is using His knowledge to apply what is true and good and right and beautiful in the situation with this rich young ruler.

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**0:13:05.6 SC:** So, before we get into the sign gifts, which is a sub-category of service gifts, I want to just do a little bit of differentiation between some of the gifts that are often confused, and one of those is the three administration service and helps. Administrators are good at delegating, they see a hole and they plug people into it, they like to organize. In fact, sometimes the organization is more fun to them than the doing of stuff. And so they like to organize people, they like to organize tasks and details, and that kinda thing. Service, people with the gift of service, they see the task, they don't wanna delegate it, they just wanna do it. They just want to get in and do the job, and they like to... Most of the time, they like to be in the background, whereas with helps, the helps gift sees an area of need that a ministry or a person in ministry has, and they help that ministry or person accomplish a bigger goal.

**0:14:18.1 SC:** So they'll do small tasks like the gift of service will, but their motivation is the larger Ministry or the larger vision of the person who's doing the ministry. Service gifts, they just see something that needs to be done, say the church needs to be vacuumed, and they'll go get the vacuum cleaner and vacuum the church. They don't care about being seen or being told to do it, they just go do it, and oftentimes their initiative is sort of seen as maybe pride even. But they'll quickly step back and let someone else do it so long as it gets done, they don't... They're not concerned with creating themselves a little kingdom, [chuckle] right? Service is about the small task, no matter what it is, helps is about helping a leader or a ministry accomplish a bigger goal, and administration is about putting people and things in the right places to get bigger things done. I hope that kinda clarifies. Another group that sometimes the gifts get confused are mercy care-giving and encouragement.

**0:15:30.6 SC:** So encouragement is helping someone be the very best they can be. And people are drawn to encourager because they feel better about the situation or about themselves or whatever, after speaking to someone with the gift of encouragement. Whereas mercy is a practical help, it's not necessarily about comforting someone with words, but about actually getting in there and helping someone in a practical way in their suffering. So, you see the corporal works of mercy quite a bit in the gift of mercy. Whereas caregiving is helping someone who say, is disabled on a long-term basis accomplish daily tasks, so you can see how those are all related, but they're a little bit different, they're nuanced. Trust and faith are sometimes confused as well. Faith as a spiritual gift knows that it knows that it knows that God is going to do something specific. And the person with the gift of faith is willing to step out and take a big public risk in view of other people, not to test God, but to open up the opportunity for God to actually work.

**0:16:47.3 SC:** They're convinced God is going to do something and they act on that in a big way, in a public way, with a big risk. Trust is more of a long-term kind of thing, where I know God is going

to act here, I don't know specifically what he might do, but I know he's going to do something and I will continue doing what I'm doing in obedience to God on a long-term basis until he does it. So it could be... Intercession is related to trust, because an intercessor will pray as long as it takes for the Holy Spirit to actually do something in that situation. So you can see how those two gifts are intertwined, how they're used together. But trust is more of a long-term thing, whereas faith is like a big event. The person with the gift of faith will step out in an act that is risky in obedience to God, whereas the person who has trust, they trust God in the face of every seemingly contradictory circumstance and event, knowing that God will eventually act.

**0:17:57.7 SC:** Not necessarily knowing how, but knowing that he will and they will hang on like a pit bull all the way until God actually does whatever it is they are trusting Him to do. And they're not necessarily specific about what that has to be, they just know that he will act. And so, they hang on and they continue in obedience until they see something happen. Knowledge and teaching are also sometimes confused. Teaching is the act of presenting information, whereas knowledge is the gathering of that information, if we're talking about it in this context. A word of knowledge is receiving knowledge from God directly about a person or an event that you would not normally know, that's called a word of knowledge. But knowledge as a... There are two ways to see that gift of knowledge, one is the gathering of knowledge, facts, knowing things, in any area, it doesn't have to be necessarily in church teaching, although when we're using this gift in the context of the church, and we should be.

**0:19:02.0 SC:** That's usually what it is, it's church teaching, it's Bible teaching, it's knowledge related to our faith, but the teaching gift then presents that knowledge in a way that other people can easily digest, you can see how all of these gifts, a lot of them, they'll cluster together in lots of different ways. The Holy Spirit kinda, he pairs them or groups them in clusters in particular people, so that they have a really unique set of gifts or skill set, we could say in the secular terminology, to accomplish really beautiful individual...

**0:19:44.9 SC:** When I say individual, I don't necessarily mean just for that person, I mean the gifts come through that individual in a way that is unique to them and their personality and temperament, so as you're discerning your gifts, it's really important that you factor in your experience from the past and what you've been drawn to in the past, and also your personality and temperament, and by example, if you are an introvert who despises being in front of people, then you probably don't have a prophecy or a teaching gift in the way that you would present it in a group of people, sometimes God will call you to do something like that as a one-off, but not as a spiritual gift that you will use over the long-term.

**0:20:31.5 SC:** So oftentimes in our formation, God will ask us to do something that's probably not in our spiritual gift set, just to grow our faith and our obedience, but in a long-term way, when you're discerning your spiritual gifts, you have to keep in mind what your personality and temperament is and compare that with what you are discerning about your spiritual gifts. So that you can get a really good full picture, and as I mentioned in the show notes and also in previous shows, Sherry Weddell's St. Catherine of Siena Institute does a really good job of helping people discern their spiritual gifts in a very individual but comprehensive sort of way, so if you're interested in that, you can get in touch with them, or you can buy her book, Fruitful Discipleship. So that is then an overview of both the equipping gifts and the service gifts, and as a sub-category, the sign gifts, I'd like to talk about those now, sign gifts validate the message, the authenticity of the message that the messenger is conveying, and the best example of this is the resurrection of Christ.

Everything that Jesus taught was confirmed by a sign gift of bodily resurrection, that is a sign that validates and authenticates everything that Jesus said and did, and so are all of the miracles that He performed as well, the healings, the miracles, all of that stuff.

**0:22:04.7 SC:** Those are sign gifts, they validate and authenticate both the messenger and the message, so when... This is a big area of... It's kind of a fad right now in certain circles of the church, healing and miracles and tongues and prophecy, those kinds of things, words of knowledge, those are all... In certain areas, those are kind of a fad sort of thing, but they're not meant to be the end all, be all, many people, they strive after these sign gifts for the sake of the signs themselves, but the sign gifts are meant to authenticate a message and the messenger. So you'll see these kinds of things happen, especially in evangelistic context, where you have a group of people... Actually, we see this in the readings in Acts right now, where Paul and even Peter, the apostles, they're being sent out with a message, the message of Christ, they talk about the sign of the resurrection, and then they perform miracles of healing and other miracles, and those are to authenticate the apostle's message about Christ. So the miracles themselves, we strive to do them and to see them because they're fantastic, but they are meant actually to do something else.

**0:23:30.8 SC:** The sign gifts are always meant to validate the authenticity of the messenger and the message.

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[music]

**0:24:44.9 SC:** As we talk about sign gifts, I'd like to just mention that because the Holy Spirit is truly on the move right now in the church, and there is this fresh wind blowing through the church, there's a renewal happening by the Holy Spirit for the church and for the world, and because that is true, there is an uptick in the sign gifts right now, we're seeing miracles, we're seeing healings, we're seeing spectacular things accompany, the message that some of our teachers, and well mainly teachers, but message bringers, evangelists. Those who have those gifts, they're seeing an uptick in things like healings, and I've seen this myself, and this is not because we're particularly gifted in these areas, but it's because the Holy Spirit is evangelizing and he's growing the faith of His people in the church, and he's authenticating and validating both the messenger and his message. So as I mentioned, you'll see this a lot of times in evangelistic context.

**0:25:58.8 SC:** When there is a group of people to whom an Evangelist is presenting the Gospel message, and the Gospel just means the good news of Christ, for me, that is whole person healing,

thoughts, emotions, body and soul, when I present teaching on just rest or healing in thoughts, emotions, body, and soul, when I do that, I always try also at the end of the talk to ask for those who want physical healing, because what happens there is the Holy Spirit uses miracles of healing to authenticate what I'm saying about His desire to heal us.

**0:26:44.8 SC:** So I see healings and it's not just necessarily by me, although not that I do it myself, but through my prayer, although I do pray for healing for people in those contexts, but I also ask other people in the audience to pray for those who are also seeking physical healing. So we're all... We're all participating, we should be, we're all participating in these sign gifts, in these works of miracles even, simply because the Holy Spirit is on the move in the church, and so He's authenticating our message, and also those of us who are at work in presenting that message, so we're seeing then more miracles now than before, in part because we're expecting them as a church, there was a time in church history where the spiritual gifts were just sort of set aside, but now, those of us who know what they are and know that we have them, we're doing our part to help. Equip. Equip you to use your gifts.

**0:27:54.2 SC:** And with that message, often comes a sign, a healing or some sort of other miracle, and those prophecy or word of knowledge, those types of speaking gifts, and they are really miraculous, when you're asking God for a word about another person and He gives you this knowledge or this particular message that he wants to convey to another person, and you know that it's not from you, you can't possibly have this knowledge of another person apart from him, so we get to participate is what I'm saying, and because the Holy Spirit is moving so powerfully right now, in the church, there are many, many, many of us, you possibly included, if you step out in faith in evangelism with the people in your area of influence, you could see if you pray with faith.

**0:28:50.6 SC:** You could see some kind of a sign gift come to fruition in that context, because the Holy Spirit wants to validate you as the messenger and what you're saying to this other person, so my point in all that is just to say, even if you don't have "the gift of healing", you should still pray for it, for other people, when you have the gift of mercy or the gift of encouragement or the gift of caregiving, continue to pray for healing with faith that God wants to and will heal, even if it's not a direct physical healing. Everyone receives something, everyone receives something and so many times people aren't healed because we don't ask for it, and I'm getting off here, I didn't mean to do that, but... So the sign gifts are miracles, healing, tongues and interpretation of tongues, and miracles would be something like multiplying the fishes and the loaves, miraculous physical healings, but also miraculous inner healings and deliverances, those kinds of things can all be sign gifts when the person who receives healing from God knows that they've been healed and feels it within themselves, and they start to give praise to God and that then becomes a messenger with a message themselves.

**0:30:10.6 SC:** And that's why the Holy Spirit does these kinds of things. Now, I've seen it. I know that many of you are gonna hear this and you're gonna doubt it, but I've seen it, and I know it happens, and it happens now, right now in our time of church history and salvation, so just be on the watch. If you're one of those adventurous kind of people, be on the watch for the prompting of the Holy Spirit to pray for these kinds of things as you minister in your spiritual gifts. And don't be afraid to ask, don't be afraid to ask Him to heal. Don't be afraid to ask Him for a miracle. We may not get it, but we will get something... We always get something, maybe an inner healing in a particular area, we'll see something is my point, so we should always always ask. So miracles, what are miracles? Miracles are when the Lord intervenes in humanly impossible or hopeless situations

and He turns the situation completely around. For instance, the healing of a terminal disease that is a miracle, they are... Miracles are meant to remove obstacles to God's will, and they're most often present when God's word is preached and lived in faith.

**0:31:25.5 SC:** So we have the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts Chapter 5, the miracles that Philip performed in some area in Acts Chapter 8, the raising of Eutychus from the dead in Acts 20, And Paul's safety after being bitten by the snake in Acts 28, also when he was stoned, and they were... The apostles gathered around him and prayed for him. And there's a question about whether or not he was actually dead or if he wasn't, but either way, he was completely restored. So lots of miracles in the scriptures, but they're a sign gift, and so again, they validate the authenticity of the messenger and the message, where God's word is preached and lived in faith, then there's healing when the Lord restores a person to physical, mental or spiritual health. Usually as a direct answer to prayer. So the healing can be instantaneous or it can be gradual, it's still considered healing, and that's actually why I do all of these series in healing as a process, because a lot of times people feel like if they haven't been healed immediately as a miracle, that they haven't received something from God, and sometimes they're actually told they don't have enough faith, and that's terribly tragic, 'cause that's not always the case.

**0:32:43.0 SC:** A lot of times, God heals in a gradual kind of way, healing is not meant to substitute for natural ministries of healing in the medical profession, but we are encouraged to seek healing in prayer. James Chapter 5, Verses 14 and 15, specifically tell us to do that, and then Jesus and the apostles, they used healings as tangible proof or signs of God's presence among his people, and that's why it's considered a sign gift. In the Old Testament, the examples of healings were also for the validation of the messenger and the message, especially those of the prophets. We see the healing of Hezekiah, the healing of Miriam, of her leprosy. Those kinds of healings are sign gifts when they're miraculous like that, they show people beyond any shadow of any doubt that God is real and that He has the power to perform miracles. So it is a testimony to who God is and what He does in the world, and they happen all over the world all the time. You don't always hear about them because there's a whole lot of atheism on the Earth right now, but they happen, and those of us who have the faith to step out and ask for healing or miracles in the situations in which we're evangelizing or we're teaching, or those kinds of things or encouraging, we see them happen very often, and they grow both our faith and the person's faith to whom we are ministering, so again, they are true signs.

**0:34:33.1 SC:** Tongues. What in the world is tongues? So there are two types of tongues spoken about in the scriptures, Romans 8:26 says, Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes with us... Or for us, I'm sorry, with size too deep for words. So there is a private prayer language called tongues, and it's usually prayer and Thanksgiving and often used for intercession in prayers for other people, and this private prayer language seems to be given to everyone who desires it and asks for it, and it does not need to be interpreted because it's not usually public, it's not something that someone stands up and starts to speak in tongues, usually in a gathering, but it's sometimes a means for spiritual growth for those who have that gift. We see that in 1 Corinthians 14 verse 4, where Paul talks about this private prayer language or the gift of tongues in a private sort of way, and then there is tongues for the community, it's a public demonstration of the gift of tongues.

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**0:36:36.0 SC:** We see the public gift of tongues in use at Pentecost, when the descent of the Holy Spirit came over the whole of the people, and many of them began speaking in different languages, the word tongue just means language, and this occurred at the feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem, when the people were gathered from all different lands and different languages. They were all in Jerusalem for the feast day, and so when the Holy Spirit fell the sign of his coming was people speaking in languages they had never learned. Now, it can be abused, because we know from our exorcists that one of the marks of possession is knowing and speaking languages that the person who is possessed has never known or spoken, and there was actually even a time in church history, I think it was Molinos, that particular time in history where tongues was a... It was abused and misused and it was actually part of a heresy that was occurring at that particular time, it was either the Montanus or Molinos, or it may have been both. I can't remember which, but those two heresies, if you're interested in that, you can look that up. But tongues is a real thing, we see it in the Book of Acts in a public way.

**0:38:02.9 SC:** I have never actually seen it myself, because what happens when you speak in tongues in a public way, there must always be, according to Paul, an interpreter, so the person who speaks in tongues does so in a different language and addresses the whole assembly. And then there is another person with the gift of interpretation, who interprets for the whole assembly, so the gift of tongues on behalf of a community or a public assembly it's actually similar to prophecy only it's in a different language. We see that in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12, but it's meant to release God's message to the whole community, especially when that community is very diverse in language, or diverse in culture or both, and it seems to be given only to those who have a ministry of tongues, so it's not necessarily for everyone, and it should always be followed according to Paul by interpretation, in 1 Corinthians 14, he talks about that, so that there is order in the assembly, everything must be done in order, Paul says, and so the person who has a message for the whole assembly that is very diverse, offers the message in the tongue, whatever it is, and then there is always an interpreter present as well, if it's really the gift of tongues from the Holy Spirit.

**0:39:20.8 SC:** There is always an interpreter available who can give the message in the common language, the whatever that is, interpret it, they are the interpreter. So the public tongues always has an interpretation that goes along with it, and so that interpretation is its own gift, and it enables a person to speak to the whole assembly and give the general meaning of whatever was said out loud in the gift of tongues. So there's a brief description of tongues and the interpretation of tongues and tongues can be both private, as I mentioned, and public. So those are the sign gifts: Miracles, healings, tongues and interpretations of tongues, and those sign gifts are meant to validate the authenticity of the messenger and the message, and you see those... Especially in evangelistic context, where there is a lack of faith.

**0:40:12.4 SC:** And so the Holy Spirit then will offer a sign to show people that he is present in

power, remember that all of the spiritual gifts are a manifestation of the Spirit, a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. I absolutely love that 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 verse 7. So when we're using our spiritual gifts, and this is sort of where St. Catherine of Siena said, If you are everything you were meant to be, you will set the world on fire. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is that fire of love, the fire of love of God, of renewal, of life-giving on earth, and so the sign gifts accompany often evangelistic efforts, teaching efforts, those kinds of things where the word of God is being proclaimed.

**0:41:04.5 SC:** So although of the spiritual gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and so that's why we really wanna draw close to the Holy Spirit, discern under His guidance what our gifts are, and then begin to use them, and there are so many places where we can use our gifts, so many places, if you're drawn to a particular ministry, perhaps you could offer your spiritual gifts to that person or that ministry, for instance, if you're drawn to spiritual gifts, you should probably get in touch with either the charismatic renewal people or Sherry Weddell over at the Catherine of Siena Institute, and get involved in what they're doing in some sort of way, if you're drawn toward healing, the JP 2 Center or what I'm doing, or sometimes encounter ministry, depending on whether you're talking about emotional healing, inner healing or physical healing, those two ministries, they do that. If you're interested in deliverance, in the healing, in the deliverance ministry, then you can find those ministries and offer your gifts. Now, I'm not saying necessarily that they would say with open arms, yes, come in, 'cause they have to discern too the people and the faith and the maturity of the people that they partner with, but there are all kinds of places in the church.

**0:42:30.4 SC:** Please don't look around and say, There's nowhere to use my gift, there are always places. It may not be in your actual parish, and if it's not, then consider beginning something, the two highest gifts in the spiritual gifts quiz that we offered at the Spiritual Gifts Conference were intercession and apostleship and shepherd. So if you have those gifts and many, many of you do, it's very simple to begin a small group, either at your parish or your home, and start gathering people for whom you can help form, you can help them form through Bible studies that are already written that you facilitate and you can offer intercession in prayer, or you could just do a prayer ministry, gather people around for that. There are lots and lots of places where we can use these gifts, RCIA, Marriage Prep, Outreach, The Corporal Works of Mercy, those ministries that do The Corporal Works of Mercy, St. Vincent de Paul, the homebound and the elderly, the small groups, Bible studies. Martha ministries, sacristan ministries, pastoral counsel, that's a good place for administrative gifts, adult formation, youth formation, childrens formation, the Finance Council, greeters and ushers, Knights of Columbus, just faith, social justice ministries.

**0:44:00.8 SC:** Prayer shawls or prayer blanket ministries, parish technology volunteers, Pro-Life Ministries, choirs and music ensembles, Marriage Prep, nursery volunteers and workers, alter service training, adoration schedulers, you name it, electors and readers, Eucharistic Ministers, all of those places in our parishes, our parishes are languishing because there are such a limited number of people who are willing to put their shoulders to the yoke and carry the load, so sometimes that's because there's one person who wants to create for themselves a little kingdom and be seen, but oftentimes it's because there aren't enough people shouldering the load.

**0:44:48.3 SC:** Now, that's true in our time, in our talents, and in our treasure, so my invitation to you, my exhortation to you is please begin experimenting, find a place in your parish where you can experiment with the top three or five of your spiritual gifts that you got out of your quiz and try something for a limited time, you may actually go to the person in charge of that ministry and say, I

want... I want to volunteer, but I wanna do it on a trial basis, and perhaps three months, perhaps six months, and you need at least about six months to really sort of figure out if this is for you or if it's not, but volunteer and try it on a trial basis, and if it's not working, then adjust and try something else, there's nothing wrong with this trial and error in discerning what your gifts are.

**0:45:40.6 SC:** If you want to know more perfectly what they are in the discernment process, then you really need to get with the St. Catherine of Siena Institute or project Timothy, some ministry like that, that helps you with the discernment process on a long-term basis, and then you can confidently walk out without the trial and error and begin working in your gifts, but you don't need that and that's... You just really don't need that, if you look in the Book of Acts, the people just started getting busy, they just jumped in where they felt led and where they felt pulled, so if you feel attracted to a particular ministry or a particular role in your gifts, then try it, because chances are, that's the Holy Spirit, and as you use what you believe might be your gifts, look for the rules of discernment where it feels supernatural, you're getting confirmation from other people that what you're offering is helpful to them, and you truly have an aptitude for it.

**0:46:44.9 SC:** If you love to sing, but your singing is terrible, then you don't have the gift of music, maybe you can play music that might be different, right? So you really need the feedback from other people around you to help you discern, but on the whole, it will feel supernatural, you will know that what you're doing is not coming fully from you, it will be beyond your natural abilities in its effectiveness and other people will tell you how helpful it is, and you'll get that feedback in your discernment process and you will set the world on fire.

**0:47:20.7 SC:** That is my prayer for you, Dear One, throughout this spiritual gifts series. Next week is our last show, we're gonna look at the Primacy of Love in the Spiritual Gifts.

[music]

**0:47:51.2 Speaker 4:** Thank you for listening to the Bible Study Evangelista show. Find out more at [biblestudyevangelista.com](http://biblestudyevangelista.com).