

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT

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Thank you Paul! So, what gift has the Holy Spirit given you? Paul writes, they are all from God (one Spirit), but distributed differently to each of us. “He alone decides which gift each person should have.” What a profound thought, everyone is given something to help, someday to give and participate in this “now, not yet” future called the Kingdom of God. I know so many people that don’t believe they have ANYTHING to offer. Maybe they feel invisible, like I did, or feel unworthy, or shy, they’re an introvert. I’m really kinda sick of the boxed-in excuse laden label of “introvert!” “I’m just not a people person,” is said. For one, there are gifts custom designed for introverts. Gifts of service, administration, intercession, mercy and helps are just a few. However, sooner or later people have to be involved because that’s the part of “each other” Paul refers to. The spiritual body of Christ is made up of many parts, but NONE of them operate independant or outside of the body. It is ultimately about cooperation and unity that makes a body function properly. If you are a believer in Jesus, a follower of the way, then you are a part of the body and a significant part of a local expression of community. If you haven’t ever explored your gifts, here’s a quick to begin - <https://buildingchurch.net/g2s/inventory/>. BTW, I happen to believe the gifts God gives us work well in the marketplace, with neighbors and friends too.

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Dad,
 You know that I know that I had no idea about any of this when I became a believer. I didn’t know I had gifts, didn’t know there were gifts. And, it was frustratingly fun to both discover them and begin practicing them. None of the leadership/vocal gifts were on my radar when I began this journey of faith. Honestly, I didn’t want them and had zero confidence that I could ever see myself using them. I saw and heard a lot of people saying “no” to needs and opportunities. Now I understand why :) I wasn’t smart enough to say no, I was gullible and uninformed, but you knew that! People asked, I said, “sure, I’ll try to help,” and forty-four years later, I’m using gifts of pastoring, teaching, knowledge, leadership and prophecy. I was skinny and shy, now I’m fat and loud - go figure. Anything I can do to serve and say thank you for saving and transforming my life. I am yours forever.

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root