

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

## Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

### A PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT INVENTORY

#### Discovering your Spiritual Gifts

God's Word says in 1 Peter 4:10 "As each one has received a special gift employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." This puts the matter very simply. We all have been given gifts from God that we are to use in serving one another. The purpose of this inventory is to help you determine what some of your spiritual gifts may be.

This exercise basically asks you to respond to 160 statements based on your interest and experience in certain gifts. Do not respond on the basis of what you think you ought to say. Rather respond to what interests you. Don't let modesty hinder you from agreeing with statements that are true of your abilities.

If you are not interested in a statement then mark it with a "0" as "5" indicates strong interest.

- 0 - Not relevant, not interested**
- 1 - Slight response**
- 2 - Moderate interest**
- 3 - General interest**
- 4 - Stronger than average response**
- 5 - Strong interest**

Let's get started....

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1. I have a strong desire to meet the practical needs of others.
2. I receive joy when I can give money for the work of Christ.
3. I am especially drawn to those who are suffering mental and physical anguish.
4. I enjoy working and creating new things with my hands.
5. If no structured organization exists, I am willing to step forward to assume responsibility for leadership.
6. Sometimes others have told me that I have great faith.
7. I can adapt to different lifestyles in order to establish a Christian witness among foreign people.
8. I enjoy showing others how the Bible speaks to their current situation.
9. I enjoy leading others to Jesus Christ.
10. I like to spend myself in order to help others grow as Christians.
11. I tend to see how Christian truths relate to each other as a whole.
12. People often seek me out for counsel and guidance.
13. Sometimes God gives me insight about the proper course of action for others to take.
14. I have had times when I became aware of a situation or an event quite apart from any outside communication.
15. I can easily detect spiritual truth or spiritual error.
16. I enjoy using the musical gift that God has given me.
17. I enjoy serving others so that they in turn may perform their ministries.
18. I believe that God has given me the ability both to make and share money.
19. I think God wants me to especially minister to those in distress.
20. People will often ask me to help them in various maintenance and repair projects.
21. I feel that I can see the whole picture and help direct others in making their best contributions to Christian projects.
22. I believe that God can miraculously alter circumstances if we pray.
23. I could feel good in taking the gospel to a pagan tribe.
24. I will not compromise the truth even when I am criticized for being stubborn and hard-headed.
25. I find it easy to invite persons to commit themselves to Christ.

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26. At times I feel led to go to a straying Christian and help him onto the way.
27. I feel that God has some sort of teaching ministry for me.
28. Others tell me that I am a good counselor.
29. God enables me to see the proper application of Christian truth to specific circumstances.
30. In casual conversations I am sometimes aware of a deep need which the person I am talking to is hiding.
31. I can detect spiritual phoniness before others can.
32. People often express to me how my musical gift ministers to them.
33. I tend to be one of the first ones to notice the practical needs of others.
34. I like to give money anonymously.
35. I enjoy rendering practical aid to those who have gotten themselves in trouble.
36. When there is something to repair or help needed to prepare a meal, decorate a home, or mend a piece of clothing, I enjoy getting involved.
37. Sometimes God helps me to organize people and resources in order to meet practical needs.
38. I often see a direct connection between God's promises to His ancient people & His faithfulness today.
39. I would enjoy learning a new language in order to pioneer a new church overseas.
40. I like to tell others about God's judgment for wrong-doing and of his gracious promises to those who turn to Him.
41. I like to bear public witness to what Christ has done for me.
42. I tend to be patient with Christians who are making slow progress in the Christian life.
43. I prefer to read profound Christian truth rather than Christian biography.
44. When encouraging another or giving advice I am concerned about how that person reacts to my efforts to help.
45. I seem to be able to apply God's truth to concrete situations.
46. Sometimes I think I can see a situation almost as God sees it.
47. I often have an insight that a particular book or message is inspired by God.
48. I am often asked to share my musical talent.
49. I don't mind serving others even if I am needed to perform menial tasks.
50. I strongly feel that some Christians should give considerably more than their tithe.

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51. Sometimes I sense when others are hurting on the inside.
52. I enjoy walking into a home and in my mind plan out decorating schemes or repair projects.
53. I work well under pressure and in the midst of activity, I can get to the heart of the matter and take decisive action.
54. I find it easy to trust God even when the faith of others falters.
55. I often think that I may be called to take the gospel to an unchurched area.
56. I can easily see ways that the Bible relates to current social needs.
57. After sharing the gospel I like to ask people to make a personal decision about Christ.
58. I feel responsibility to nurture others in Christian discipleship.
59. I find joy in harmonizing and arranging biblical teaching.
60. I can identify with the faltering in a way that brings encouragement.
61. Other Christians seek my advice when they are uncertain of their decision.
62. At times I have suddenly realized certain options for the church which others did not perceive.
63. God has often enabled me to encourage others to accept truly biblical teaching.
64. I frequently listen to music paying close attention to technique, expression, interpretation, intonation, etc.
65. I often recognize ways I can minister to others indirectly, without speaking or teaching.
66. Sometimes I feel led to give money to ministries beyond my congregation.
67. God uses me to console those suffering from depression and discouragement.
68. Individuals often ask me to help them in making decisions about what they wear and what colors look good on them, etc.
69. I can recognize talents and gifts in others and also help them find ways of using their abilities.
70. I seldom have difficulty believing God will help people who trust in Him.
71. I am excited about the idea of learning a new culture so as to take the gospel to other lands.
72. I feel that god often anoints my public speaking.
73. I would rather evangelize than teach.
74. I want to know and to understand those I am serving.
75. I enjoy preparing and giving an orderly presentation of some portion of Scripture.

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76. I enjoy helping others work out detailed steps for growing in their faith.
77. On some occasions God has helped me bring illumination to other Christians when they have been confused about what course to take.
78. I have had the experience of knowing something even though no one told me.
79. I can sometimes detect good in other Christian traditions even when others are slow to recognize it.
80. I am continually trying to improve the musical ability that I have been given.
81. I think one of my spiritual gifts is to serve others by relieving their material or physical burdens.
82. I view giving to meet material needs my special ministry.
83. I like to work with those who are neglected by others.
84. I enjoy food preparation and working in the kitchen.
85. I can inspire others to use their gifts in God's service.
86. I can see the hand of God working in times of seeming tragedy.
87. I am intrigued with the idea of moving into the midst of a sub-culture to learn their ways and win them to Christ.
88. I find it easy to suffer ridicule for sticking to God's Word.
89. I tend to conclude my vocal witness for Christ with an appeal for others to become Christians.
90. I enjoy teaching and guiding a group of Christians.
91. I think it is important to use words accurately and pronounce them properly.
92. I like to encourage and counsel with those who are spiritually or emotionally unstable.
93. I can see several sides of an issue and sense which way God is leading a group.
94. God has given me direct knowledge of a fact before it was made known to others.
95. God has used me to warn others of the danger of a certain teaching.
96. I feel strongly that the attitude "anything is good enough for church" is wrong, and I work to develop my musical gift in God's service.
97. In the church I tend to prefer ministries like ushering, typing, filing, cleaning, and helping in any way I can.
98. God has enabled me to make money and I love to give liberally to Christian causes.
99. I like to visit prisons, homes for the elderly, etc. in order to minister, comfort, and give hope.
100. I am often complimented on the things I make.

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101. People often look to me for guidance in organizing and managing.
102. I can trust God to bring victory to those who have lost faith.
103. I think that I could be effective in beginning a new church where no church exists.
104. People have often told me that they find my speeches inspiring.
105. I am troubled when non-Christians are not given an invitation to accept Christ at the end of a worship service.
106. I enjoy having the responsibility for discipling a group of Christians.
107. I prefer hearing or reading Scriptural teaching rather than personal testimonies.
108. I like to help others as long as they respond, but when they become disinterested I move on to another task.
109. Others tell me that I show maturity in offering advice about spiritual matters.
110. I have had the experiences of talking with another person for only a short time and understanding what his real problem is.
111. I can often sense when a speaker is true to the Bible.
112. I feel lead from time to time to compose a poem or lyrics to a song.
113. Frequently my ministry consists of watching for unmet needs and then quietly meeting those needs.
114. I frequently feel led to give money to Christian enterprises.
115. I feel compassion for the undeserving.
116. People often ask me for my recipes, or how to make something I have made.
117. As a leader I can easily delegate authority to others.
118. I enjoy applying God's promises to seemingly impossible situations.
119. I would enjoy the challenge of a pioneer missionary assignment.
120. I find it easy to apply biblical promises to human situations.
121. I feel natural leading up to an appeal for others to receive Christ as Savior.
122. I feel that I am responsible to protect weak Christians from influences that would undermine their faith.
123. I get troubled when I hear or read a radiant testimony that contains false advice or unsound teaching.
124. I can challenge others without condemning them.
125. When I am faced with a request for advice, I have been inspired by God to give sound counsel.

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126. I have surprised others by telling them something about themselves that they have not revealed to me.
127. I can identify elements of truth or of error when I hear or read the teachings of others.
128. There have been individuals who have been ministered to through the songs I've composed.
129. I enjoy serving others physically or materially in order to make their burdens lighter.
130. Occasionally I sense that some appeals for money are not worthy appeals.
131. Sometimes I feel so compassionate for others that I fail to confront them with the truth.
132. I see avenues to witness to others through the creative abilities that God has given me.
133. I can lead others in matters of planning and in deploying the abilities of the group.
134. Through the prayer I can tap into God's power on behalf of others.
135. I feel that if needed I would have many of the spiritual gifts that would equip me to minister to a first generation church.
136. I do not mind confronting those in authority with the truth.
137. I enjoy going where non-Christians congregate in order to win them to Christ.
138. I feel very strongly that a Christian congregation should be unified.
139. I like to deduce biblical principles from my study and then share them with others.
140. People will take correction from me because they know I'm on their side.
141. God uses me to bring clarity to others when they are uncertain about what to do.
142. I am able to interpret and give the clear meaning of God's Word.
143. I have detected an element of pride and self-glory in some ministries that are highly praised by others.
144. I have taken standard Christian songs and rearranged them.
145. I prefer to receive no public thanks for the little things I do to help others.
146. When I give to Christian ministries it is important that my spouse or other Christians I respect confirm my decision.
147. I can cheerfully spend time with those who need someone to listen to them.
148. I feel God has given me creative abilities with which I wish to serve Him.
149. I can see the total picture easier than some others, and I can use my insights to give guidance.
150. I enjoy spending long periods of time in prayer on behalf of others.

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151. I feel relaxed and confident even when I stand alone for Christ in a hostile environment.
152. I enjoy applying biblical principles to the present day.
153. I think God has given me the gift of evangelism.
154. I am interested in the details of the lives of others and I can use my insights to give guidance.
155. I want to know the authoritative basis before I accept someone's interpretation of Scripture.
156. I seem to have the ability to call forth the best that is in others.
157. At times God gives me wisdom beyond my natural abilities.
158. I seem to understand complex biblical passages more easily than others.
159. I sense when teachers are prompted by self-interest, an evil spirit, or the Holy Spirit.
160. I enjoy spending hours of time developing the musical gifts God has given me.



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### ANSWER SHEET

#### Categories

- a. 1\_\_ 17\_\_ 33\_\_ 49\_\_ 65\_\_ 81\_\_ 97\_\_ 113\_\_ 129\_\_ 145\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- b. 2\_\_ 18\_\_ 34\_\_ 50\_\_ 66\_\_ 82\_\_ 98\_\_ 114\_\_ 130\_\_ 146\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- c. 3\_\_ 19\_\_ 35\_\_ 51\_\_ 67\_\_ 83\_\_ 99\_\_ 115\_\_ 131\_\_ 147\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- d. 4\_\_ 20\_\_ 36\_\_ 52\_\_ 68\_\_ 84\_\_ 100\_\_ 116\_\_ 132\_\_ 148\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- e. 5\_\_ 21\_\_ 37\_\_ 53\_\_ 69\_\_ 85\_\_ 101\_\_ 117\_\_ 133\_\_ 149\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- f. 6\_\_ 22\_\_ 38\_\_ 54\_\_ 70\_\_ 86\_\_ 102\_\_ 118\_\_ 134\_\_ 150\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- g. 7\_\_ 23\_\_ 39\_\_ 55\_\_ 71\_\_ 87\_\_ 103\_\_ 119\_\_ 135\_\_ 151\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- h. 8\_\_ 24\_\_ 40\_\_ 56\_\_ 72\_\_ 88\_\_ 104\_\_ 120\_\_ 136\_\_ 152\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- i. 9\_\_ 25\_\_ 41\_\_ 57\_\_ 73\_\_ 89\_\_ 105\_\_ 121\_\_ 137\_\_ 153\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- j. 10\_\_ 26\_\_ 42\_\_ 58\_\_ 74\_\_ 90\_\_ 106\_\_ 122\_\_ 138\_\_ 154\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- k. 11\_\_ 27\_\_ 43\_\_ 59\_\_ 75\_\_ 91\_\_ 107\_\_ 123\_\_ 139\_\_ 155\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- l. 12\_\_ 28\_\_ 44\_\_ 60\_\_ 76\_\_ 92\_\_ 108\_\_ 124\_\_ 140\_\_ 156\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- m. 13\_\_ 29\_\_ 45\_\_ 61\_\_ 77\_\_ 93\_\_ 109\_\_ 125\_\_ 141\_\_ 157\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- n. 14\_\_ 30\_\_ 46\_\_ 62\_\_ 78\_\_ 94\_\_ 110\_\_ 126\_\_ 142\_\_ 158\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- o. 15\_\_ 31\_\_ 47\_\_ 63\_\_ 79\_\_ 95\_\_ 111\_\_ 127\_\_ 143\_\_ 159\_\_ TOTAL\_\_
- p. 16\_\_ 32\_\_ 48\_\_ 64\_\_ 80\_\_ 96\_\_ 112\_\_ 128\_\_ 144\_\_ 160\_\_ TOTAL\_\_

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### KEY FOR ANSWER SHEET

#### Categories

- a. serving
- b. giving
- c. mercy
- d. craftsmanship
- e. leadership
- f. faith
- g. apostleship
- h. prophecy
- i. evangelism
- j. pastor/teacher
- k. teaching
- l. exhortation/encouragement
- m. wisdom
- n. knowledge
- o. discernment
- p. worship

After you have answered all the questions in the test, add up each horizontal line of answers. (For example, add responses 1, 17, 33, 49, 65, 81, 97, 113, 129 and 145 to get a total for line a.)

The key for each category of gifts is above. Which 3 to 5 categories did you score highest in?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree with your test results, or do you think you have been given different gifts?

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Please go now to the "Response Sheets" Tab and completely fill out .

### GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

#### Prophecy

Predictions about the future and the end-time; special messages from God, often uttered through human spokesman, which indicate the divine will for mankind on earth and in heaven. The focus of all prophetic truth is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:2, Luke 24:25-27), who was destined to be the greatest prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). He declared God's truth in this age (John 3:31-33) and the age to come (Isaiah 2:2-4). As the embodiment of truth (John 1:1), Christ fully radiated the brilliance of God which the earlier prophets reflected only partially.

#### Pastor/Teacher

The feeder, protector, and guide, or shepherd, of a flock of God's people in the New Testament times. In speaking of spiritual gifts, the apostle Paul wrote that Christ "gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11). The term pastor by this time in Church history had not yet become an official title. The term implied the nourishing of and caring for God's people. The Greek word translated pastors in (Ephesians 4:11) is used elsewhere in the New Testament of shepherders, literally or symbolically (Matthew 25:32); of Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10); and of "shepherds", or leaders, of the church (Ephesians 4:11). The NKJV uses the word pastor only in this verse. Also compare (Jeremiah 23:1-2).

#### Teaching

The act of instructing students or imparting knowledge and information. As used in the New Testament, the concept of teaching usually means instruction in the faith. Thus, teaching is to be distinguished from preaching or the proclamation of the gospel to the non-Christian world. Teaching in the Christian faith was validated by Jesus, who was called "teacher" more than anything else. Since sound instruction in the faith is essential to the spiritual growth of Christians and to the development of the church, the Bible contains numerous passages which deal with teaching (Matthew 4:23; Luke 4:14; Acts 13:1-3; Romans 12:6-8; Galatians 6:6). Special attention is directed to the danger of false teachings. Christians are warned to test those who pervert the true gospel (2 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 2:1-3). Sound teaching was a concept deeply engrained in the Jewish mind since Old Testament times. Moses and Aaron were considered teachers of God's commandments (Exodus 18:20). Parents were also directed to teach their children about God and His statutes (Deuteronomy 4:9-10).

#### Wisdom

Ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding. The apostle Paul declared that the message of the cross is foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews. But to those who believe, said Paul, this "foolishness of God" is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). Against the wisdom of God Paul contrasted "the wisdom of this world" (1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19), "human wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:4), "the wisdom of men" (1 Corinthians 2:5), "the wisdom of this age" (1 Corinthians 2:6), and "man's wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:13). The Biblical concept of wisdom, therefore, is quite different from the classical view of wisdom, which sought through philosophy and man's rational thought to determine the mysteries of existence and the universe. The first principle of Biblical wisdom is that man should humble himself before God in reverence and worship, obedient to His commands. This idea is found especially in the WISDOM LITERATURE: the books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. In the Old Testament, the best example of a "wise man" is King Solomon (1 Kings 10:4, 6-8; 2 Chronicles 1:7-12). And yet the same book that heaps such lavish, warm and glowing praise upon Solomon for his reputed wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-34) also points out how Solomon's heart turned away from the Lord (1 Kings 11:1-13).

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### Knowledge

The truth of facts of life that a person acquires either through experience or thought. The greatest truth that a person can possess with the mind or learn through experience is truth about God (Psalm 46:10; John 8:31-32). This cannot be gained by unaided human reason (Job 11:7; Romans 11:33). It is acquired only as God shows Himself to man – in nature and conscience (Psalm 19; Romans 1:19-20); in history or providence (Deuteronomy 6:20-25; Daniel 2:21); and especially in the Bible (Psalm 119; Revelations 1:1-3). Mental knowledge by itself, as good as it may be, is inadequate; it is capable only of producing pride (1 Corinthians 8:1, 13:2). Moral knowledge affects a person's will (Proverbs 1:7; Philippians 3:11-12; 1 John 4:6). It is knowledge of the heart, not the mind alone. The Book of Proverbs deals primarily with this kind of knowledge. Experiential knowledge is that gained through one's experience (Genesis 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 4:7-8). The apostle Paul's wish for the church at Colosse was that they might increase in the "knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10).

### Encouragement- Exhortation

A message of warning or encouragement, designed to motivate persons to action. The apostle Paul often exhorted his fellow Christians to live out their calling as ministers of the Lord Jesus (Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:17).

### Discernment

A gift of the Holy Spirit which enables a person to judge whether one who speaks in tongues or performs miracles does so by the power of the Holy Spirit or by a false spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10). The apostle Paul suggested that a person led by the Holy Spirit will be concerned for those things that strengthen the church (1 Corinthians 14:12, 26).

### Giving

The act of bestowing a favor or an item on another person without expecting anything in return. The purpose of a gift may be to honor (2 Samuel 8:2; Daniel 2:48), celebrate (Revelations 11:10), or simply to bestow favor or help (Esther 9:22). God is the giver of every good and perfect gift (Matthew 7:11; James 1:5, 17), including eternal life (Romans 6:23), salvation (Ephesians 2:8), the necessities of life (Matthew 6:11), ability to work (Ecclesiastes 3:13; 5:19; Deuteronomy 8:18), the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 5:32), spiritual abilities (1 Corinthians 12:4), and above all His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15), His Son (John 3:16). The Christian's gifts to God should not be bribes to obtain His favor, but grateful responses to what He has done in our lives. We are to give (Luke 6:30, 38) "for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Giving itself can be thought of as a gift from God: "Having . . . gifts . . . let us use them . . . he who gives, with liberality" (Romans 12:6, 8).

### Mercy

The aspect of God's love that causes Him to help the miserable, just as grace is the aspect of His love that moves Him to forgive the guilty. Those who are miserable may be so either because of breaking God's law or because of circumstances beyond their control. God shows mercy upon those who have broken His law (Daniel 9:9; 1 Timothy 1:13, 16), although such mercy is selective, demonstrating that it is not deserved (Romans 9:14-18). God's mercy on the miserable extends beyond punishment that is withheld (Ephesians 2:4-6). Withheld punishment keeps us from hell, but it does not get us into heaven. God's mercy is greater than this. God also shows mercy by actively helping those who are miserable due to circumstances beyond their control. We see this aspect of mercy especially in the life of our Lord Jesus. He healed blind men (Matthew 9:27-31; 20:29-34) and lepers (Luke 17:11-19). These acts of healing grew out of His attitude of compassion and mercy. Finally, because God is merciful, He expects His children to be merciful (Matthew 5:7; James 1:27).

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### **Evangelism**

A person authorized to proclaim the gospel of Christ. In a more narrow sense, the word refers to one of the gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Literally, however, the word means, "one who proclaims good tidings" (Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5). The evangelist was a gift of God to the early church (Ephesians 4:11). These persons were not attached to any specific local church. They traveled over a wide geographical area, preaching to those to whom the Holy Spirit led them. The early disciples were also called evangelists (Acts 8:4) because they proclaimed the gospel. All Christians today may continue the witness of the evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As the evangelists spoke and wrote of Jesus, so many Christians bring His message to others.

### **Leadership**

Jesus' life exemplifies these leadership traits. Jesus knows each of His sheep intimately (John 10:3-5). Sometimes several shepherds will pen their sheep together in a cave or a sheepfold at night. The next morning each shepherd calls to his own sheep with his own unique guttural cry. Each sheep knows his shepherd's voice and responds immediately. Even in a large flock, one individual sheep will run to his shepherd when his own pet name is called (John 10:27).

### **Faith**

*Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it, no matter how I feel, knowing that God promises a good result.* A belief in or confident attitude toward God, involving commitment to His will for one's life. According to (Hebrews 11), faith was already present in the experience of many people in the Old Testament as a key element of their spiritual lives. In this chapter, the various heroes of the Old Testament (Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Joseph, and Moses) are described as living by faith. In addition, the Old Testament itself makes the same point. Abraham "believed in the Lord" (Genesis 15:6); the Israelites "believed" (Exodus 4:31; 14:31); and the prophet Habakkuk taught that "the just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). In the New Testament, "faith" covers various levels of personal commitment. Mere intellectual agreement to a truth is illustrated in (James 2:19), where even demons are said to believe that there is one God. Obviously, however, they are not saved by this type of belief. Genuine saving faith is a personal attachment to Christ, best thought of as a combination of two ideas – reliance on Christ and commitment to Him. Saving faith involves personally depending on the finished work of Christ's sacrifice as the only basis for forgiveness of sin and entrance into heaven. But saving faith is also a personal commitment of one's life to following Christ in obedience to His commands: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 1:12). Faith is part of the Christian life from beginning to end. As the instrument by which the gift of salvation is received (Ephesians 2:8-9), faith is thus distinct from the basis of salvation, which is grace, and from the outworking of salvation, which is good works. The apostle Paul declared that salvation through faith, not through keeping the works of the law (Ephesians 2:8,9). Finally, in the New Testament, faith can refer to the teachings of the Bible, the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). In modern times, faith has been weakened in meaning so that some people use it to mean self-confidence. But in the Bible, true faith is confidence in God or Christ, not in oneself.

### **Apostleship**

The word apostle is sometimes used in the New Testament in a general sense of "messenger". For instance, when delegates of Christian communities were charged with conveying those churches' contributions to a charitable fund, they were described by Paul as "messengers (apostles) of the churches" (2 Corinthians 8:23). Jesus also used the word this way when He quoted the proverb, "A servant is not greater than his master, nor he who is sent (literally, "an apostle") greater than he who sent him" (John 13:16). Jesus Himself is called "the Apostle . . . of our confession" (Hebrews 3:1), a reference to His function as God's special Messenger to the world.

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### **Worship**

Reverent devotion and allegiance to God; the rituals or ceremonies by which this reverence is expressed. The English word worship comes from the Old English word worthship, a word which denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion. New Testament worship was characterized by a joy and thanksgiving because of God's gracious redemption in Christ. This early Christian worship focused on God's saving work in Jesus Christ. True worship was that which occurred under the inspiration of God's Spirit (John 4:23-24; Philipians 3:3). Although the New Testament does not instruct worshipers in a specific procedure to follow in their services, several elements appear regularly in the worship practices of the early church.

### **Craftsmanship**

As society developed, the skills needed began to change. The early wandering Hebrew herdsman lived in tents of animal skins which they could prepare by themselves. When they started to move into houses in town, they needed a wider variety of skilled laborers. They needed builders, carpenters, bricklayers, and many other trades and occupations to build and maintain the houses. The more civilized society had a wider variety of needs. It demanded occupations and trades which could fill its clothing needs, provide health care, education, and other needed products and services. Ultimately, it needed skilled rulers and government officials to govern and maintain order.

### **Serving**

Through Jesus the ancient mission given by God to Abraham – to be a blessing to all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3) – is now entrusted to the church. The church's responsibility is to preach the gospel to Jew and Gentile, bondsman and freeman, male and female, rich and poor. To be a servant of God is to serve Him continually (Daniel 6:20). As His mission was that of a servant, so must ours be (Mark 10:42-45).