

# Destino Leadership Institute

## Module 2: Stewarding Your Talents and Spiritual Gifts

God has called us to be good stewards. What is a steward?

### **Stewardship Defined:**

*The conducting, supervising or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. Oversight, care, charge, control. The activity or job of protecting and being responsible for something.*

So if God has called us to be stewards, what are we to be carefully and responsibly managing? What specifically has He entrusted to our care?

### **READ: Gal 2:20, Romans 12:1-2.**

*What does God want us to know and to do, now that we are followers of Christ?*

We no longer live for ourselves but for Christ. All we have and all that we are belongs to the Lord. This would include our time, talent, treasure, our bodies, and material things. Our cultural heritage and identity too! He has very intentionally entrusted all these wonderful things to us and expects us to steward (manage, care for) them well. Good stewardship brings God great glory because it puts the spotlight on Him as the giver of those talents and gifts.

God has given all people natural talents and abilities. However, believers in Christ are given something even more: they are given spiritual gifts as well. So what is the difference?

**Talents:** Talents are natural abilities that God gives believers and unbelievers alike. The gift of music, singing, writing, engineering, athletics, or business, are just a few examples of talents that God gives to individuals. Can you think of someone you know who is very talented at something? You probably recognize it as a talent because they are really good at it and not everybody can do what he or she can do!

**Spiritual Gifts:** Spiritual gifts are very different than talents because they are given only to believers at the point of salvation. When a person places their faith in Christ, they are given one or more spiritual gifts the moment Christ enters their lives in the form of the Holy Spirit. They are supernatural gifts because they are given by the Holy Spirit to believers.

So, what kind of gifts does the Spirit give, for what purpose are they given, and where can I find them in the Bible?

*Take out a sheet of paper and draw a vertical line down the center of the page. On the left begin to make a list of the gifts you find as you read the following passages. On the right side make a list of the intended purposes of those gifts. On the back you may want to list any additional observations as well.*

### **READ: I Corinthians 12:1-31.**

Spiritual gifts have many purposes. What purposes do you find mentioned in this passage?

What are some specific gifts listed here? Do all believers get the same gifts? Why or why not?

**READ: Ephesians 4:11-16.**

What gifts are found here and for what purpose?

**READ: I Peter 4:8-11.**

What spiritual gifts do you find here? How are we instructed to use them? Why and for what purpose?

**READ: I Corinthians 13:1-13, I Corinthians 14:12.**

As believers we are given His spirit which desires to manifest/express himself through us. There are times when we are using our gifts that we are tempted to take the credit for what we are able to do. Spiritual gifts are never intended to be used for selfish gain or to bring attention to us. They are to be used only for the edification of the church, to strengthen the body of Christ and to effectively impact those who do not know Christ personally. So, what do we do if we find that we are boasting in our gifts rather than the giver of those gifts? *Confess that to God, choose an attitude of humility, thank Him for His forgiveness, and be filled (directed and empowered) by the Spirit by faith once again.*

**How do I discover the spiritual gifts that God has given me?**

Some spiritual gifts become apparent right away in a new believers' life. Some gifts surface over time as a person continues to walk with God and serve people. There are several ways you can begin right now to discover your spiritual gifts:

1. *Take a Spiritual Gifts Test.* There are many free Spiritual Gifts tests available online but here are a couple to start with:

<http://giftstest.com>,

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org>

<http://mintools.com/ministries.htm>

2. *Get involved in a variety of ministry opportunities.* Try many different ways of serving (things that seem easy, things you might like, and even things that appear to be really challenging). Just see what happens; you may be surprised at what you find! Something that initially may seem super scary might turn out to be something that you are really good at—something you just love to do! Isn't it great that God Himself gives us supernatural gifts that we really enjoy doing?

3. *Ask other believers what they have observed about you.* Ask what things they have noticed come easily to you or where you have been the most effective as you serve the Lord and His people.

4. *Ask yourself what things tend to concern you the most as you minister to others.* What do you catch yourself thinking about? For example: If you always find yourself wondering if random people you meet know the Lord, you may have the gift of evangelism. If you are constantly concerned about making sure a Biblical truth is communicated in the simplest, clearest, and most understandable way, you may have the gift of teaching. Often times the things we are most concerned about give us clues as to how the Lord has gifted us.

**HOMEWORK:**

*Take at least one spiritual gifts test.* Try even taking a second or third one and compare the results.

*What seems to be your top 3 gifts? Do you see a pattern?*

*Any particular gifts seem to surface consistently? Does it appear you might be gifted in serving behind the scenes? Maybe you love serving with your hands? Do you enjoy speaking or teaching?*

Perhaps God gave you speaking gifts and you would do well in a public setting.

*Were any of the results a surprise to you? Why or why not?*

*Share the results of your spiritual gifts tests with a more experienced, seasoned believer. Explore specific ways that your spiritual gifts, natural talents and cultural heritage can best be used to serve the Lord and the body of Christ. Consider these questions:*

- How can you use both your gifts and natural talents in Kingdom building?
- Where would you like to begin using your gifts?
- When you think about needs all around you, where might you like to begin using your gifts to meet those needs?

- When is a good time to start?
- Where are there places where your ethnic identity can be especially effective and uniquely used to build the kingdom of God?

*Remember, God himself has entrusted you with natural talents and spiritual gifts. He has appointed you as a steward to carefully manage all He has given you and who He has created you to be. He wants you to totally enjoy using your gifts too!*

***Pray, keeping yourself always available to God, and watch him uniquely and powerfully use you to make an eternal difference for His glory!***