GENERAL

spiritual gifts survey lifeway

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Discover Your Spiritual Gifts with the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey

In today's fast moving world, many people seek deeper meaning and a clearer sense of purpose. For Christians, discovering and cultivating spiritual gifts can transform both personal faith and community life. Whether you're a seasoned pastor, a church volunteer, or simply curious about your spiritual strengths, the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey offers a structured, research based tool to help you identify your unique gifts.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore what spiritual gifts are, how the Lifeway survey works, the science behind it, and practical ways to apply your results in worship, ministry, and everyday life. By the end, you'll have a clear roadmap for using the survey to enhance your spiritual journey and strengthen your church community.

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit to believers for the building up of the church and the service of God's mission. The biblical foundation for these gifts is found in passages such as Romans 12:6 8, 1 Corinthians 12:4 11, and Ephesians 4:11 13. These verses highlight a diverse range of gifts, from teaching and prophecy to healing and leadership.

Key characteristics of spiritual gifts include:

- Divinely bestowed – They are not earned through effort but gifted by the Spirit.
- For service – Their primary purpose is to serve others and glorify God.
- Interconnected – Gifts work best when combined with other gifts, creating a balanced ministry.
- Dynamic – They can evolve as you grow in faith and experience.

Understanding your gifts helps you align your talents with your calling, fostering both personal fulfillment and effective ministry.

Why Use the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey?

While many churches offer informal assessments or rely on personal introspection, the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey brings a level of precision and credibility rooted in biblical theology and psychological research. Here are some compelling reasons to choose Lifeway's tool:

1. Evidence Based Design – The survey incorporates findings from studies on personality, vocational interest, and spiritual development.
2. Comprehensive Coverage – It addresses a wide range of gifts, including lesser known ones such as hospitality, stewardship, and teaching.
3. Actionable Results – Each result comes with specific ministry suggestions, enabling immediate application.
4. Church Ready – The survey is designed for use in small groups, workshops, or personal study, making it ideal for congregations of all sizes.
5. Confidential & Secure – Your responses remain private, ensuring honest self reflection.

How Does the Survey Work?

The Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey is a self administered questionnaire consisting of 60 carefully crafted items. Each

item presents a scenario or statement related to a particular gift, and respondents rate how strongly they identify with it on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very strongly).

Once completed, the survey processes your responses through a proprietary algorithm that maps your answers onto the 16 recognized spiritual gifts. The result is a personalized report that includes:

- Primary Gifts – The top two or three gifts that best describe you.
- Secondary Gifts – Additional strengths that complement your primary gifts.
- Suggested Ministry Roles – Practical ways to use your gifts within your church or community.
- Growth Recommendations – Resources and steps to deepen your gifting.

Key Spiritual Gifts Covered by Lifeway

While the survey covers many gifts, here are the core categories typically included:

- Teaching – Explaining Scripture clearly and engagingly.
- Pastoral Care – Offering comfort, counseling, and spiritual guidance.
- Administration – Organizing, planning, and managing church resources.
- Healing – Praying for physical and emotional restoration.
- Prophecy – Sharing God's messages and insights.
- Leadership – Leading teams and vision casting.
- Service – Performing acts of kindness and support.
- Hospitality – Welcoming and caring for others.
- Stewardship – Managing finances and resources responsibly.
- Teaching – Explaining Scripture clearly and engagingly.

Preparing to Take the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey

Before you begin, consider the following steps to ensure you get the most accurate and meaningful results:

1. Find a Quiet Space – Minimize distractions so you can reflect genuinely on each question.
2. Set a Comfortable Pace – Take breaks if needed; the survey is designed to be completed in about 20 minutes.
3. Be Honest – Answer each item based on how you truly feel, not on how you think you should feel.
4. Consider Your Current Ministry – Think about the roles you already play in your church or community.
5. Keep a Journal – Note any insights or questions that arise during the process.

Interpreting Your Survey Results

After submitting the survey, you'll receive a detailed report. Interpreting it involves understanding both the strengths and the potential growth areas highlighted. Here's a step by step guide to make sense of your results:

1. Primary Gifts – Focus on the gifts that appear at the top of your list. These are the areas where you naturally excel.
2. Secondary Gifts – These gifts support your primary ones and can be leveraged to broaden your ministry impact.
3. Suggested Roles – Evaluate how these roles align with your current life situation and future goals.
4. Growth Recommendations – Use these suggestions as a roadmap for skill development, such as taking a teaching class or joining a pastoral care team.
5. Reflect and Discuss – Share your report with a trusted mentor or small group to gain additional perspective.

Common Misconceptions About Spiritual Gifts

Understanding the survey's results also involves clarifying a few myths that often surround spiritual gifts:

- "I'm only good at one gift." – Most people have multiple gifts, though some are stronger than others.
- "Spiritual gifts are the same as talents." – Gifts are divinely given, whereas talents are often developed through practice.
- "I'm not a leader, so I can't use my gifts." – Leadership comes in many forms, including teaching, caring, and serving.
- "The survey is only for pastors." – Anyone involved in ministry or community life can benefit from understanding their gifts.

Applying Your Gifts in the Church

Once you know your spiritual gifts, the next step is to apply them effectively within your church community. Here are practical ways to do so, categorized by common ministry areas:

Teaching and Preaching

If your primary gift is teaching, consider:

- Leading a Bible study group.
- Offering Sunday school classes for children or adults.
- Developing online sermon series or podcasts.

Pastoral Care and Counseling

Those with a gift in pastoral care can:

- Volunteer for visitation teams.
- Offer grief counseling or support groups.
- Participate in marriage enrichment programs.

Administration and Leadership

Strong administrative skills can be used to:

- Coordinate worship teams or event planning committees.
- Manage church finances or budgeting.
- Lead strategic planning sessions.

Service and Hospitality

Gifts in service and hospitality are vital for creating a welcoming environment:

- Organize welcome committees for new members.
- Lead meal programs or outreach to the homeless.
- Develop small group gatherings that focus on fellowship.

Healing and Prophecy

These gifts often involve prayer and spiritual guidance:

- Offer prayer services or healing ministries.
- Participate in prophetic meetings or vision casting.
- Collaborate with pastoral teams to support those in crisis.

Using Your Survey Results Outside the Church

Spiritual gifts are not limited to church activities. They can enrich everyday life and professional settings as well:

- Workplace Leadership – Apply your leadership or organizational gifts to team projects.
- Community Outreach – Volunteer with local charities or community centers.
- Family Life – Use your teaching or counseling gifts to nurture relationships at home.
- Personal Growth – Engage in hobbies that align with your gifts, such as music, arts, or technology.

Integrating Spiritual Gifts into Small Group Studies

Many churches use small groups to foster deeper relationships and spiritual growth. Here's how you can incorporate the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey into these settings:

1. Group Survey Day – Schedule a dedicated time for members to take the survey together.
2. Report Sharing – Allow participants to share insights and discuss similarities or differences.
3. Role Mapping – Assign group tasks that match each member's gifts, ensuring balanced participation.
4. Peer Coaching – Pair members with complementary gifts to mentor each other.
5. Follow Up Sessions – Revisit the survey after six months to track growth and adjust ministry roles.

Case Studies: Real Churches Using the Lifeway Survey

To illustrate the impact of the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey, let's look at a few real world examples:

Grace Community Church – A Youth Ministry Revamp

Grace Community Church used the survey to identify the gifts of its youth volunteers. The results revealed a strong presence of teaching and hospitality gifts. The church then restructured its youth program, assigning teaching roles to those with strong gifts in that area and creating a hospitality team to welcome new members. As a result, youth participation increased by 35% over the next year.

St. Mary's Parish – Enhancing Pastoral Care

St. Mary's Parish conducted the survey among its clergy and lay leaders. The findings highlighted a gap in pastoral care gifts. The parish responded by launching a pastoral care training program and inviting experienced members to mentor newcomers. Within six months, the parish saw a notable rise in visitation rates and reported higher levels of spiritual satisfaction among members.

New Life Fellowship – A Digital Outreach Initiative

New Life Fellowship used the survey to discover that many members

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