



Finding Your **GIFTING**

PORTICO
LEARNING HUB



ESSENTIALS - MODULE 7



"I love personality tests. I love discovering more about the way I'm designed, and finding out how other people view me.

I'm an ENFP - Extraverted, Intuiting, Feeling's based Perceiver of the world. Basically, I'm in the 99th percentile of people who like to be around people, connect with people, care for people and get energized by it all.

I'm an enneagram 7, extroverted, optimistic, spontaneous and playful. When I get out of balance, according to my personality type, I can become over-extended, scattered, and undisciplined.

I truly love having discussions with people about their personalities, and finding out ways to cohesively live and communicate with each other in ways that are meaningful for everyone.

In this module we're going to look at what the Bible says about our design, which goes even deeper than our personality. It teaches us about our spiritual giftedness.

At the end of this module, you'll find a link to a spiritual gifts test that help you figure out exactly how God not only wired us up, but actually invested His Spirit in us to participate on mission with Him."

Rick Carroll

Key Takeaways



01

EVERY PERSON IS UNIQUELY
DESIGNED BY GOD

02

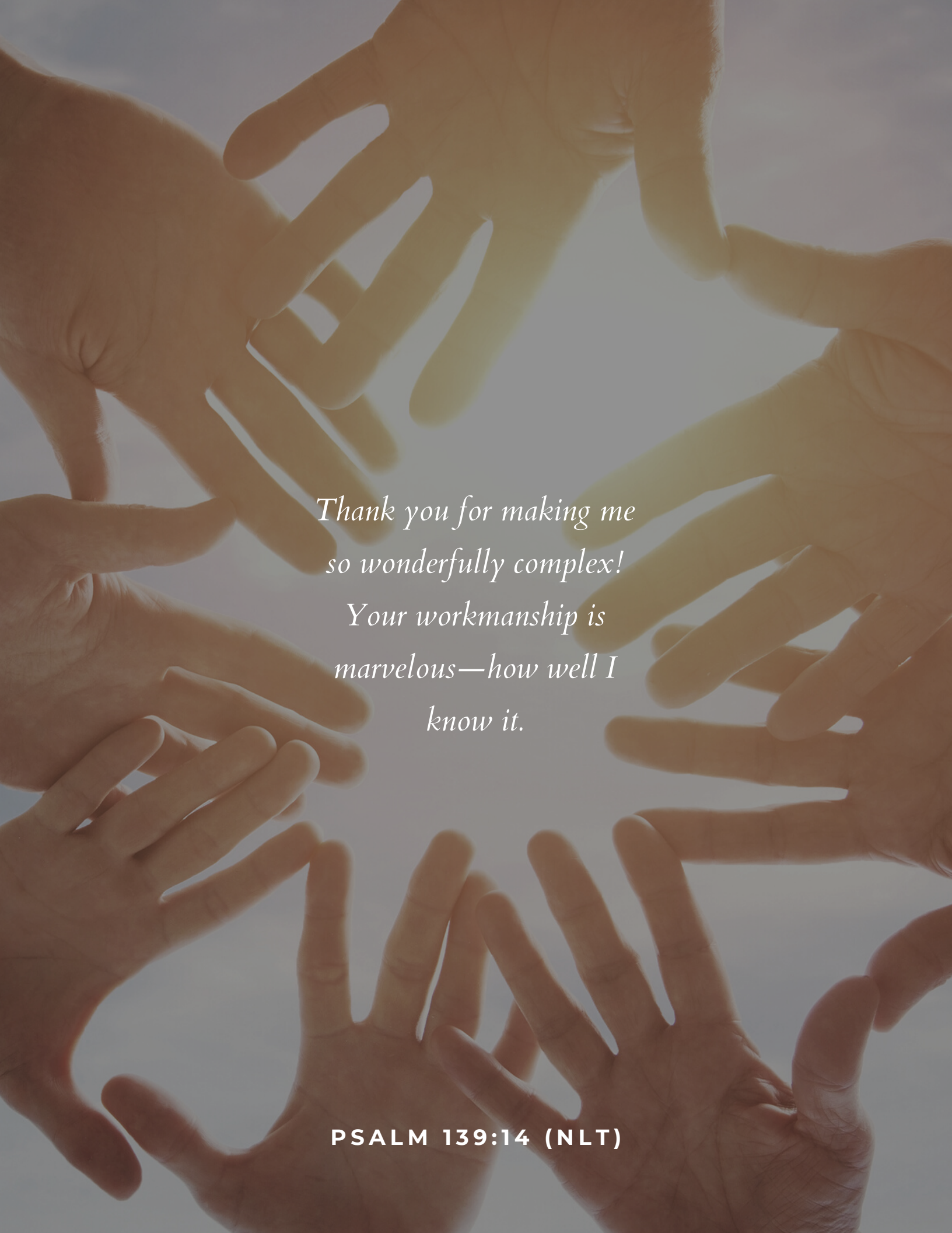
EVERY BELIEVER IS UNIQUELY
GIFTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



03

EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS UNIQUELY
CALLED TO USE THEIR GIFT





*Thank you for making me
so wonderfully complex!*

*Your workmanship is
marvelous—how well I
know it.*

PSALM 139:14 (NLT)

01

Every Person Is Uniquely Designed By God


North America has something called a preferred personality type. It means that our society and our workplaces are set up based on a certain personality traits. We unknowingly, for the most part, give preferential treatment to ESTJs - one of the Meyers Briggs personality types:

- E - Extraverted – people who speak up often get the attention
- S - Sensing – people who notice details from their 5 senses have credibility that those who rely more on intuition do not.
- T – Thinking vs feelings, similar to the sensing and intuiting. Our court system is a great example. Using words like feel or intuition do not stand up against facts.
- J – Judging people types function on lists, schedules and times and make decisions in advance. Perceivers like to wait on things, make last minute decisions.

So if you're not aligned in one or all of these areas, sometimes you feel like there's something wrong with you. Fret not – you're in good company. Only 9% of the world are ESTJ's.



God made us all unique, and all on purpose.



*I knew you before I
formed you in your
mother's womb.*

JEREMIAH 1:5 (NLT)

Every one of us is created with a unique blend of natural design with a supernatural imprint; no two people are alike. In nature we see this in snowflakes - no two are alike.

When God was speaking to the prophet Jeremiah, who himself was questioning God's purpose for him, God reminded him that he knew Jeremiah before his was born.

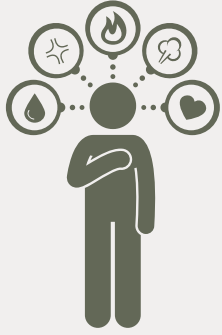
Accepting ourselves, strengths and weakness, the stuff we like about ourselves and the pieces we think are flaws is a journey for most of us. But God made us on purpose, in His image.

If you're interested in learning more about your personality type, one of the best tests in the world is Myers Briggs, whose research is used cross culture, cross generations, and is based on millions of studies and subjects.

If you visit <https://www.16personalities.com/> you can learn a little more about how God made you naturally, what will be energizing for you, and what might be a drain.

Before we get to the supernatural part, it's good for us to reflect on the natural pieces of how God designed us.

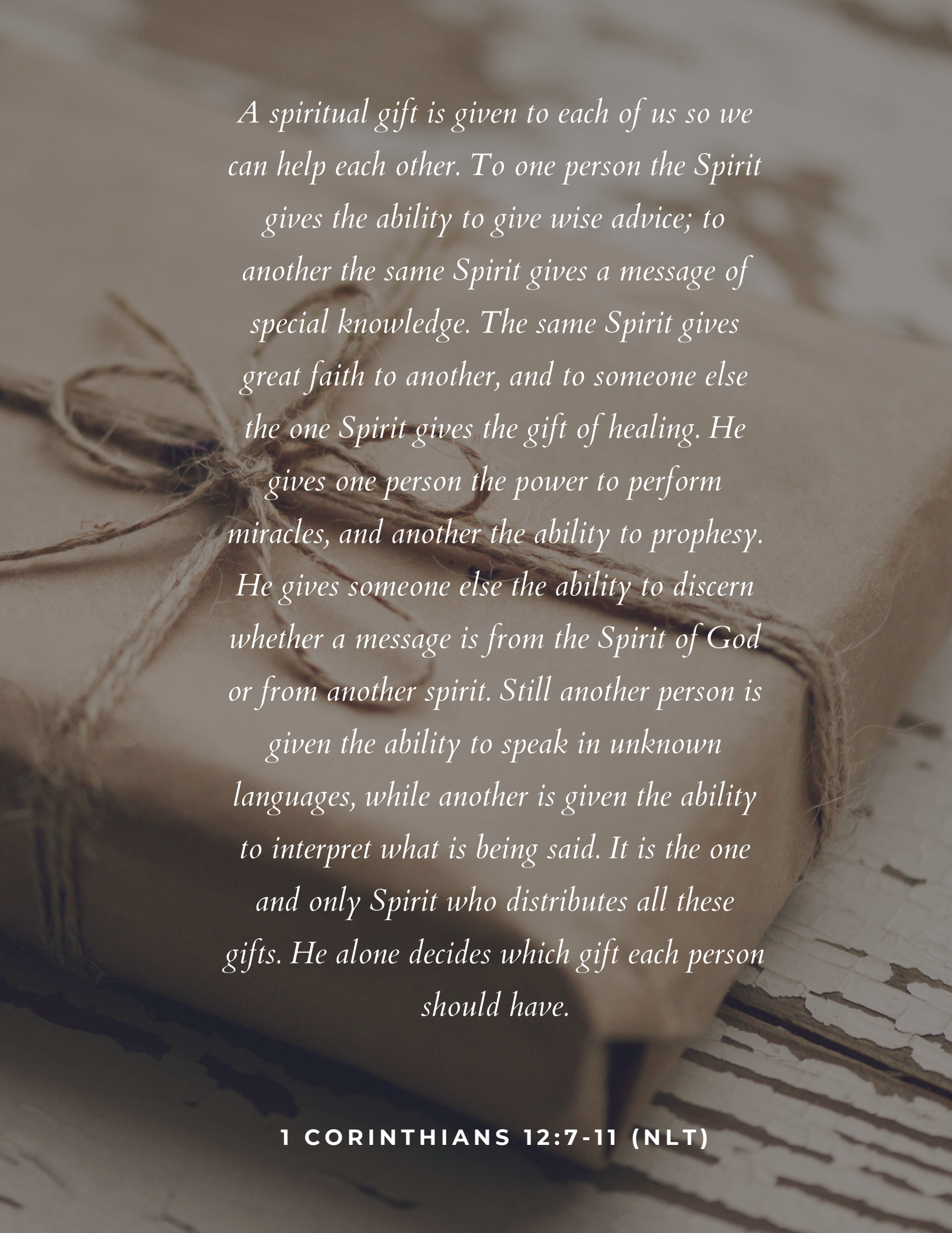
It's important to remember that while our society might have a preferred personality trait, God doesn't.



Reflection #1

What are the pieces of my personality that I tend to question or struggle with?

How might God want to use those parts of my personality as a strength, rather than viewing it as a weakness?



A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11 (NLT)

02

Every believer is uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit

In addition to the natural part of our personality, there's also a supernatural design that God has given us. As a believer, God has promised to invest his very Spirit in us, so that we can participate in the work of ministry as partners with Him.

There are a few places that the New Testament specifically lists what the spiritual gifts are - the different ways that God supernaturally works through us to care for His church and care for the world around us.

3 things to remember about spiritual gifts:

1) **They are given by the Holy Spirit** - We're no longer talking about personal talent or ability. This is God working in us. Supernatural vs natural. Moses was someone who self-described as "not very good with words", but God gifted him to speak to Pharaoh and the people of Israel. Gideon was called a "mighty warrior", even though God found him hiding from his enemies in a wine press. Our giftedness often comes in areas of weakness.

2) **They are given for the purpose of serving** - God's Spirit is invested in us so that we can serve His purposes, not our own. There are many warnings in scriptures for those who were filled with God's Spirit whose motivations were selfish. God isn't gifting us to grow our own kingdom's, it's about growing His kingdom.

3) Given through God's grace; not merited or earned - There isn't a level of spirituality, or spiritual growth that you must go through to receive God's Spirit. We don't earn them by position, by God's grace and mercy, He chooses to put His Spirit in us. While we may recognize that we're not worthy of receiving it, which is true, the fact remains that He still chooses to give it to us every one of us. No preferential treatment and no exclusions.

It's also important to remember that these gifts are different from the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians tells us that the fruit of having God's Spirit in us is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control. These characteristics are evidence of becoming more like God, but they are not gifts.

The gifts of the Spirit are all about how we serve in ministry. It's what we do. So if we are on the journey of following Jesus, we should expect that God's Spirit has been invested in us, and we should regularly be able to see evidence of Him working through us.



**The fruit of the Spirit is how we live our lives,
it's who we are.**



Reflection #2

How have you recognized God's Spirit working in you?

Which of the fruits of the Spirit do you struggle with the most?

But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:18-24 (NLT)

03

Every individual is uniquely called to use their gift.


The way that the New Testament frames our understanding of using our gifts is the analogy of a body. Literally, I belong to you, and you to me. If you or I withhold the function in the body that we've been designed for, our body will function poorly.

Think about what happens when a leg doesn't work properly, or an eye. That person is described as having a disability or exceptionality. They have to modify their world experience because one part isn't working well. If it's an organ that stops functioning, then the whole body might just shut down. Using our Spiritual gift for it's purpose is serious stuff. Our body will function in suboptimal ways unless we can all figure out how to use our gifts.

Too much of our Christian experience is sitting back and watching or listening. Sure it can be good to sit and learn at times, but God designed Christianity to be a team sport.



We're not the spectators. We're the players.

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer against a sunset sky. The person is on the right side of the frame, with their hands clasped in front of them. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds, creating a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere. The foreground shows the dark silhouette of tall grass.

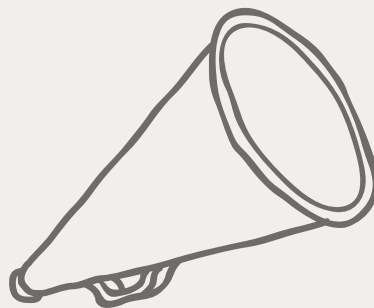
*So we keep on praying for you, asking our God
to enable you to live a life worthy of his call.
May he give you the power to accomplish all the
good things your faith prompts you to do. Then
the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored
because of the way you live, and you will be
honored along with him. This is all made
possible because of the grace of our God and
Lord, Jesus Christ.*

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12 (NLT)

Sometimes think God is the quarterback with the ball, and sometimes He keeps it, and sometimes He passes it to a few chosen players. then most of the others are in the stands cheering on God and the chosen few. When in fact, we're all on the field together, passing the ball around, and God is in the stands cheering us on to become the player he designed us to be. Even when we get it wrong sometimes, he cheers us up back to our feet, and we get back involved in the game.

Paul knew this better than anyone. Although he started out on the wrong path, when he was able to figure out exactly why God had designed him like he did, he became the greatest missionary and church planter that ever lived.

Let's reflect on Paul's prayer for the Thessalonian Church.



Many times we mess up our understanding of what serving in ministry looks like.



Reflection #3

Are you using the Spiritual Gift God has invested in you?

Are there times when you're a spectator instead of a participant in ministry?



If you've never completed a Spiritual Gifts assessment, please visit PORTICO.cc/serve and click on the button to "Discover Your Spiritual Gifts."

After you've discovered your spiritual gifts, get involved in an area of SERVE that fits you best.

[PORTICO.CC/SERVE](https://PORTICO.cc/serve)



In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

ROMANS 12:6-8 (NLT)

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

1 PETER 4:10 (NLT)

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 (NLT)

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

EPEHESIANS 4:11-12 (NLT)

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

ROMANS 12:4-5 (NLT)