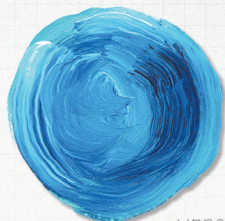
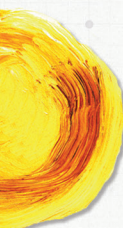


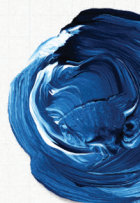
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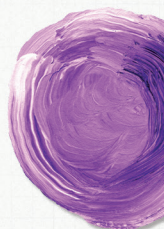
TEACHING



SERVING



PROPHECY



GIVING

THE
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GOD'S DESIGN FOR YOUR GIFTS,
TALENTS, AND PURPOSE



LEADING

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ANDY REESE



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I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you. . . . For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

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Hey, Friend,

You are gifted. I could even say that you are a “gifted child.” Does that sound strange to you? Surely, I am talking about someone else, right? But God doesn’t keep score as we do. He doesn’t count achievement in terms of finances or followers. He simply says, “I perfectly formed and gifted you for a wonderful purpose, to be involved in certain things with Me. You are perfect for those things. Mistakes are fine. You’re human! Let’s find them together. Can’t wait!”

For many years, I have had a burning passion to help people just like you understand the statement that God has an amazing and perfectly fitting purpose for them. And those things that have been prepared for your life can best be found along the path of your gifting. Finding that purpose is naturally supernatural. It is easy when we know there is such a thing. We simply say, “God, that is what I want to do and become. Will You help me?”

If that seems impossible or unreal, if you feel you are too old to start now, or whatever your reason or fear might be, I am here to tell and show you that His arms are open wide. It wasn’t too late for the prodigal, the lost sheep, the thief on the cross, or Paul, the persecutor of believers. Never. Too. Late. Never over. It is just the beginning—new every morning.

Let’s walk into this journey of connection and discovery together, growing more purposeful and more delighted. This study guide is designed to be used either alone or with others, and it is formatted to last eight weeks (although each week can be split into separate parts, which makes the total study length flexible).

Your brother and friend,

Andy

Understanding Where You Are

“I think only God can show me my gifting and purpose, and I don’t know why He won’t! Every answer I find seems to be unhelpful and contradicts every other answer. ‘Spiritual gifts’ seems to be sort of a Christian inside joke. I need answers. Where is God in all this anyway?”

The Spiritual Gifts Blueprint, chapter 1

Before you begin, please read chapter 1 of *The Spiritual Gifts Blueprint*.

The Main Thing

As you read chapter 1, notice that across the spectrum of church types and affiliations there is a large number of competing definitions and associated understandings of the term *spiritual gifts* and nothing at all about the various individual roles of the Trinity members. This situation has effectively clouded the probable intention of God that a clear understanding of our gifting and intimate connection, or co-working, with each member of the Trinity in their roles would serve a central place in our lives, guiding and accompanying us toward God’s purposes for each—for you.

Individual Study

Your Story

The quote above came from the words of an angry and confused college student who was seeking direction in her life and feeling as though knowing her spiritual gifting would help. Your own feelings and words may be a bit like that. Maybe not. Let’s explore your story from several directions to help you understand where you

feel you are now on the subject of spiritual gifts and connection with the Trinity.

Think back over your history as a believer. It may be long or short, fairly uncomplicated, or complex and jumbled. No matter. God isn't confused about you! When you look back on your story as a Christian who is gifted by God, see if you can recall and frame answers to these questions. "I'm not sure" is a fine answer.

1. *Where am I?* In chapter 1, we discussed a one-question survey I had two groups of college students take. Let's try it. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is "little knowledge or little interest," 3 is "an idea but little practical application," and 5 is "a pretty clear understanding and use of spiritual gifts"), how would you rate your current understanding, belief, and practice in the area of gifting—however you define it? Write a one-sentence description of your current stance (as reflected by your self-rating score) that someone else could read to gain an initial impression of where you are.

Look at the "spectrum" figure on page 24 in chapter 1. Do you see yourself somewhere along that spectrum? Describe your formative or current church affiliation, if any, and brief history:

2. *How did I get here?* In a sentence or two, think about and jot down the key relationships, events, or drivers for how you came to your current understanding or practice concerning spiritual gifting. For example, was it in a class, a church, a college Bible study, or did it come from a parent or a friend?

3. *How do I relate to “Gift Lists”?* Chapter 1, on pages 28 and 29, talks about different definition lists of *spiritual gifts*. Does your understanding of your spiritual gifts coincide with any listing source, particular teaching, or teacher with whom you are familiar? In your current understanding, how many spiritual gifts are there? What are their names? Do they come from a particular Bible passage?

Group Discussion

Shared Stories

If you are part of a group that is discussing the book, great! As we go along, I will note ways your group can share together your history and journey. Often the individual questions will be the best source for group sharing—and reading the book chapter(s) and individually responding to those questions ahead of the group gathering will be effective.

This first group discussion is a time to get to know each other, our stories, and our histories.

1. Encourage each group member to briefly share a summary of his or her answers to questions 1 and 2 (*Where am I?* and *How did I get here?*) above. Be sure that each member feels comfortable that there is no right or wrong answer. Allow questions for clarification and understanding.

2. Talk together about question 3 (above) and your current understanding of and experience with spiritual gifts. How do you currently see or define them?

3. Think about the following admonitions from Paul to Timothy:

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you” (1 Timothy 4:14).

“I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you. . . . For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline” (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

Think about Paul’s listing of the three complimentary understandings of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts: power, love, and sound, disciplined thinking (which is a fuller translation). How would you describe your current understanding or application of spiritual gifts from this three-part perspective? Which of the three seems most important in your own belief and practice of spiritual gifts? How might these three balancing aspects be used to keep this part of your life in proper balance?

4. Brainstorm together on potential ways that you can stir up your own gifting (as Paul admonished Timothy) and help support each other to do so.

5. Pray for each other that everyone in your group might know God’s intention for gifting in their lives. Pray that you all would be mutually encouraged in the journey.