
My Gifts and
Anointings from
God

JACOB JACKSON



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My Gifts and Anointings from God

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Description: I will build this short text first on the most familiar ideas - that is, natural talents & abilities, then work my way up through gifts of the Father, then gifts of the Spirit, and finally gifts (callings, or anointings) of Jesus (Yeshua). Next I will work through some questions to be addressed in the operation of the gifts. Then I will invite you to look at a few examples of all of these working together cohesively, and an opportunity for a laboratory session to help you discover your gifts and callings, and finally turn the entire book upside down and begin with your calling, flowing through the gifts of the Spirit, through the gifts of the Father, and finally through your natural talents & abilities and out into the world around you.

Keywords: spiritual gifts, spiritual callings, spiritual anointing, talents for ministry

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Preface

In the winter of 2004, I was in my first year as a student at The University of Wisconsin - Madison. I had just broken up with my high school sweetheart, in an attempt to do the right thing by her and by God. It was followed by a deep depression and a turn towards the promiscuous. I wrestled with my sin and God's calling to me until finally I reached toward the scriptures - The Message New Testament lying on my shelf. Immediately upon opening up to one of the gospels, I sensed Jesus (Yeshua) speaking to me directly through the words on the page. He was talking about real life, and I was stirred. I went out to the Memorial Union Terrace to study for finals, and decided to pray. I asked God to give me Christ (Messiah)ian friends, because I didn't have any, and I needed help living the Christ (Messiah)ian life I wanted to live. Within 5 minutes of praying, two men came up to my table and asked if they could do a spiritual survey with me. They quizzed me on the basics of salvation according to the Bible, and I answered all of the questions. They asked me about my story, and I told them about my ex-girlfriend and everything that had been happening to me, and one of them said he went through the same thing when he started out in college (he was still a student) and asked me to come to his Bible study that was right next door to my dorm. I said yes. At the Bible study, I met a few Christ (Messiah)ian guys and the one, Nick, who had invited me was there, and he led a short study, then invited us to come to a conference called TCX (Twin Cities Experience). I didn't have the money to go (it cost \$270). So I prayed, "God, if you want me to go to this conference, I need the money to go." My parents didn't have the money either. Then, one night out in the snow, my grandma called me and said she just finished Christ (Messiah)mas shopping and had \$270 left over - and did I need anything? My jaw dropped, and I said yes, there's a Christ (Messiah)ian conference I was invited to go to. I was elated at how God was so clearly leading me in this direction. I was set up with a ride, and there I went! At the conference, I was absorbing the teaching like a sponge, writing tons of notes, and finally becoming comfortable raising my hands in worship. At one of

the seminars they offered, the one on forgiveness, I heard the gospel in a new way that I hadn't received before - I was instructed to write down anything the Holy Spirit convicted me of (convicting of sin) on a piece of paper, then write a verse about forgiveness on the back, and then was told that if I didn't believe that Jesus' (Yeshua's) sacrifice on the cross was enough to pay for all that sin, that I was calling God a liar. That kicked me into gear, and they had us throw the paper away and head out the door, which I did, and immediately saw a vision of heaven above me for a good couple of seconds, and then I walked out the door. I knew, without a doubt, that I was truly saved, and filled, and baptized with the Holy Spirit. From then on I had an anointing teaching me things at an alarming rate, and prompting me to do things I was not yet ready for, but He worked with me nonetheless. He wanted me to start healing people, and sharing my faith, and studying the scriptures. I went directly to the different lists of gifts and callings of God to find out what this was all about. I asked for pretty much everything on every list, but felt that I already had quite a few of them, with the exception of the callings - and felt that I was called to be an Apostle, as it was the only one that made sense to me, the only one I wanted, given my experience up to that point, and given how clear my mission was based on further visions and dreams, including but not limited to unifying the church worldwide as a family united in prayer for one another, and the knowledge of the glory of the Lord covering the Earth as the waters cover the seas. My calling was further verified by a traveling prophet, Tom Stamman, who said I was called to the nations. Furthermore, I eventually came around to remember how God had been at work in my life since I was maybe 3 and a half to 5 years old, when my grandma had first led me to the Lord, working through gifts of the spirit and unusual encouragement. Many of those experiences are accounted for in this book.

What stirred me to write this book, however, was that knowledge I received through the Spirit. It took me just over thirteen years to process all the information I was given, and to experience the use of that knowledge in practice. This book is intended to correct believers in their assumptions about the gifts and callings of God, and edify them in the gifts and callings they possess. I present it to you as my gift, which thirteen years of discipline has wrought within me.

Introduction

I will build this short text first on the most familiar ideas - that is, natural talents & abilities, then work my way up through gifts of the Father, then gifts of the Spirit, and finally gifts (callings, or anointings) of Jesus (Yeshua). Next I will work through some questions to be addressed in the operation of the gifts. Then I will invite you to look at a few examples of all of these working together cohesively, and an opportunity for a laboratory session to help you discover your gifts and callings, and finally turn the entire book upside down and begin with your calling, flowing through the gifts of the Spirit, through the gifts of the Father, and finally through your natural talents & abilities and out into the world around you.

Table of Contents

1. Talents and Abilities
 - 1.1. Artistic Design
 - 1.2. Craftsmanship
 - 1.3. How They Work
2. The 7 Gifts of the Father
 - 2.1. The Gift of Prophecy
 - 2.2. The Gift of Serving
 - 2.3. The Gift of Teaching
 - 2.4. The Gift of Encouragement
 - 2.5. The Gift of Giving
 - 2.6. The Gift of Leadership
 - 2.7. The Gift of Mercy
3. The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - 3.1. The Word of Wisdom
 - 3.2. The Word of Knowledge
 - 3.3. The Gift of Faith
 - 3.4. The Gifts of Healings
 - 3.5. The Gift of Miraculous Powers
 - 3.6. The Gift of Prophecy
 - 3.7. The Gift of Discerning Spirits
 - 3.8. The Gift of Tongues
 - 3.9. The Gift of Interpretation
4. The 10 Anointings of Jesus (Yeshua)
 - 4.1. Apostle
 - 4.2. Prophet
 - 4.3. Teacher
 - 4.4. Pastor/Shepherd
 - 4.5. Evangelist
 - 4.6. Miracle Worker
 - 4.7. Healer
 - 4.8. Helper
 - 4.9. Leader/Administrator
 - 4.10. Interpreter
 - 4.11. Specialization of an Anointing
5. Questions
 - 5.1. Why Does He Give Them?
 - 5.2. Are You A Gift?
 - 5.3. Are You Rational?
 - 5.4. Are You Gentle, Succint?
 - 5.5. Why Aren't You Using Them?
 - 5.6. When Do We Use Them?
 - 5.7. How Do We Use Them?
 - 5.8. Where Do We Use Them?
6. Putting It All Together: Laboratory
 - 6.1. Turning It Upside-Down
 - 6.2. Creating A Gathering

1: Talents and Abilities

Every one of us has some kind of innate talent or ability that makes us unique, and allows us to impact the world around us through works of art, song, dance, literature, and engineering (or invention), etc. These talents are in us by design of God the Creator, for us to enjoy and for others to marvel. The scriptures speak of God giving such abilities to a man called Bezalel:

The Lord said to Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. (Exodus 31:1-6, ESV)

Here we see two types of ability: all craftsmanship, and devising artistic designs. The latter is the designing of physical works of art, and the former is the ability to construct those works of art “in every craft.” So, as another example, you can have a choreographer devising artistic dances, and then have a troupe of dancers perform it on stage (their “craft”).

There is also the talent of literary design - the ability to work in narrative, poetry, and prose discourse, to tell stories that entertain, teach, and build up others - and give poetic songs and psalms to help us feel striking emotions and process life events - and create logical arguments toward a desired course of action.

The Bible itself is a compendium of masterful works of literary art that are expertly woven together into a full, unified storyline that tells us the story of God, Man, and the rest of Creation from beginning to a prophesied end. Those who write such beautiful art are often called “Scribes” in ancient literature.



Section 1

Artistic Design

Every artistic design begins with a medium. For God, it was the watery abyss of the Earth and the three heavens. The first thing He creates on this canvas of raw space and matter is light. He then divides the light from the darkness. We read also in scripture that God Himself is light - so the first step of creation is the taking of who and what God is, and divides it from what He is not - darkness. Ideas are born this way - sketches, plans, blueprints - dividing outside from inside, whitespace from blackspace, rooms within floors, cubicles within offices. Artistic design covers everything from drawings to paintings to 3D models using CAD software, or even to screenplays or melodies and harmonies.

To go with a more personal example, I have been working on show choir choreography for many years now, and it virtually plays in my head - a full troupe of singer/dancers performing various numbers to various songs I have picked out. Choreography is all about the movement and lines of the bodies of the dancers against the backdrop. I can fast-forward and reverse the action, I can replay parts I want to remember for later, and I have even been paid to do such artistic work for the live stage.

For another personal example, when I was in show choir in high school, I was placed in charge of decorations for every show we did, and took artwork from a show choir t-shirt to be a hanging silhouette in the backdrop of the stage, and spelled "Cabaret" below the stage in rope lighting.

As with the use of the show choir t-shirt, artistic design can be inspired by others' works, either directly or indirectly. I once took a mock-up comic book cover given to my grandpa when he was a Captain by one of his airmen in the Air National Guard, and extended it into a full comic strip. I included some humorous banter between he and my grandma in the kitchen, and airmen in the barracks lighting up farts with a cigarette lighter (all true stories).



Section 2

Craftsmanship

Speaking of execution of designs, in Genesis 2, we see God as master craftsman, molding the first man, Adam, from the dust of the earth, and breathing life into his nostrils. This is not unlike the carpenters that build the structures on stage in a play, taking the blueprints from the master designer (God the Father) and making them a physical reality (Jesus (Yeshua) - Everything was made through Him). Then there is the team that moves the set structures around the stage for different scenes, breathing life into the set (The Holy Spirit).

Again with the same personal example, I have dance and singing experience under my belt and would love to *perform* with a show choir of my own, with my own choreography and music included, and make it my craft as well as my design.

And again, the decorations I designed in high school were carried out thusly: I drew the artwork off the t-shirt, put the outline on a projector, lit up a giant piece of cardboard on a wall with the outline shining on it, and drew the outline on with permanent marker, then my team and I cut the cardboard to that shape, and cover it with black construction paper. We then used fishing line to hoist it up in front of the back-drop curtain. The silhouette was that of two singer-dancers striking a pose.

For another show, we hoisted up three stars, and two flashes of flame in colored paper on either side of and high above the stage, with rope lighting illuminating the flames. In these examples, I was doing some of the work bringing my vision to life myself, and also a great deal of it was carried out by my show choir friends who volunteered to help me in my endeavor. It took trust that they would carry it out with as much TLC as I would, and they did not disappoint me. Using and sharing your gifts with others can be a fun, exciting, team-building and character-building experience! And as far as inspiration goes - it can also come from the Holy Spirit!

Section 3

How They Work

The way all gifts and abilities work is first by discovery, then by way of use they are developed into maturity and can be applied to life problems, issues, and opportunities. It's a subtle sort of "switch" you can turn on and off when using your gifts, and then a workflow develops as the creative process flows. For example, if you really didn't care about it, you could draw an ugly, misshapen Venn Diagram for notetaking one day, but the next day, you would "turn on" your drawing talent and draw two perfect circles overlapping. We use our gifts when we care, and throughout their development, we are at a point of not thinking about it at all, so people assume we just woke up with the talent fully developed one day (even though the raw talent was there all along). By way of practice, you refine your gifts. As you'll see, this is the same way all gifts function - including the spiritual gifts and anointings of God, you just have to be open to their use in your daily life, and willing to ask God (and others whom you can trust) for help and wisdom on how to apply a certain gift. This is where we often break the simile between artistic talent and spiritual gift, because we rarely ask anyone for help with our artistic talents, unless we're going to art school - being expected to use your talents on a daily basis for a certain purpose. Whereas, in spiritual gifting, we often feel like we are floundering in the ocean of faith, with people's spiritual lives and confidence being at stake, and we desperately cry out for more clarity and help in using the gifts we've been given. This is why it is very good to find a church community that will help you to practice your gifts in a safe environment of no-judging and no-tearing-down, where experienced and seasoned prayer ministers can verify the truth of what you say, especially when you prophesy - which is the gift Paul said we should all earnestly desire - as in 1 Corinthians 14:1

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy." (NIV)

2: The 7 Gifts of the Father

The first list of gifts in the Bible occurs in Romans 12:6-8:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (NIV)

The reason I assign these gifts to the Father is because the second gift list is specifically distributed by “the same Spirit,” and the third gift list, is specifically from Jesus (Yeshua). This is also delineated in the verse 1 Corinthians 12:4-6:

*There are different kinds of gifts, but **the same Spirit distributes them**. There are different kinds of service, but **the same Lord**. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is **the same God at work**. (NIV)*

So, we have gifts of the Spirit, gifts of the Lord Jesus (Yeshua), and gifts of God (the Father). I am putting them in the order they appear in scripture. All the Father’s gifts are ways of working - the more obvious being Serving, Teaching, and Leadership. Then also Prophecy is a way of working in a church body, as is Encouragement - working on people, that is. Much in the same way are Giving and Mercy ways of working - working money and working through compassion toward those in need of mercy.

It is also interesting to note other triplets in scripture: bearing fruit 30, 60, and 100-fold for example. And sealed, filled, and baptized with the Spirit. I think it’s logical to put these triplets together - when we are saved, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, and bear a 30-fold harvest, and have gifts of the Father given to us. When we take a stand for Christ (Messiah), we are filled with the Spirit and bear a 60-fold harvest, and have gifts of the Spirit given to us. Finally, when we are baptized in the Spirit, we

bear a 100-fold harvest, and receive an anointing, or calling, from Jesus (Yeshua). We'll look into these different gift lists one at a time, starting with the Father's gifts.

Section 1

The Gift of Prophecy



The gift of Prophecy, as given by the Father, is what I believe to be the Old Testament paradigm of prophecy - namely, the giving of dreams and visions and having supernatural visitations, even hearing the audible voice of the Lord. It is also more focused on correcting leadership (Kings, for example) and performing acts of prophetic symbolism (the prophets who warned Paul about his coming trials by tying themselves up in rope, for example). They focus less on individuals' futures and more on the futures of nations and people-states, and on times and seasons. I have had several instances of this Old Testament Gift of Prophecy activate in my life. One was a dream about the Ark of the Covenant, in which God spoke and told me, "Read My Word," and another in which I was standing naked in a worship assembly and God spoke and said simply, "Obedient Heart." At another time, I closed my eyes to pray and instantly found myself in a vision, face-to-face with The Messiah, Jesus (Yeshua), and had scars across my face and Jesus (Yeshua) seemed sad, and nothing was spoken. Another time, I was taking communion, and the Spirit of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah) rose up from my belly up into my face in red outlines of his features and garments. Finally, I was praying and saw the post-resurrection Jesus (Yeshua) climbing over the edge of a rock with His crown of thorns on his head, from His perspective. I still have no idea what the purpose of the three visions of Christ (Messiah) were, except perhaps to know what He looks like and how he feels, and perhaps to validate that I am an Apostle, one who has seen the Lord (this is a typical requirement of Apostleship). As far as times and seasons go, this is a spiritual "sensing" of the state of the Earth and Heaven. I believe we are currently (as of April, 2018) in a time of rest and recuperation, stirring up our gifts and the spirit within us for a future outpouring of ministry on the Earth. I see it as an outpouring of molten gold out of a crucible, and a mixing in with the ministry of old - of molten silver. We're talking quality over quantity in the coming season. Almost all of the Earth has been reached with the Gospel. Now is the time to prepare for an outpouring of the Spirit that is all

about building up, upgrading if you will, the faith of the faithful, and dealing with the old manner of leadership, and raising up the new.



Section 2

The Gift of Serving

The gift of serving is all about seeing a need and following through in meeting that need, working with your hands to see it done. It comes with an attitude of humility - no task is below you, you're always willing to help in any situation. As a servant, you are quick on the ball to take on an immediate task, and have eyes that see the steps that need to be done, and you work well with others with the same gifting. You are quick to volunteer, and get excited about getting your hands dirty and using your other gifts in the process of serving. People in leadership appreciate those with the gift of serving, as they are reliable and can be counted on to accomplish a given task. People with the gift of serving are often single-minded about their task, as Paul says of a good Christ (Messiah)ian soldier in 2 Timothy 2:4:

*No one **serv**ing as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. (NIV)*

In my experience, the gift of serving is this impulse to want to jump in with other believers executing a task without being asked, but rather asking if I can help. For example, after Campus Crusade for Christ (Messiah)'s weekly meeting at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, I always felt the urge to help them tear down sound equipment and coil up audio cables, and transport them to a house where they were kept. This made me part of the family, and I got to go out to eat at Perkins with the team. Good servants are invaluable in the community of Christ (Messiah), as they make everything run smoothly in the background. With servants, things just get done, often without anyone asking - servants just know what needs to be done.

Also, there is a position in the church dedicated to serving - called the Deacon - which is a transliteration of the Greek diaconos, meaning "runner," "messenger," or "servant." It's doubtful you could be a Deacon without the gift of serving!



Section 3

The Gift of Teaching

One of the most ubiquitous gifts in the Church (particularly in church leadership) is the gift of teaching - everyone seems to want to teach others, in particular teaching from experience. It gives one a position of honor - as nearly every Pastor teaches, as do many others on the Church staff. However, in James 3:1 it states:

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (NIV)

We shouldn't desire to teach in order to make ourselves appear or seem smarter or more seasoned than others. Teaching is all about taking scripture and experience together with a humility and gentleness that conveys a message useful for the hearer, the scripture giving them faith, and the experience giving them hope.

Teaching from the Bible in an open forum or television is overdone and all over our society, and false teaching has reached an unimaginably high level as well. So much so that people honestly believe that if they hold a ten dollar bill in their hand and name it "New Honda Civic" and then mail it in to a certain ministry, within a week of telling everyone they know, "I'm believing for a New Honda Civic, and I shall receive," a Civic will drive up to their house and a nice man from Honda will step out and give them the keys with a smile. Try James 4:3:

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (NIV)

Try to teach in private, preferably smaller circles of friends rather than pursuing a teaching ministry, or use it in the business/private sector. Unless of course your calling is Teacher, then your anointing will direct you in how to apply this gift.



Section 4

The Gift of Encouragement

Encouragement is all about building others up, like spiritual coaching. Encouragement comes in three levels: general, specific, and meeting the need. General encouragement is something like, “You’re gonna be ok, kid, I promise.” Specific is more along the lines of, “Your solo today was healing to me and your grandmother, you did a great job!” And finally, meeting the need is more like, “You can never be snatched out of the Father’s hand, and you can’t escape His love - when you sing, everyone feels that.” Encouragement can change lives, it’s powerful, and it requires you to step out on a limb of faith to speak the higher levels of encouragement into a person’s life. It reminds me of a song, “Encourage one another, and build each other up, build each other up. Encourage one another, don’t tear each other down, tear each other down.” I believe everyone should ask for the gift of encouragement, as it is useful for using the other gifts in ministering to others in a loving way. It’s pretty hard to encourage someone without loving them at the same time! Encouragement is also a filter through which we can prophesy - so that whatever message we give from the gift of prophecy, it is used for the encouraging and building up of the one(s) we are prophesying over. As in Acts 15:32:

*Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to **encourage and strengthen** the believers. (NIV)*

Sometimes I feel nervous or unsure about encouraging others, as I want to be accurate and get the correct message across. I feel that this is coming from a place of immaturity in the gift of encouragement - so perhaps that with use, I will be more free-flowing and just get out there and encourage people!



Section 5

The Gift of Giving

Perhaps the simplest of the gifts, the Gift of Giving is all about fulfilling a need or want in another person, knowing what to give and when, always on the lookout for unique items that can encourage and build up another person. My grandma is the perfect example of someone with the Gift of Giving. She is always bargain shopping for clothes, taking me out to get new shoes, giving me worship or teaching CDs and DVDs, stocking my cupboards with cups and glasses and dining-ware, buying me furniture for my apartment, and so on. She does this for all of my cousins as well, and all the rest of the family. She just keeps on giving! And she enjoys it! This is perhaps the hallmark of the Gift of Giving - cheerfulness, as in 2 Corinthians 9:7:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (NIV)

You know you have the gift when you are excited about giving to others, and are always thinking about others' wants and needs and how much fun it's going to be to fulfill them. Typically a giver wants to surprise their recipient, and gives with a smile. All of this is giving with cheerfulness. You want to give the world to everyone.

Another example from my experience happened following a prophecy I gave to a girl in the House of Prayer. Part of the prophecy was a vision of a hawk body with a peacock head. About a week after this prophecy, I saw a t-shirt at JCPenney's with the exact same image I saw for her printed on the front. I leapt for joy and immediately bought the shirt and gave it to her at our next meeting. I was so excited, and envisioned her pinning it to her wall or something (as it was an extra large, and she was quite petite).

Another example is that of giving with generosity. There was a woman at church who needed a ride home, and so I offered her a ride. We ended up talking about the Lord for a good hour and a half in her parking lot. It turned out she was in financial

need and couldn't pay rent that month. I gave her all \$600 that I had in my wallet, and it felt *great*. She was so excited to receive and that made me happy. As it reads in Romans 12:8:

*if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then **give generously**; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (NIV)*

Giving generously is the way to give! However, it is best to develop a relationship before you give someone money. Sometimes it is wisest to give them their immediate need, like food or shelter or clothing. As a final example, a friend and I came across a homeless man on State Street in Madison, and he wanted money from us. Knowing nothing about him, we asked him if he would like some Taco Bell, and he did, so we took him there for lunch. The conversation was difficult, as the man was a Muslim and proceeded to preach Mohammed to us. I gently reminded him that he was eating on Jesus' (Yeshua's) dime and we shared Christ (Messiah) with him, but he did not receive. But perhaps we planted a seed and he will someday remember our encounter and know that Jesus (Yeshua), and His followers, loved him and provided for him.



Section 6

The Gift of Leadership/ Administration

In my experience as of late, I've found that the gift most people want is the Gift of Leadership. They want to be top dog, in charge, using their experience to fuel their leadership endeavors. People want to move up in the world, and so they want to lead. This could mean administrative work, management, or church leadership. Everyone wants the spotlight that leadership gives. But what is the gift of leadership all about? Well, it's a gift of responsibility for others' work or life, vocation or avocation, knowing the direction to go, and pulling people by the hand in that direction. It is not about the spotlight. It often involves organizational skills, and tremendous social skills. Leadership could be for a church, a business, a team, an army, or small project. You can bring your leadership gifting to any endeavor involving a group of people coming together for a common purpose. It involves setting goals and assigning roles for the purpose at hand, and is benefited by the Gift of Encouragement for keeping morale up within the group. The person with the Gift of Leadership wants and desires responsibility on their back, and wants to help carry others' burdens - not asking anyone to do something that they wouldn't readily do themselves. Leaders defend and protect those whom they lead.

As an example, in high school I worked at a local grocery store as my first job. My manager told me something I will never forget: "I'm here to defend you, in any argument with a customer, I will have your back, no questions asked." Even though we will do whatever it takes to make the customer happy, and management can often do that, management will never turn on his or her employee. This made me feel confident and assured that my manager would never be my enemy. And he proved it. One day a lady put all her produce (each a different price per pound) in a single plastic bag. I reminded her that produce should be bagged individually, both because of the pricing issue and inventory reasons. She flew off the handle, and said she didn't care about our jobs, and said she would never come back again. My manager's response? "Good, we don't need her business."



Section 7

The Gift of Mercy

Mercy is perhaps my favorite gifting, as it feels so freeing and wonderful when someone has mercy on you and your situation. Someone giving you the sandwich you didn't have quite enough to buy after all at the counter, being forgiven an offense and being held in the arms of someone in authority instead of being cast out. It is all about feeling someone else's pain and sharing in it. Mercy givers are sensitive to others' emotions and want to help. They often attract people who are in distress, and people often confide in a Mercy giver more so than they do others. Mercy givers need to be needed, and are drawn to other sensitive people. The most powerful thing Mercy givers are capable of is the kind of mercy shown to the Prodigal Son in the parable of the same name, spoken by Jesus (Yeshua) in Luke 15 (in part):

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.
(NIV)

Have you ever been filled with compassion for someone, and couldn't help but run and show mercy to them? That's the Gift of Mercy.

3: The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The second gift list is found in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11:

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (NIV)

In contrast to the very common-sense, Earthy gifts of the Father, the Gifts of the Spirit are very subtle to discern, but operate in the same way (by way of discovery, use, and refinement). Some are physically-oriented, like the gifts of healing and miraculous powers, while others are communicative and give a message, like knowledge, wisdom, prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues. The remaining, faith and the discerning of spirits, are more intangible and carry less of a message, and more of a status (discernment) or driving force (faith). Again, these are gifts specifically of the Spirit and He distributes them generously, and you may ask for additional gifts and He may very well grant your request, if you've been faithful with what you were initially given. Read Jesus' (Yeshua's) parable on this topic:

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

Luke 19:12-27

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

‘After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

‘His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

‘The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

‘His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

‘Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

‘His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

‘“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (NIV)

Now don't be afraid, all you have to do is use your gifts when you have the opportunity to do so, don't think I mean to scare you into using your gifts in a hurry, but more that you would ask for even more gifts to use, and be like the one with 11 bags of gold in the end! Using the gifts is actually quite fluid and, when well used, easy to flow in from moment to moment, especially when in a gathering of believers, where people are open and willing to receive from you.



Section 1

The Word of Wisdom

In my experience, the Word of Wisdom is a word or phrase that offers wisdom for the situation at hand, or how to proceed. It is invaluable in counseling relationships, and leadership circles, as it illumines the pathway ahead. It can also help in building trust in relationships, when your sound guidance and advice has resulted in success and good fortune. This may lead someone to an encounter with Jesus (Yeshua), and the Gospel, and lets people know you speak for God. In Genesis, it is noted the Joseph had the wisdom of God for Pharaoh's situation through the interpretation of his dreams. It can serve to elevate you to a position of leadership or power, as in Joseph's case, because those above you know they can trust you. In a circle of believers, the Word of Wisdom is often met with nodding heads and "hmmms" - asserting that your wisdom is agreed with. Not everyone in leadership will agree, however, and you may have to stand your ground and watch things play out for them poorly when they refuse to heed your wise advice. For example, I was in a meeting of believers that was going out on a spiritual "treasure hunt." Upon praying for guidance to find the "treasure" (a person who needs to hear the Gospel or be encouraged and prayed for), one person saw a bandana, someone else saw ice cream, I saw a peeled banana. I suggested we should go and get a banana split down on State Street, and look for someone wearing a bandana. My advice was not heeded by the young lady in charge, and the resulting expedition to the Memorial Union Terrace (what she saw) was fruitless. She was afraid to go out on a limb and trust what the rest of us were seeing (see the Gift of Prophecy) and went on something she knew from experience (the Union Terrace). Often, when I wish to hear a Word of Wisdom, I raise my left hand, forefinger extended, and receive one spoken to me in my spirit.



Section 2

The Word of Knowledge

As with the Word of Wisdom, the Word of Knowledge is typically a single word or phrase or idea (it's typically short) that speaks to a given conversation or situation. It's often met with the idea that you "read someone's mind" - you know without being taught what the other person wants to say and thereby verifies the truth of the idea being presented. It solidifies friendships, often, because people feel understood and their ideas accepted. It could also be used in conversations with an unbeliever, where you know something like "Lake Stratton" is the place where they like to fish the most, and thus the person knows something miraculous is happening, and it draws them in closer for a presentation of the Gospel, or an opportunity for the person to grow in their faith, becoming filled by or baptized with the Spirit of God. Words of Knowledge are most often met with smiles and appeasement, and you often have no idea how you did it, you just knew what to say in the moment (but it does require faith!). Sometimes they come in rapid-fire, one right after another in a given conversation, and mold and mesh with other knowledge you have by way of reason, education, or experience. The result is, as we say, "A good conversation!" - especially when both parties receive the same Word as the other, multiple times. It's also called rapport (not to say you can't have rapport without the gifts of the spirit, but it sure fuels the fire!). As with the Word of Wisdom, I often raise my *right* hand with forefinger extended, and receive a Word of Knowledge spoken to my spirit.



Section 3

The Gift of Faith

Every Christ (Messiah)ian has saving faith - the faith that comes by hearing the Word of God. A person with the gift of faith has extraordinary ability to trust God for a desired outcome, or for a promise to be fulfilled, usually within a church group or community, much like a visionary with the ability to see that desired outcome in their mind's eye, and support the faith of the laborers who carry it out. Basically, it's for big projects or great needs in the church body. The gift of faith bolsters the faith of others involved in such projects and in attending to such needs. I remember using the gift of faith in my second semester and following summer at UW - Madison. I had a vision for a Christ (Messiah)ian men's house humorously called the GLOCK (Guys Living Out Christ (Messiah)'s Kingdom), after the women's house up the street called the FLOCK (Females Living Out Christ (Messiah)'s Kingdom). My vision was for all the Christ (Messiah)ian living communities on campus to be linked up through this one house, also called 1619. I had the vision and the unshakeable faith that God wanted it done, and so I led the house from day one - simply asking new friends if they had a place to live the next year, and then it grew and grew until we had 7 men - a full house. There were moments when the other men faltered in their faith as to whether it would all work out financially and logistically, but my gift of faith buoyed theirs and they trusted me to be the one to see it through. I envisioned a house in which we could confidently pray for one another, study in peace, collaborate with other houses on campus in evangelism and hosting parties, and serve in Campus Crusade for Christ (Messiah) and participate at a local church called The Journey - which pulled a double role as a coffee shop right down the street. The Lord was with us the whole way through - and I never doubted that He was going to be with us on this endeavor. We found free furniture being thrown out of The Regent Apartments, we volunteered at a local church on campus, First Congregational Church, and in return received even more free furniture, and we found an extra two refrigerators being thrown out at The Regent as well, which worked fine! And on top of all that, we received a roughly \$400 discount on our rent for being able to move in early. Not only

were all our physical needs taken care of, and our rent per person being around \$350/month, we were spiritually on track as well! The first four of us to move in engaged in prayer one evening, hands held, for the friend of a girlfriend's return to the faith. She had been criticized sharply in a church gathering for desperately crying out and wanting more of Jesus (Yeshua), and because of this had turned to Wicca instead, and had only one friend left who was a Christ (Messiah)ian - and this friend was the girlfriend of one of our men, CJ, and she asked us to pray for her friend who had gone astray. I led us in prayer, fully confident that this was the beginning of our ministry as a house of men for Christ (Messiah), and by the time we were done praying we felt something tremendous had happened. The next day, the girlfriend notified CJ that her friend had returned to Christ (Messiah) the very night we had prayed! Amazing! Not only were we physically and spiritually blessed, we were intellectually blessed as well. I learned all about setting up a filter server from one of our guys, Justin, (for blocking pornography) and we named it "Magen" - which is Hebrew for "Shield" and I drew it in permanent marker in Hebrew characters on top of the tower we were using as the filter server. I even learned how to hack into a network signal on our own local network. I taught guys how to run wire throughout the house from the filter closet out to each bedroom, and set up a WiFi network as well, all using extra networking cable and hardware from some of our own personal projects that we had done in the past (me and Justin). I found that my gift of faith, and how it worked itself out in our being blessed, caused these guys to come to trust me as their leader. We ended up with a fully equipped center for fellowship - and ended up inviting various friends and family members over to the house to hang out, and we were also invited up to the FLOCK up the street for fellowship with the girls there. In addition, I found myself meeting Christ (Messiah)ians on campus (in classes, for example) that were living in their own, small Christ (Messiah)ian communities, and I thought about creating a website that would connect all of us together as one, larger community that could collectively impact the campus for Christ (Messiah). This next step was never (yet) realized, as I left Madison in early spring for Army Basic Combat Training, and returned to an entirely different situation, as I had no more job, and was unable to rejoin my friends because the house was full! I hope that sometime in the near future, during my second bachelor's degree, I will be able to start up the dream all over again, as I still have the faith!

Section 4

The Gifts of Healings



Interestingly, the healing gifts are in a double plural form (Gifts of Healings), indicating different things to heal, and in different ways. There is the “warmth” gift, that is a kind of *heat* emanating from the healer’s touch that transfers healing power into the recipient’s body, to heal any number of physical afflictions. It is usually accompanied by a word of faith - saying “Be healed, in Jesus’ (Yeshua’s) name!” which is the second, verbal gift of healing. Rarely are one or the other used separately, but it happens often in “line ministry” - where just the physical touch (not necessarily the heat transfer) will heal the afflicted (and they are usually slain in the spirit upon contact). We see this combination in a place in scripture where Peter heals a man in the temple:

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah) of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. (NIV)

Another example, is that of indirect physical contact - either through cloths that Paul had touched, or Peter’s shadow falling on the afflicted - where their anointings go to work healing people without even meeting them face to face:

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. (NIV)

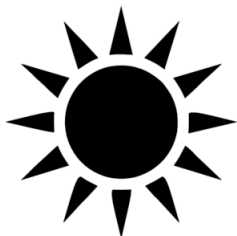
As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. (NIV)

Notice, also that other healings are being worked by these gifts - that of evil spirits leaving people, which is spiritual healing as opposed to physical. Finally, there is the healing of the mind and soul - where one may use a physical touch or a word of faith or indirect method of contact to deliver someone from mental and emotional problems, deliverance from evil spirits taking up residence in them, or afflicting their soul.

Such mental and emotional illnesses include discouragement, worry, jealousy, and other destructive attitudes. However, most of the time this kind of “soul surgery” takes time and counseling - the fourth and final gift of healings in which the person who desires healing must engage and interact with a person with this gift over the course of time. Sometimes these soul sicknesses may come in combinations - as in what the psychiatric community call mental illnesses - like Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety, Depression, OCD, PTSD, and so on. These illnesses have a physical component, in the brain, and a soulish component, in the mind, will, and emotions. One may even specialize in such diseases, having both a MD and DMin, for example (though you may specialize without any degree at all). Healers may be able to empower others in taking control of their mental illnesses, as in confessing to Jesus (Yeshua) that one has “mental depression, emotional depression, and biological depression” and asking for help. I found that in the case of my past depression, simply saying that sentence out loud to Jesus (Yeshua) caused all my depression to lift (the dark clouds lifted off my brain) and the physical healing began to take place as I noticed an impression on my brain where the depression once was, and it slowly has “filled in” to its proper “shape” over time as it has re-oxygenated. One may have any number of the *gifts*, and any number of the *healings* we touched on. I would guess that most of those who use their gifts of healings with any sort of regularity, will have all 7. And asking for more does work, too!

On another note, it is important to be persistent and not give up when healing someone. I once prayed for a man to be healed of his carpal tunnel syndrome, from playing guitar on a worship set every week. I took his wrists in my hands, and “pushed” the heat from my fingertips into his wrists, which usually happens when you press firmly and wait a moment while pressing that “switch” to turn on the healing gift. Then I said a quick prayer for his wrists to be healed and ended it by saying, “Be healed in Jesus’ (Yeshua’s) name.” He felt his wrists, and said, “They’re about 10% better.” I said, “Ok, lets try again” - I did the same thing and he said, “They’re about 90% better.” Finally, a third time, I prayed and said, “Be healed,” and he said, “They’re 100% better!” Cool, huh? Just like Jesus (Yeshua) and the blind man where he said he saw people but they looked like trees, and Jesus (Yeshua) tried again, and the man was fully seeing.

A final note, the gift of diagnosis - knowing what is wrong and what is required to heal it. I wasn't told the man had it in both wrists - I grabbed both wrists on instinct!



Section 5

The Gift of Miraculous Powers

This has got to be the most exciting of all the gifts of the Spirit, and the least understood. In the greek, it is called *energema dunamis*, which means “an effect or operation of specifically miraculous power.” This leaves the door wide open to interpretation as to what *an effect* or *operation* exactly is, but in the english it is translated The Gift of Miraculous Powers. In this context, I can’t help but bring forth a specific example or two:

When I was in show choir my senior year in high school, we were putting on a 2 hour show called “Cabaret.” After one of these shows, the sound board team came up to me and said that while I was singing one of my solos, there was a sudden burst of fireworks on either side of the stage from me. Without knowing what I was doing (probably trying to worship while performing at the same time, as I usually did), I had done a miracle. Or rather, my anointing did a miracle while I was engaged in song and dance. They pointed out to me exactly where they saw the fireworks come out of the stage - and there was nothing there but black wooden stage floor, just like everywhere else. That same year, when coming into the choir room for rehearsal, one of the sound board team stepped off the risers, a girl I had taken to prom the year before, pointed her finger at me and announced, “You are God!” I just shook my head, as if to say “You silly silly girl.” Another, earlier time that year, when rehearsing for the Christ (Messiah)mas Concert, my choir director told us we’d be singing Eliyahu Ha’navi (“Elijah The Prophet”), and announced, “This song is about Jacob Jackson! He’s the king! Worship him!” My jaw dropped and they began to sing. I got straight down on my knees, prostrate, and begged Jesus (Yeshua) to make them stop, that it was not about me, that it was about Him. But they continued to sing. My only conclusion is that the Cabaret show was not the first time I had done something miraculous. This is also verified by scripture. Often times in Acts, when the Apostles do something miraculous, people tend to get on their knees and start worshipping them, and the Apostles have to redirect their praise and worship to Jesus (Yeshua), the King of

Kings. The same goes for angels, they tend to get worshipped and must stop the person and tell them to worship God. I wish I had had the maturity at the time to tell them more boldly to worship Jesus (Yeshua) and not me, but I was overwhelmed and could only pray on my knees.

Another example is during a worship set at the House of Prayer for All Nations Madison. I was dancing in worship of Jesus (Yeshua), tip-toeing my way around the little kids that were lined up at front, and didn't stop until the leader of the House of Prayer stopped me, and announced at the mic that what I had been doing was opening a door in the spirit for people to enter in to worship Jesus (Yeshua). While there was no verification of anything physically miraculous, I still count it because I believe in spiritual miracles as well as physical. Perhaps the leader saw an actual door behind me on the wall? That's what I pictured while he was announcing what I was doing. Something like a door with Elvish writing around the curved top and straight sides. Of course, I'm sure it was something more like Hebrew, but it reminded me of The Lord of the Rings - The Fellowship of the Ring, when they enter the mine through a door with a secret password. Anyhow, that's what I saw, not necessarily what anyone else saw.

As my final example, many times I have tried to go to sleep but couldn't, because I kept seeing flashes of light all around me, like flashbulbs, and I felt like there was power coming out from me to make them happen, again, I didn't do anything "on purpose" in any of these examples, I was just singing, dancing, worshipping, and, in this case, resting. Perhaps this is to keep me humble, so I don't go around doing miracles just for fun. I do know I can make things happen in the spirit, like explosions or mist or lighting, or my thumb lighting on fire, but it doesn't happen physically (but I can see it happen all around me, and I can feel the heat on my thumb - it actually hurts!). I have yet to have these things verified by someone else who's watching, to see if it can be seen by a second or third party.

Section 6

The Gift of Prophecy



The gift of prophecy, as given by the Holy Spirit, in the New Testament, is much more personal in nature than the “Old Testament” Gift of Prophecy. In my experience, it’s at its best when called “prophetic prayer” given to individuals during a sermon, and is called a “Holy Spirit Commercial” - where someone is selected by the Prophet to come up front, and for their friends and family to come up and lay hands on them, and pray for them silently. The Prophet then places their hand on the person and begin to share what they see in their past, present, and future - and it’s *always* encouraging. What the prophet is doing is seeing pictures in his mind’s eye, or visions, and interpreting what these visions mean. They may also get a prophetic word when combined with The Word of Knowledge or Word of Wisdom. At other times, as in my experience, I might be talking to someone on Facebook Messenger or texting someone, and I “turn on” the gift of prophecy and will see a vision or series of visions for that person and share what I see and what I believe it might mean. The reason I share the “raw material” of the vision is because I’m rather green when it comes to the Gift of Prophecy, so I want them to be able to tackle the meaning for themselves, along with me. Typically, while seeing a vision, you will get an “impression” as to what each component means. I had to learn this from experience, because my first time getting a vision for someone, I was shy on offering my impression as an interpretation, but found courage in looking up the vision’s components on a Biblical symbolism dictionary and my impressions were spot-on. This is the prophecy I talked about in Chapter 2, Section 5: The Gift of Giving, the one with the hawk body (means intelligence or wisdom) and the peacock head (means beauty or vanity - I did not get the impression of vanity whatsoever, just beauty). I was sad later that I didn’t share it with her immediately, but it turned out she looked it up for herself with a friend, and when next we met, she said she was encouraged and had a better week! Always good to hear confirmation that your prophecy had positive effects! Since that first prophetic vision, I have had dozens of chances to share prophecies with friends and family, and they’ve hit the target spot-on a good 90% of the time, and the other

10% I always say to “put on the shelf” for later, it may come to light at a later time what it means. It’s important to be patient and invested in your prophecies, not stopping until you know the prophecy is finished, or until something else more important comes up:

The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. (NIV)

There is also the inspiration of a prophecy to a larger group (or possibly to an individual), where a message from God’s mind comes directly through the prophet. This is related directly to the “impressions” the prophets receive related to the visions they see (as in, just an impression and no vision at all) - not based on knowledge the prophet already knows, but something fresh and new from God’s mind (which, of course, must be weighed and considered in respect to the Scriptures). It is supernatural speech (in a known language, not in tongues, although it is technically possible that someone may be able to offer a prophecy in a foreign tongue if someone is there to interpret, but I’ve never seen it done - but you never know!) and is used by the Holy Spirit, as with all the gifts, to convict people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come. You can really feel it in the room when someone is prophesying - the conviction of the Holy Spirit, almost arresting us and stopping us in our tracks (even physically!) so that we may listen and hear what the Spirit has to say.

One thing to remember, is to carry with you a tape recorder or digital recording device, with which to record your prophetic oracles and share with the receiver, as these prophecies are invaluable to the Christ (Messiah)ian’s growth and development as a person, as well as encouragement and building-up in their faith as they listen to the recordings over and over again. My first encounter with prophetic prayer was caught on tape by the people on the Prophet’s ministry team, and handed to me when it was done. I play it all the time! It’s such a great encouragement, so that now I bring my own tape recorder, as there isn’t always one available on site. Plus, this is a shoe-in for being a part of a ministry team - for the leadership to be able to hear a prophetic utterance for you specifically, from a known minister especially, and for them to be able to put you on a team that matches your calling and your gifting.

As you can see, it is obvious why Paul said to eagerly desire the Gift of Prophecy:

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. (NIV)

as it builds people up tremendously, and if done in love, like he said, it is the paramount of spiritual gifts, as it is recorded in all three gift lists (Old Testament Prophecy, New Testament Prophecy, and the Anointing of Prophet). Only prophecy has this weighty place in the scriptures concerning the Gifts & Callings of God. For further reading on prophecy, check out [The Blue Collar Prophet](#), by Tom Stamman - who is also an Evangelist, having written on that calling as well, and [Growing in the Prophetic](#), by Mike Bickle. Both of them being prophets, these are great resources for those who wish to grow in the Gifts of Prophecy, or the Anointing of Prophet.



Section 7

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits

This is a special gift, very useful in “reviewing” teachings or prophecies and determining whether they come from God, man, Satan, demon, or angel, or some combination thereof. If you have this gift, you have a gut instinct about where messages (and people) come from, and also the ability to “see in the Spirit” - as in seeing angels in the room, seeing spiritual warfare, knowing in your spirit what is going on in a church gathering - whether there is strife or if people are holding their tongues. You get an important, gut instinct about people in general, whether or not they can be trusted, whether or not they’re possessed by a demon, whether or not they’re afflicted and need deliverance, and most of all: if a message they preach is a false gospel - you know it immediately - a twinge in your spirit tells you “this is not from God,” or “this is from his own mind,” or “this is a doctrine of demons.” I always check the upper corners of a room for angels and demons, and I’ve found that a room in which you feel comfortable and you can rest at ease, usually is protected by a large number of angels up in the crown molding parts of the ceiling, and sometimes demons are there, and the angels have them locked up in battle so they cannot attack. When a person enters the room and you immediately feel that twinge of warning, and the peace leaves the room, then you know they’ve brought with them a demon spirit, or many demon spirits, and the angels have to take action to protect you, but you should also know to try to deal with the situation through prayer, and by directly, lovingly confronting the person and finding out what brought them in. Also know, that you can talk to the angels, that you can ask them for help, and that the demons are no match for them (the angels always outnumber the demons). Whenever you are using a space for worship or are moving into a new dwelling, clear out the air by casting out demons directly, and asking the angels to come and protect the space and keep the peace spiritually, and as Jesus (Yeshua), the Holy Spirit, and the Father to come and dwell with you or be present in the gathering. Granted, Jesus (Yeshua) will already be there because wherever two or three or more are gathered in His name, there He is in the midst of them. But ask anyways, for the room to maintain its “presence” whoever happens to be inside.



Section 8

The Gift of Tongues

How many times have I wished I could just speak a different language using the Gift of Tongues just for fun. It just doesn't happen. I always end up praying my prayer language - which is some sort of Hebrew variant, an angelic tongue I think. It almost always begins with "highest praise" - "hallel hallel hallel hallel." And then goes into some other words like "samba" - which is just a form of dancing as far as I can tell, as it is in English as well. In any case, I find it very easy to learn foreign languages, and I am fluent in Spanish, but trying to speak in tongues in Spanish is hard - because I have the "hard coded" Spanish I learned in school that I want to "think through" as I speak it, with the exception of just a casual conversation with a Spanish speaker - that I can do without thinking. In the Bible, we see the Apostles at Pentecost speaking in one tongue out loud, but all the hearers heard it in their own, native tongue.

When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. (NIV)

Later on in scripture, we find that sometimes a message may be spoken in a tongue not known by those in a gathering of believers, but must be interpreted by someone with the gift of interpretation of tongues, which we'll see in the next section.

So, is there room for the possibility of physically speaking another language to be understood by someone who is a native speaker of that language? I think so, given that we can speak in the tongues of angels out loud, to build ourselves up in the spirit - as it is direct, spiritual prayer to the Godhead, praying "perfect prayers" as the Holy Spirit would give you utterance. My grandmother practices this kind of prayer to herself every day on a walk around the neighborhood, and she says it always builds her up in her spirit. But not everyone has the Gift of Tongues, and this is important to note, as Paul asked rhetorically, "*Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?*" (NIV)



Section 9

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

The final gift of the Holy Spirit, the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues, is counterpart to the Gift of Tongues, as it is required in any church gathering if tongues are to be spoken, otherwise those who speak in other tongues should keep silent. It is most useful to combine the two gifts so that one may have a conversation with a person of a different country of origin or different native tongue, and serve as interpreter (as we'll see in Chapter 4, Section 10). This is the one gift that I have never used, or have underused, having received the "impression" of what the person said but not the actual words. I've been at a total loss with most languages being spoken around me (with Spanish being the exception) so it's safe to assume I simply do not have this gift. One thing is certain, the person with the Gift of Interpretation (or Translation) of Tongues always knows what's going on, and probably speaks a plethora of different languages fluently. I don't think I could handle all of that!

4: The 10 Anointings of Jesus

Finally, the third list is a list of anointings, or callings, that come from Jesus (Yeshua) - in which YOU become the gift! Pretty exciting, actually. There are two lists of callings that mesh to provide a full list of all the parts of Jesus' (Yeshua's) anointing that are distributed amongst believers. The first is in 1 Corinthians 12:27-28:

Now you are the body of Christ (Messiah), and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. (NIV)

The second, adding in evangelists and pastors, is in Ephesians 4:11-13:

So Christ (Messiah) himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ (Messiah) may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Messiah). (NIV)

Here we see, verified, that it is *Christ (Messiah), himself* who gave each calling to the church. If we mesh the two lists, in order, we get the following full gift list (slightly modified for clarity):

First Apostles, then Prophets, Teachers, Pastors/Shepherds, Evangelists, Miracle Workers, Healers, Helpers, Leaders/Administrators, and Interpreters.

Interesting to note, an Apostle may step into a lower calling in the building up of a church community or household, to show the Way of Love more clearly in those callings. Also of note, your anointing teaches you and no one can teach you “how” to be an Apostle, or a Prophet, or a Teacher, et al. See 1 John 2:27:

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. (NIV)

Section 1

Apostle

The first calling, or anointing, of Jesus (Yeshua) is that of Apostle, which means “one sent,” or “special messenger” or “official representative” of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah). To be an Apostle is to be on a mission, to have a message (as the Apostle Paul said, “my gospel.”), and to be consistently “on point” (as we say in the dancing world), with the way we interact with people in general, because you feel that everything you do matters. Usually, an Apostle is one who has “seen the Lord,” in my case in three different visions, as I mentioned in Chapter 2, Section 1 on the Old Testament Gift of Prophecy, but as in the case of Apollos, a New Testament Apostle, there is no record of him having seen the Lord, so I don’t think it’s absolutely necessary for Apostleship, however, signs and wonders *do* accompany the genuine Apostle:

I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. (NIV)

I can say that I have demonstrated some of this in my short time thus far as an Apostle, but have not jumped in all the way yet - I think I am still “in the making,” in a state of journeying in the wilderness, learning what my message really is, what my life vision is all about. It is most definitely as a forerunner of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah), as I have been called both “Elijah,” and “John the Baptist,” the latter by a senior minister in a church I have attended, and the former I was called in high school (as I mentioned in a story in Chapter 3, Section 5 on The Gift of Miraculous Powers). I know I want to reconcile the believers who are outcasts in the world with those who are in the “official” church body, or the institution of the church at large. I have spent quite some time with the outcasts of the church through my experience of mental illness and being institutionalized because of it. I believe the true faith has been lost and can only be found again with the reconciliation of the “ins” and the “outs.” In that, I believe God is going to raise up leaders for the “outs” to become a powerful force in the church at large, because they are going to be built up in their

gifts and callings, and treated with respect and honor, no longer outcasts, but the elect. We will believe their stories of what they were before they were outcasts, all the amazing things they have done in their lives before the lights went out in their brain, before persecution came, before severe damage was done to their soul, even by those who claimed to be Christ (Messiah)ians, or betrayed by their own families. It's time to be a family to these people, and lift them up, and put them in positions where they can serve with their tremendous gifting. We need to listen to them, for they have learned their spirituality from the School of Life, which is richer and more profound than a seminary education can ever be, for it is learned from experience, and from specific scriptures that define their lives. And those are the scriptures they live by. Yes, they have their own life verse! Sometimes, several! And at the same time, they struggle with drug and alcohol addiction, mental illnesses, financial disaster, loss of employment - what we in the church world would deem as total failure, and in need of "professional help." No. They need *our* help. Professionals play their role, but it is the family of God that must welcome these, known in the Bible as "the poor and destitute," to our gatherings and put them right up in the front row, and treat them with special honor, giving them our very best. We must come alongside them and humble ourselves to the point of understanding their plight, and becoming true friends, brothers, and sisters. We should all be growing, as one body, in each of our gifts and callings, along side one another, no matter where we're at in life or what we've been through, holding fast to that which we have in common: Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah) as Savior and Lord. That is my mission as an Apostle of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah), my Savior and Lord. I believe that's the kind of mission an Apostle ought to have, not just being involved in world missions, which I intend to pursue over the course of my lifetime, but rather starting at home (do not despise the day of small beginnings). As a final note, Apostles are not required to be ordained by the church, they may only be recognized by the church, and can "step into" a lower calling, like say Teacher, to show by example what is expected of a Teacher, or for the purpose of enlightening others as to what each of the callings are all about and thereby they, too can discover their own anointing.

Section 2

Prophet

The calling of Prophet is the second calling that the Bible says the church is “built on,” along with the calling of Apostle. Ideally, a prophet occupies the “office” of prophet in the local church body, and within which calls attention to sin and compromise, as well as building up in grace and truth. They are God’s mouthpiece, and provide encouragement as well as “spankings” in the Holy Spirit. They may be painfully truthful, but the better prophets ask for the ability to be sensitive (prophesying in love). The Prophet, of course, uses both gifts of prophecy (OT and NT), and is confident in their use of scripture as well as revelatory knowledge, both working together in their ministry of correcting and building others up in the Spirit.

For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, those who prophesy speak to other people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation (NIV)

Prophets can be intimidating, but also very teachable, as they are crushed when they realize they’ve sinned, or taught or done wrong. When a prophet has a message, there is a fire burning in their bones to proclaim it to the church or to a person who needs to receive it. They know the times and seasons of the Spirit - as I mentioned in Chapter 2, Section 1 - and know when it is time to act in response to the changing of seasons, and what we should expect will change in our lives as a result. My favorite Prophet, Tom Stamman (who wrote [The Blue Collar Prophet](#)) is a traveling prophet-evangelist, and ministers in churches all over the place, and has an orphanage in Honduras. He’s the one who, as far as I know, invented the “Holy Spirit Commercial” I mentioned in Chapter 3, Section 6 on the New Testament Gift of Prophecy. I can’t say whether or not one should choose to be a traveling prophet versus a prophet with a specific church body, or both. The prophet who warned Paul about his coming imprisonment by tying himself up in Paul’s belt seemed to be a traveling prophet, as he came from Judea:

After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" (NIV)

There is much testimony of prophets and their activities given in the Old Testament, and a little bit in the New Testament. They definitely seem to be under orders from the Lord much of their days on the Earth, and they speak the Lord's mind. Also, as with the Apostles, Prophets do not have to be ordained by the church, but rather are chosen by God and the church may only recognize them. Also, prophets, with apostles, are the foundation of the church, as it is written,

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ (Messiah) Jesus (Yeshua) himself as the chief cornerstone. (NIV)

Being built on Christ (Messiah) Jesus (Yeshua), a prophet is deep in their capacity to trust God for the outcome, no matter what has to be done to obey Him, and is not easily swayed by emotions. If you do not respond objectively, a prophet may not have much sympathy or patience with you, they expect obedience to the Truth of Scripture. A prophet does not like compromises, and often thinks in terms of black & white, not gray. The prophet may often have the Gift of Discerning of Spirits, so as to discern inner motives and "seeing as God sees," knowing whether or not the heart is pure rather than whether or not the act being brought forward is acceptable.

Also, the prophet has great responsibility, as they are receiving messages from the Lord for other people literally all the time, and they feel an unction to share, because there may not be "another time." The prophet must "sit" in the prophecy until it is all seen and spoken for that particular person, and even when you're "tuned in," you must eventually move on to the next person for time's sake. Tom Stamman says he must bathe a ministry meeting in at least an hour of prayer beforehand, and now I know why - it is very hard to keep your focus on the prophetic while also running a meeting or really doing anything else, and I don't know what he prays, but I know I want to pray for tons of grace on God's part, and faithfulness & focus on my part. Not to mention for everyone to receive what they need!

Section 3

Teacher

The third calling, or anointing of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah), is that of the Teacher. This is the one we most closely associate with Jesus (Yeshua), as he was called “Rabbi,” and, well, he seems to always be teaching! A teacher is one who has learned a spiritual truth and takes “ownership” of it, making it their personal responsibility to guard, protect, and teach that truth to others. Teachers are also rapid learners, and can imbibe large amounts of truth at one time, but they always want to discern whether what has been imbibed is verifiably true. This is seen in Luke’s introduction to his gospel:

“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word; it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed” (KJV)

Teachers are always checking with their sources, and go to reliable, recognized sources that tell them the intellectual knowledge they need to know to verify the truth they are investigating. Teachers are also hounds to the hunters of false teachers, and don’t trust other teachers’ words without credentials, like Luke’s statement *“which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word... having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first...” (NIV)*

Also, teachers love to teach, which should be obvious, and they manage to slip in a Bible lesson into practically every conversation they have. This overactive tongue can get teachers into trouble, especially when they are young in the faith, and don’t have that perfect understanding that Luke had, but only knowing in part (knowing enough to be dangerous). In teaching others, I always try to share from what I’ve learned and from my experience, relating it the way it was passed on to me and expressing how it has affected me, being open and honest and willing to admit I don’t know it all.

Having been a teacher since I was a 5th grader, I can say that being a teacher is being a learner first, and one who passes on that knowledge second, always being willing to learn from your students, allowing them to engage with the subject at hand and trying different methods of imparting knowledge to them. As Dr. Albert Schweitzer encouraged his fellow physicians to “help their patients discover the Inner Physician,” so I say also let the learner discover their inner teacher. My favorite way of doing this is the word study brainstorming session, where you take a word or name (like, say, “Holy Spirit”) and ask people to throw out different words that come to mind when you say “Holy Spirit.” Do this for about 15-30 minutes, writing everything up on a whiteboard or easel, with lines connecting connections of logic, until everyone is spent. Then ask the group what they’ve learned. You’d be astounded how much can be learned in a session like this, when people throw out their gut instinct, or first thought that comes to mind on a topic or person, and do this repeatedly over the course of a decent chunk of time.

Similarly, I was once teaching a show choir a dance routine I had choreographed, and came to a point where I had forgotten part of the routine. Without skipping a beat, I asked the girls to come up with a dance move or two that would fill that gap of a few measures. They really shined and came up with something truly top-notch! I was super proud of them, but also humbled because I was “the choreographer” and they were “the show choir.” It worked out great! (and I got paid, haha).

I have also found that Confucius was right when he said, “I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” While there has been much recent research on the different learning styles of students, I still believe that doing is understanding, in that “ahhhh” moment of watching a cut-section of an engine being rotated by crankshaft through “intake, compression, power, exhaust” at a slow turn. Or testing your own blood type in an advanced biology class in high school. It’s the “aha” moment that everyone gets when they participate in what is being learned up on the chalkboard or projector in a hands-on fashion. So, also, I believe that what I am teaching in this book is most necessarily followed by some sort of “laboratory” in which you may safely experiment with your gifts and discover your calling. Instructions for creating this kind of laboratory will be found in Chapter 6.

Section 4

Pastor/Shepherd

Being a shepherd is fun! You get to call the shots in the really important stuff - do we need more fun? More food? More scriptures from the Teacher(s)? Does person A really need to have a heart-to-heart conversation with person B? Does person C need soul-surgery and revitalization? Never fear, Shepherd is here! The Shepherd is all about soul care and relationships, protection and provision. Think of the 23rd Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (NIV)

This is the ultimate in shephardship! No lack of food, drink, rest, sleep, play, work - and the refreshing of my soul! Guidance, even in the darkest valley through life, somebody's got my back and knows the way out, so that I don't fear any evil. Even correction is a comfort to me. When my enemies scoff at me and my God, there's always someone who can "show up" and "show off" in support of my cause, and my very self. I will always have a home. All of this - because of my pastor. Pretty neat, huh?

So, lets turn our focus onto the meat and potatoes of pastorship. Soul surgery and refreshing. Soul surgery is all about getting the sheep (that's you and me) to talk about what is troubling us and causing us fear, doubt, anxiety, grief, or any other negative emotion, and to find the root of that feeling by talking it through - "pushing" the words out, "targeting" the feeling in our bodies (where repetitive feelings come to physiologically dwell) and keep going until there are no more words. Then we move on to the next negative emotion. And so on and so forth, until we're all "cleaned out." Then we begin filling up the empty space left behind - the shepherd will know what to say to build us back up and fill us back up with love and courage and

strength. That's the refreshing counterpart of soul surgery. It took me a good year to clean myself out with the Lord alone, so I know the path well, as should every pastor know something of this from experience - call it catharsis if you like, but much more purposeful and soul-searching. There will be times during the soul surgery when one will need to confess and repent of a sin, or a dozen sins, it doesn't matter, just get them out of the way so you can move forward. There will be lulls in which nothing comes to mind, but everything is not well on the inside, they just don't have the words yet to describe the emotions and feelings they feel. They may need to make things right with someone else as part of the process, but don't guilt-trip anyone into the "making amends" thing unless it is clear and must be done (if they have the money they stole in their pocket, just instruct them to give it back, and stop stealing from the grocery store). Pastors should be willing to go as far and as long as needs be in this sort of counseling relationship. If you run out of time, schedule a follow-up for as soon as possible.

Shepherds should keep a keen eye on relationships within a church group or body, especially looking out for strife and discord, and look to make peace immediately. They should encourage them to be of one mind and one heart. The shepherd should also be the one to coordinate and provide food and physical refreshments to that church group or body. They should come to the defense of the innocent and outnumbered, and should always verbally recognize good character amongst the sheep. Think along the lines of the points system in Harry Potter - like, "50 points for bravery in the face of evil. 10 points for standing your ground, even against your friends. 25 points for generosity," etc.

As you can tell, I'm working an angle here - that of youth ministry and the Youth Pastor. But it works among adults as well, and rather it should if we have a sense of humor about ourselves and start getting together more often - with our pastor!

Granted, I'm only 32 as of this writing, and I feel like I'm only a 20-something at that, but there seems to be a gap between college-aged and middle-aged persons in the church. My church once had a 20s & 30s group, but that fizzled out after about 2 years of me joining. I think we needed a good pastor involved in that group.

Needless to say, pastors are important! And they need our thanks!

Section 5

Evangelist

Everybody knows at least one evangelist - that is, Billy Graham. His entire life revolved around preaching the gospel in great crusades all over this country, and in many other nations as well. The evangelist is focused, single-minded, they always look for an opportunity to share Christ (Messiah) with others, in a Christ (Messiah)like way. Bill Bright was another great evangelist - he considered that being with someone for more than 5 minutes was enough evidence that he should be sharing the gospel with them, and so he did - shared the gospel at bus stops and train stations and Campus Crusade for Christ (Messiah) events all over the place (of which he was founder). He was also the author of the famous pamphlet called The Four Spiritual Laws, now renamed Would You Like To Know God Personally? This tool has enabled thousands of college students worldwide to share their faith with other college students and youths and adults along the way. The evangelist does not usually have to rely on a pamphlet to aid them in preaching the gospel, though many have, and can actually get pretty creative with the way they share one-on-one or with a small group. They find ways to shift a conversation about anything over to the topic of Jesus (Yeshua), and the cross, and of guilt in regard to sin, and the place of faith. Evangelists love to talk to people about Jesus (Yeshua), and they often have a compelling faith story of their own - their testimony about how Jesus (Yeshua) came to their rescue at their hour of greatest need. I have to say, I'm not an evangelist! I'm much more shy when it comes to sharing my story or the gospel, but rather I tend to weave my message to the church into my conversations, and slowly edge my way into talking directly about Jesus (Yeshua) - and I'm very sensitive to people not wanting to hear another gospel presentation, but rather to hear about love being paramount, and that Jesus (Yeshua) is that love that we share when we gather together. Mostly, I find, I'm in the presence of other believers who have already accepted the Lord, and who readily agree with my doctrine. Evangelists are all about spreading the seed of the Gospel of the Kingdom, "planting," and I'm more of one who "waters" the seed, and it is

God who makes them grow! Granted, I've also done my share of planting, it's just not my focus. I focus more on discipleship and training up believers.

Section 6

Miracle Worker

Miracle workers are wild cards, you never know when they're about to strike. I've never met one in my life who would tell me their approach (they're always incognito) - and my own working of miracles doesn't offer me much help, except that the anointing works when it needs to work, and not everyone knows what's happening. From a website commenting on spiritual gifts I quote,

“Based on the definitions of the Greek words, this is a supernatural ability to serve others as a channel of God’s miracle-working power. The definition implies no boundaries or limitations, which is appropriate, since the power of our mighty God has no boundaries or limitations.” (iblp.org)

The only time I remember doing anything powerful on purpose was when out on a playground in kindergarten, putting my hands up into the air and yelling something about “Let the storm come!!!” and sure enough a huge bluster of wind came through the whole block with some rain and overcast clouds. I'll never forget that moment. The other kids squealed and started running around with delight, as far as I could tell. Other examples are in Chapter 3, Section 5 on “The Gift of Miraculous Powers.”

Thinking about Old Testament miracles, they seem to focus on the weather, and fire, and the elements coming down from heaven or exploding or changing on Earth. There's Moses parting the Red Sea, there's Elijah calling down fire from heaven, and Elijah commanding the rains to stop and to start again, Elisha making a metal axe-head float, and so on. There is also the miracle of multiplication - both Elijah and Jesus (Yeshua) multiplied food for people in need - Elijah and the widow, and Jesus (Yeshua) and the 4,000 and the 5,000. Looks like anything goes - even raising someone from the dead!

Section 7

Healer

Being a healer has to be one of the most rewarding of the callings of Jesus (Yeshua), as we get to be merciful and compassionate and loving and kind towards those with physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual problems and sicknesses. We get to lift up the brokenhearted, and heal with a touch, with warmth from our hands. We get to dig deep into Christ (Messiah)'s love within us to pour it out onto others who need Him. Healers are awesome! Not only do we know how to heal, we know how to diagnose a problem and how to draw attention to that which caused it in the first place, and how to avoid it in the future.

I have experienced the healing power of the Holy Spirit, in the hands of Gloria Copeland in line ministry. She smiled at me (I was jumping up and down excitedly) and laid hands on either side of my face and said, "Be healed!" - and immediately my stomach ulcers healed up inside me, and I fell uncontrollably backwards like a stiff board, and was gently let down onto the ground, the guy behind me didn't even have to hold my weight! It was wild! (The guy is always there because of a phenomenon we call "courtesy falls," where someone is not really slain in the spirit, they're just falling backwards on the power of suggestion). Of note, I didn't receive the transfer of heat I had learned about years ago from an older man at a prophetic prayer meeting, but rather it was the laying on of hands and pronouncement of faith, "Be healed!" that did it this time.

Finally, people can be healed by a pronouncement of the problem and how the Lord is healing it - in the moment - on television. Pat Robertson and Terry Meeuwsen do this kind of healing ministry on the 700 Club. This is combining other gifts - the gift of prophecy in this case - with the gifts of healings. And someone always calls in and says, "It was me! The Lord healed *me!*" It never fails. Pretty neat, huh?

All that said, Healers tend to ooze the love of Jesus (Yeshua) - they're warm people and you can be healed by a warm hug, or even a touch of their clothing!

Section 8

Helper

Helpers are fantastic people! They know where it hurts and where to help, they know what needs to be done logistically in a church gathering and how to get it done. They're the first to volunteer and the last to leave the church meeting place, making sure everything is in order before they leave. They'll be the first to offer you a lift to church if you don't have one, and who will be first to offer their seat to the elderly. Their servant hearts are the pulse of the church, as they're running the church's "economy" of time and resources. Often times they start out as Sunday morning greeters, and still others serve at the sound board or light board posts. They often have technical skills that are invaluable to a church's functioning - including but not limited to janitorial staff, front desk staff, and information technology.

Helpers are hard workers, so be sure to give them plenty of love and encouragement, and thanks for all that they do for the church. Helpers are also often the ones picking up the slack in areas like small group leadership, arranging dinners out (and serving food at home) for the group and doing the best they can to hold everything together. We sometimes rely on them too much - when we need people in other, different callings to start stepping up into leadership, and allow the Helper to do their thing even better.

You'll find helpers all over the church kitchen, and on the phone with the local Pizza Pit, loving on people with a smile while they're helping. They're the majority of those who do service projects like Habitat for Humanity, and they're the first to sign up for church membership.

In the early church, you would call these sorts of people "Deacons," when they occupy an official position in the church body. However, I don't believe the early church limited this office to only Helpers, but rather to anyone with a heart to serve.

Section 9

Leader/Administrator

The calling of Leader/Administrator is a tricky one to balance among other leadership callings like Apostle, Prophet, or Pastor. The Administrator is typically the one to determine the destination and direction in which the church should travel, and lead full-sails ahead toward that destination. They handle leading discussions amongst the church eldership, and is likely to occupy an office like Bishop/Overseer. The Administrator knows people, their strengths and weaknesses, their character - who belongs and who doesn't, and knows how to get the job done, whether it be a project or the church mission as a whole. They are goal-oriented and often have the Gift of Faith to hold together the "big picture" over the long haul.

Leader/Administrators measure their progress in terms of tasks accomplished and items checked off a list. This kind of progress excites them, and keeps them fueled up for the next big project. They are also the "big idea" people with a vision for the future that transcends the step-by-step progress they make on projects. This vision is always with them, and keeps them dreaming up new ways to express it in the church body which they lead (usually, through projects).

On a smaller scale, a young person with the gift of Leadership, just coming into their calling of Leader/Administrator, might be prime choice for leading a small group of some kind, like a task force with some measure of independence, but with clear goals and expectations set forth by someone in senior leadership.

Off to one side, an Administrator might be solely interested in heading up something like benevolence ministry, or human resources, or accounting. These are the typical, office-holding positions that cater to Leader/Administrators.

Finally, you may find that most Leader/Administrators are found in the private or public sectors, leading multinational corporations, non-profits, or small businesses, but not leading in the church. Outside the church, everyone wants to be a leader.

Interpreter

This final calling is rather simple - it is the combination of tongues and interpretation of tongues. It is the ability to communicate across linguistic and cultural barriers by speaking and understanding every language on Earth. Where are these amazing people? I can tell you in short: CIA, FBI, NSA, the White House, US Army, et al. They are stamped early on as being brilliant, genius young people that can serve their country as an interpreter, or an analyst. The same is true of some with the gift of prophecy or discerning of spirits - they are called Profilers. The church refuses to invite them, to use them, to give them a sense of purpose with their gifting, and so they go to someplace where gifting means success - the Government and the Military. They have to hide under the veil of "Psychic" - not because of a lack of belief in Jesus (Yeshua), but a lack of love and acceptance from the church. I guarantee they all met their savior at a very early age, and were misunderstood, and cast out of their church family because of a misunderstanding over their gifts. They probably received the typical Pharisee one-two punch: this is the work of the devil, and they have blasphemed in a foreign tongue. Yes, we live in an age very similar to that of John The Baptist, when the Jewish Establishment opposed Jesus (Yeshua) and His followers, so now the Christ (Messiah)ian Establishment opposes many believers that need the church the most, and we are heading into that time even now.

So, what are Interpreters for in the church? They allow the barriers of communication to be torn down, they allow for more accurate Bible translations from the original languages, they put everyone at ease in a worship gathering because people are allowed to speak in tongues and get an interpretation on the spot. They are the great ambassadors to foreign nations for governments and for churches. And we need them. We need them more than ever! We need to unite the church under the banner of Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah), in prayer for one another, filling the Earth with the glory of the Lord. But only if we can communicate. Jesus (Yeshua), we ask you

that the Interpreters would return to the church that abandoned them, and find it a renewed, changed church.

Section II

Specialization of an Anointing

Ahhh, at last, it's time for our MOS training (Military Occupational Specialty). Get this: your anointing is more than just a calling of Jesus (Yeshua) like Pastor or Teacher, it's also got times and places and seasons in your life all programmed in to get you to where you need to go in your ministry! You may be called to be a Prophet in Honduras for 6 years, and then Russia for 6 months, speaking native Spanish but relying on an interpreter in Russia. Your focus may be on times & seasons for those nations, and an evangelism component will add in and you'll begin to win souls back home in the States. You could be a Healer that travels from city to city in the Greater Midwest, teaching and preaching - a surprise to you at the time that you'd be doing that - and healing everyone who was brought to you for healing. Let's outline the components:

1. Callings
2. Giftings
3. Countries/Cities
4. Churches
5. Interacting Via Your Talents & Abilities
6. Mode of Travel
7. Mode of Operation
8. Allies & Representatives
9. Direction from the Lord Along the Way (from Dreams & Visions & Prophecies)
10. Your Message/Gospel

Inquire of the Lord about these components of your ministry, seek the answers. He will show you, in time, what they all are. Most of it will be “in your bones” already!

5: Questions

Now we have to ask ourselves some questions. Some hard questions. Some soul-searching questions. First, I suggest you write down what talents you have, and what gifts you believe you have, and what callings you might have, in the space below - as well as the various components of specialization listed in the previous chapter. You can use it later in the laboratory session.

Section 1

Why Does He Give Them?

God gives these gifts to make you a special and unique part of Jesus' (Yeshua's) Body, those elite and set apart believers in whom He lives as Savior and Redeemer. He wants to give you a personal anointing in addition to this, which sets you apart even further as to how you are to carry out the calling you've been given, as we just saw at the end of the last chapter. We saw that we are all specialized and fill a very specific role in the church body, and He wants us to feel, well, special! It gives a certain measure of satisfaction to your work in the ministry, or even your vocation outside of official ministry. I think we should do away with words like "layman" or "clergy" and begin to recognize that everyone has a calling and a gifting from each of the lists we covered, and should be recognized as such. If our anointing teaches us all things, leads us into all truth, then we should not be taught that only someone with a degree in divinity is allowed to serve in the function of pastor or teacher or any other title. I believe there are more false pastors and false teachers (those without those giftings or callings) than true ones in the church today, they just went to school at a seminary and learned what a particular denomination believes about the scriptures. Not to say they don't have giftings and callings, just not the ones falling in line with their titles in the institution of the church as it stands today. The one thing we can be grateful for is the teaching of the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages in these seminaries, which allows even the ungifted a glimpse into the truth of the original scriptures. And those who graduate have been trained in the study and exposition of this truth. And so the church functions, slowly, but it functions. We teeter and totter on the edge of becoming like the Pharisee, Saducee, Levite, Teacher of the Law paradigm as shown in the New Testament - the elite educated deciding for the masses what is good and right, and creating traditions of men rather than allowing the scriptures to speak to all and for all to participate in the church in whatever form it comes - a church congregation with their own building, or a home church, or even a circle of friends that meet to study the Bible together on a regular basis. Or even just a cir-

cle of friends that meet together for fellowship and encouragement - going out for dinner weekly.

Section 2

Are You A Gift?

Are you a gift... or a curse? Do you want people to experience *your* presence, or Jesus' (Yeshua's) presence? Is your anointing for you to glory in... or is it for serving and building up and blessing others? Do you dream of greatness above your peers by how holy you appear, serving only yourself and your own ambitions? Or do you want to have the responsibilities of being useful in His Kingdom? If you do desire such responsibility, and the import it has on your freedom, are you willing to share it? As in delegating authority? Remember that the list of callings is also called "the gifts Jesus (Yeshua) gave to the church" - so *you* are the gift in this case. If you are a gift, then you are operating in the gifts and callings you've been given *in the way of love*. The Apostle Paul wrote that:

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have **love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have **love**, I gain nothing (NIV)*

If you are going to be a gift to the church, you must have **love**. You must be saturated in love to be effective in building others up in their faith. You must act in love, and remember that:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (NIV)

Don't forget that these three remain: faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love. So you should also be abounding in **faith** and **hope**, inspiring both of these virtues within those whom you minister to in love. For they have eternal value.

Section 3

Are You Rational?

Are you super-spiritual? As in you refuse to use the mind God gave you to make rational decisions about how to use verbal spiritual gifts, should you have them? Do you need extra time to think when ministering to others in the spirit, but refuse to take it because you think you will appear to be weak in faith? Is it all about the feelings you get to experience in ministering? Or is it about our Savior - who is the Way and the Truth and the Life - being revealed by the Spirit who gave you those gifts and feelings? Honor Him by being orderly in the use of the gifts, respecting one another and giving deference to each other in love. Be of one mind, says the Apostle Paul, for we are of one Spirit, Philippians 2:2:

Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. (NIV)

Remember that it is also written that we should be orderly in worship, and that the spirit of the prophets is under the control of the prophets - your revelation can wait until the other person is finished speaking:

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. (NIV)

The same rules of etiquette and protocol apply in church just as it applies in business or academic affairs - where there is order and discipline, and one person speaks at a time, and if someone raises their hand because they have something to share, then they may be called upon to speak. Each person has something to share, so let them,

but in order. Perhaps the person in charge of the meeting, the Leader/Administrator, should write down the names of those who wish to share, and what they will be sharing, and then pass the list on to the Pastor/Shepherd of the group for him to call upon each in turn. The Prophets and Teachers above the Pastor should also inform him beforehand what they will be contributing to the meeting, and the Pastor can structure the time around them according to his gifting and anointing. This frees up the Leader to work behind the scenes to lead those setting up for music or multimedia, taking notes on the meeting, and deciding what direction the group should go in next, whether it be as a whole or in action teams. Typically, the Leader would be an Elder (on the church council) or a Bishop (Overseer), with Deacons (Servants) beneath them. Deacons include those on worship teams, setup and teardown for a meeting, those providing food, or really any minister at all who wishes to serve, but not in a leadership way. Usually, those in the callings of Apostle through Pastor/Shepherd are in some sort of leadership role, usually on the church council, but do not have the calling of Leader. Leader/Administrator ranks rather low on the callings list, but again, this is offset by the fact that they often serve as Elders or as Overseer on the church council. Elders, also, are called upon by Paul to “shepherd” the church (“feed” or “tend”) and so the ideal council would be primarily comprised of Pastors, or perhaps Pastors who are also Leaders (a double calling). These are all suggestions for how the church body should function, but I believe it’s pretty common-sense when you focus on “Let all things be for building up” and “God is a God of order and not of confusion.”

As an added note, I think sometimes, in certain churches, there is a tendency to over-plan and script out a worship “service” such that there is nothing spirit-led left, nothing spontaneous, nothing contributed by the congregation, only the pastor and a worship band, and perhaps maybe someone to read a scripture from the liturgy. This is on the other end of the spectrum from the chaos Paul is warning us about, and it flat-out denies the members of the church the opportunity to participate beyond singing songs and reciting scriptures that have been pre-planned by the leadership. It is good to find balance, I believe, and with proper leadership and vision, that balance can be found.

Section 4

Are You Gentle, and Succinct?

Are you a violent prayer warrior? You should stop being so. Remember the pagans were the violent in prayer, and the Hebrews were the quiet, reserved, peaceful prayer ministers of their time. They sought peace in prayer and not violence. The Christ (Messiah)ians of the New Testament were even more focused on this peace - this total wholeness (Shalom) in every way. When Paul was trapped in prison, did he offer violent prayers against the enemy of his soul, commanding that he be released? No. He sang with his fellow captives a song of praise and prayed quietly together with them. Neither should we pray violently against the evil in another person's life or our own, especially not against the lack of something good. You will only serve to tear that person down, which is not God's will for us in Christ (Messiah) Jesus (Yeshua), but rather it is to encourage one another and build each other up. You may quote Matthew 11:12:

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. (ESV)

But don't forget that most other translations render it something like this:

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. (NIV)

And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. (NLT)

From the time John preached his message until this very day the Kingdom of heaven has suffered violent attacks, and violent men try to seize it. (GNT)

These who "take it by force" are not us, the faithful believers, but rather those false apostles and false disciples - those of whom Jesus (Yeshua) will say "I never knew you." They are those who see the spiritual power of the Gospel and try to take it by

force as their own, for profit. We are always at war - both within and without - the wheat against the tares - all who have no genuine faith in Jesus (Yeshua) Christ (Messiah) for their own salvation, but do many works in His name, without love, but rather, with violence. Again, He will say to them, "I never knew you." See Matthew 7:21-23:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (NIV)

I have seen many ministries and Houses of Prayer fall into the trap of believing that violence is how we "take the Kingdom" for ourselves - when this is far from the truth. We should not be *against* one another but *for* one another. And we do not approach demons with a violent tongue, yelling and screaming at them, but with stern authority and scripture - confidence that in the name of Jesus (Yeshua) they must leave. Remember the scripture that says we should not rejoice that the demons obey us, but that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Luke 10:20:

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (NIV)

Now that we have dealt with spiritual violence, let us attend to the overactive tongue. Remember that Jesus (Yeshua) commanded us, "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words." So you see, it is important to be succinct. You should not hesitate to pray for every good thing imaginable that you should want to have happen for the person you are ministering to, from your heart, but do not think that more words equal more power, or more eloquence. They don't. It is good to ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking for what we want and need, but not all in one sitting, but rather on a daily basis, perhaps morning and evening. It is good to be persistent like the Widow petitioning the judge - and come regularly to the Throne of Grace for what we need and want, but not to keep repeating it over and over again in a single session of prayer for another person. That is leaning towards the overactive tongue of the pagans.

Section 5

Why Aren't You Using Them?

These gifts are so simple to use, and not far from your talents and abilities, because they interweave during your early growth and development as a believer. Don't think that they are powerless, for they harbor the ability within you to change people's minds and hearts. Often, gifts will begin to operate without our needing to "do" anything - as in the example of the fireworks on stage in the section on Miracles. I didn't intend to do any miracles - I was simply worshiping on stage. But sometimes, you have a gifting, but are afraid to use it outrightly because you fear criticism, or error, or persecution. As long as you are open & honest about your gifts, and willing to do it the Holy Spirit's way (surrender) - you should not be afraid of error - you can always correct a slip-up - there is grace for the gifts. And don't fear criticism, those who would criticize your gifting are simply not understanding that this is how God builds up His church, and they are stuck in the traditions of their denomination. As far as persecution goes, it's going to happen - I have met with outright opponents of the Gospel in the streets around a House of Prayer. I simply invited them to come in and enjoy the live music, and they instantly turned on me to mock and persecute my desire to share something from God. It was scary, there was murder in their eyes, and they only way I got out of the debate was to ask them to respect my beliefs the same way I respected their beliefs by only asking them to come and enjoy the music. In ancient times, I might have been attacked physically in such a situation. They knew I was a Christ (Messiah)ian, and they targeted me immediately. Thank God we have laws against such violence in our Country, and freedom of religious observance - so as long as I was in the House of Prayer, I was protected to express my religious faith, and as long as I didn't incite violence, I'm protected on the street from any attempted violence on their part. But I'm reminded of the Columbine shootings - where one young lady refused to deny Christ (Messiah) and was shot to death for it by a fellow classmate. Persecution is real, and we should feel privileged to share in Christ (Messiah)'s sufferings and to share in the very same persecutions He endured on this Earth.

Section 6

When Do We Use Them?

There are times and seasons in our lives for everything, and you must know the season you are in if you want to be effective in ministering to others in love. If your season of life is a time of introspection and creativity - don't expect lots of ministry output at the same time, you must focus on your dreams and purpose in life. On the other hand, if you find yourself on the tail end of a major trial or hard time in your life, and you are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, now could be a proper time to look into full-time ministry. This is because those trials have taught you something valuable, something that God may want you to share with others in ministry. Paraphrasing Henri Nouwen, "out of your wounds, you can become a source of healing for others." Maybe you're in a season where everything is going swimmingly, and you want to use your gifts wherever you are in life, say as a full-time employee at a business or a full-time student, someone who wants to lead a small group or Bible Study, then by all means sign up! But know that you're going to eventually have to go through a "wilderness experience" before you'll be used in bigger ways. These are the bigger times and seasons for ministry. As a general rule, if you're presently struggling with demons and going through a difficult time to such an extent that you have a hard time communicating effectively, then it is definitely the time for you to receive help from others in the church, be lifted up, and relax on your ministry dreams and aspirations. Don't rush ahead, you're in the middle of the wilderness, and it may take a very long time before you're ready to minister to others. But don't be afraid to still pray for people, and process with others (catharsis) - you can be a light to people even in your present darkness, just by being honest about where you're at. Don't worry! God has big plans for you!

Section 7

How Do We Use Them?

Genesis provides a framework for what direction we should take people in ministry. It is found in Genesis 1:28, where it states:

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (NKJV)

So, we are supposed to be fruitful first, then multiply, then have dominion. Fruitfulness is both growth and development, and being productive and beneficial. Multiplication is both marriage and having children. Dominion is taking God’s Kingdom to the ends of the Earth. So you see, we want to minister to people so that they spiritually, emotionally, and physically grow and develop first. Then we move on to helping them with their dreams and aspirations toward becoming productive and beneficial members of The Kingdom. Then we make sure they find love, health, and happiness in relationships like marriage. Finally, we equip them for the work of the ministry - the ministry of reconciliation as well as the work of bringing the Garden of Eden back to the Earth - as is appropriate for their lives, not our own lives, not trying to make them into our own image, but taking counsel in Proverbs 22:6 and:

*Train up a child in the way he should go [and **in keeping with his individual gift or bent**], and when he is old he will not depart from it. (AMP)*

We should be intent on building people up to their very best in the Lord, overflowing with faith, hope, and love, leading them in fruitful relationships and teaching them everything the Lord has commanded us. Our goal should always be for Shalom - nothing missing, nothing broken - before we “set them loose” on the world. That doesn’t mean they have to be perfect, just whole.

Section 8

Where Do We Use Them?

First off, do not do this stuff blatantly in the McDonald's. Seriously, it's just not appropriate. You can minister to others by smiling, being kind to the cashier - maybe even offering a compliment, but this is not church recruitment time. It's time to eat a McDouble. With that out of the way (and that includes all public establishments and businesses) let's turn to the idea of street preaching. One might think this is the accepted method of public ministry given the plethora of examples in the New Testament, but unfortunately there are laws against such things in many countries. The scriptures expressly state that we should submit to the governing authorities, so don't do it. Even if it is legal, you're going to turn people off immediately and end up in a shouting match with someone who might just be your brother in Christ (Messiah). So, where does that leave us? Two places: first private gatherings such as church services, prayer meetings, home groups, dinner with friends, or maybe even in a dorm room - and second, authorized and advertised public events like a Billy Graham Crusade, for example. Those are the rules, now for the exceptions: there are ways to slip spiritual gifts into nearly any situation, or even any conversation, to steer things in a spiritual direction or even just help someone with something in their daily life. Then you can walk out of the McDonald's together having a fruitful conversation that may lead to more opportunities to engage in ministry. You don't have to go full-bore with the gifts every time you're engaged with people, but instead use wisdom (and ask for it!) to gain insight into a person's situation, and then render aid or service as appropriate.

6: Putting It All Together: Laboratory

Now, let's put together everything we've learned, starting by creating a safe laboratory for discovering gifts and callings, and then by turning the pyramid of what we've learned upside-down, and then covering how to create a gathering of believers (really, planting a small church) that starts with your closest friends, and expands step by step into a larger and larger gathering of friends and acquaintances.

The laboratory should be held in a comfortable, laid back, warm setting. Begin by gathering friends who have read this book, and pray that Jesus (Yeshua), the Father, and the Holy Spirit would be present in the room, governing everything, and for angels to come and protect everyone and allow the free exercise of the Spiritual Gifts and Callings in each person. Then have one person take notes and record the lab on a tape recorder or digital memo recorder. Go around the room, in a circle, and have each person say what gifts and callings they believe they have after reading the book (including talents, from the beginning of the book), which gifts excite them the most, and which ones they are desperately afraid of (or just plain don't want). Discuss why on each one. Then go through from beginning to end of each gift list and experiment. For example, ask Jesus (Yeshua) to give everyone who has the gift of prophecy the same word or vision as the other, directed toward one of the others in the lab, and lay hands on and pray for that person. Open yourselves up to seeing or having an impression from the Gift of Prophecy, and speak what you see or sense. Compare notes. If there is disagreement, try again, and whoever (2 or more) consistently agrees, they are the ones with the Gift of Prophecy. From here, ask the recipient what those prophecies meant to them: did they click with something going on in their life? Are they symbolic and require looking up in a Biblical symbol dictionary? I would suggest the following website: <http://www.newfoundationspubl.org/types.htm>. Investigate the consistent prophecies, and take good notes. The one who is not in agreement should ask for the Gift of Prophecy and try again. For another example, ask each other, "Am I an encourager? Do I give people encouragement on a frequent ba-

sis?” Then, move on to another gift, like discernment, and have a person teach something neutral from their own experience - like how to tie a bowtie, and then teach something directly from scripture - like what John 3:16 means, and finally teach something that was a lie they once believed until they were corrected. Have each person who thinks they have the gift of discerning of spirits tell what they sensed from each teaching. They should be able to say what was purely man, what came from God, and what came from the Enemy. Then, they should “turn on” that gift and sense what is going on inside the person doing the teaching - they should be able to “see” their inner world (this can be difficult to discern), and offer up what they see and sense to the group, and again look for agreement amongst those attempting to use the gift in this way. Finally, they should turn on the gift and spiritually look up into the corners of the ceiling meeting the walls, and all around the room, and say what you see. You should see slightly glowing angels (some ones look much brighter) - I think the dimmer ones are in a “tackle” with a demon - which is of course black, preventing such a demon from inhibiting your laboratory with foreign thoughts and other problems. So black + translucent light = gray. You can expect them to begin interacting with you the longer you look. This is where it gets to be difficult to know what to pay attention to! So stick with your plan, and come around to callings (we’re skipping over many sections) and begin by writing down your life’s purpose, or vision statement on paper - what are you really all about, what drives you, what motivates you? Then match this up with the descriptions of callings you thought you had, or were excited about (or even were afraid of). Ask each other what you each think about each one’s vision statement. Does it stick? Does it go with a certain calling, or multiple callings? And what kind of specialization would make sense given the gifts, callings, and vision statement that that person has. Are you relieved to hear from others that you’re not an Evangelist? (Or whatever calling you *really* didn’t want - that’s the one I didn’t want) Or are you being challenged to embrace something uncomfortable and it’s not a warranted fear after all, just an open door you need to walk through before you judge it off-hand? I hope by now you get the idea, of praying for a certain outcome in a test or experiment, and following through for each person in the room, and discussing the outcome. It’s the scientific method, applied to spiritual matters. It all comes down to agreement amongst the members of the laboratory. Proceed when you all agree.

Section 1

Turning It Upside-Down

Now, I invite you into two situations. One that covers using the gifts and callings of God in the order we've studied them, and the other a situation that we briefly covered in Chapter 5, Section 8, that is, the ministry gathering, where we turn things upside-down. So, we started with talents & abilities and worked our way into more and more spiritual gifts. This is ideal for the first situation in which you are gathering with other people for the purpose of using your talents & abilities, like putting on a musical, or joining a painting class, or a hot rod show. You introduce yourself as being one of the crowd, and it is generally understood that you will make friends. In this case, you begin with your talents and abilities that draw attention, and once you begin to make acquaintances, you may find yourself in a position to start using some of the 7 Gifts of the Father - that is, giving, encouragement, or teaching, continuing to base your use of these gifts on the topic that drew in the acquaintances in the first place. You might teach something about the hot rod engine you're showing off, or encourage a fellow performer in a special way, or give a collection of paints to a fellow student in the painting class. Once you've drawn them in, you can use some of the 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, prophecy, or even healing, should the situation warrant it. In the end, you can work your gifting out according to your anointing and reintroduce yourself as what you are spiritually, a prophet, a teacher, a healer, etc. Second, in the case of a ministry gathering where it is expected that you will be operating in the gifts of the spirit, you can start from the groundwork of your anointing to lead you forward, then use the "power gifts" of the Holy Spirit, and then the 7 Gifts of the Father - in particular the gifts of prophecy and teaching and leadership, then finally put the cherry on top with your talents and abilities (writing books and pamphlets, making special gifts, running the sound board, etc.) So, the pyramid's base would be the calling, the top would be the talents and abilities, and the gifts in between from the two gift lists, Spirit and Father.

Section 2

Creating A Gathering

How do we create such a gathering that both invites people to use their gifts and walk in their callings, and yet also invites newcomers to the faith to participate and receive without feeling tricked? First, we must start small. A small, home-group of believers that want to minister to each other and invite a small number of other believers to participate, friend to friend, word of mouth. After meeting & greeting with light worship music in the background, I would suggest settling down and watching a short video or two by The Bible Project (www.thebibleproject.com), and discussing. Then, perhaps take turns reading aloud the scriptures - whether it be from the video(s) or some other section of the Bible (preferably medium-length, like a chapter), then invite response - the response being a discussion and the gifts also being exercised, one at a time, through the raising of hands and being called upon. Allow the discussion to continue until things die down, then set up a "hot seat" in the center of the room, and begin to take turns being laid hands on and prayed for by the whole group, with each person praying after another, "popcorn" style, for the person in the hot seat. It is during this prayer time that you may use your gifts as freely as you wish, keeping to the tenets described in this book - of love, gentleness, being rational, etc. - when it's your turn. The person may decide to give prayer requests at the beginning, or they may not. Agree on who will transition in prayer from each hot seat session to the next. When all have been prayed for, continue into corporate prayer for "that big world out there," taking turns praying by raising their hands and a designated leader calling on each in turn. Finally, when all have prayed, it will be time for The Lord's Supper - eating flatbread and drinking wine in remembrance of Jesus (Yeshua) & what He did for us, and also time for worship by putting in a worship DVD. Then people are free to leave or fellowship awhile longer. Now, after you've done this a couple weeks in a row, begin searching for friends, acquaintances, classmates, etc. to invite to the gathering (preferably one at a time per group member) and introduce them as "visitors" - whereas new believers joining are introduced as something like, "brothers" or "sisters" or "believers" or even as "fish." Whatever your group finds

the most comfortable for the visitors. At each stage of the gathering, simply inform the visitors what you're about to do and why, as in "We're about to watch a video by Tim Mackie at The Bible Project, which is a short take on a Bible theme, a Bible series, or a Book of the Bible with animations. We do this to learn more about faith in Jesus (Yeshua), and the Bible and it encourages us to keep going. Please feel free to sit down and watch with us." Then, when it comes around to communion, simply explain that, "this is how we remember what Jesus (Yeshua) did for us in his life, death, and resurrection - we eat and drink Passover bread and wine, as his body and blood, remembering His sacrifice on the cross. You don't have to participate if you don't want to, we're just glad you're respecting us as we practice our beliefs in front of you." This all doesn't have to be verbatim, just the basic idea needs to be there of putting them at ease that we're not going to "jump on them" because they're visiting, but that they get to be a fly on the wall and see & hear the true faith in action (especially during prayer - where they can be invited to jump in the hot seat if they so desire). This is the optimal time to share the gospel with a visitor; is through prophetic prayer, when reading their response and moving towards deeper subjects is possible. But don't preach unless you warn them ahead of time, as preaching may happen naturally after the reading of the scriptures, and you should make it gentle. Most people have had enough preaching from going to churches, or from growing up in the church at that. Give every visitor a ministry card with one of the leader's name and contact information on it, and your usual meeting days and times. Thank them for coming. Allow the visitor's escort to do the rest (asking if they'd like to come back next week, what did they think, what did they get out of it, etc) so there is less pressure on them, and it gives them more time to think. Once your group starts adding to those being saved, and starts to grow, you should consider finding a bigger home, or a public place to meet, like on a college campus in a (reserved) lecture hall or space in a College Union. Also, begin to schedule times to meet for dinner during the week or weekend, at an agreed-upon venue, to keep fellowship active in each other's lives beyond the weekly meeting. Keep it simple, keep it honest, keep it real. Amen, kids.