

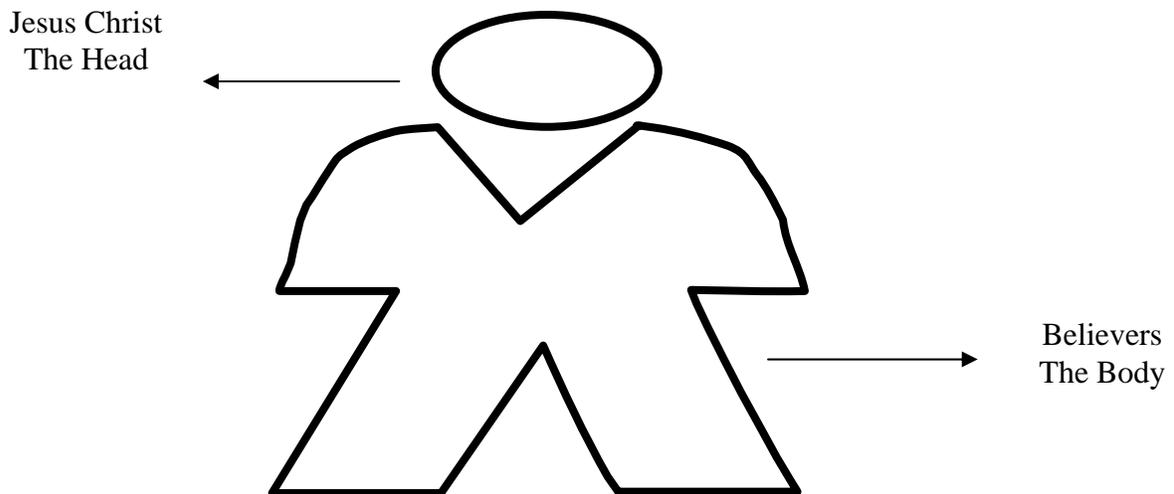
MINISTRY GIFTS

When we are saved, we become servants for Christ and He equips us for MINISTRY. For a better understanding of how the Holy Spirit empowers each of us to carry out God's plan of redemption and salvation through His son, Jesus Christ, you can study the "Gifts" chapters in Romans 12, Ephesians 4 and I Corinthians 12.

UNDERSTANDING MINISTRY/GIFTS AND WHERE WE FIT

I Corinthians 12:12-13

The Apostle Paul compares the Body of Christ (all believers) to the human body. Each member is dependent on the other. No member is more or less important than the other. Unity is the key factor. *"Though we are many members, we are of one body."*



Romans 12:1-2

We are to *"present our bodies a living sacrifice."* Like soldiers in the Armed Forces of our country, we are to look upon our duty to Jesus as chosen people who no longer conform to the desires of this world, but are being trained to carry out God's agenda.

Ephesians 4:1-4

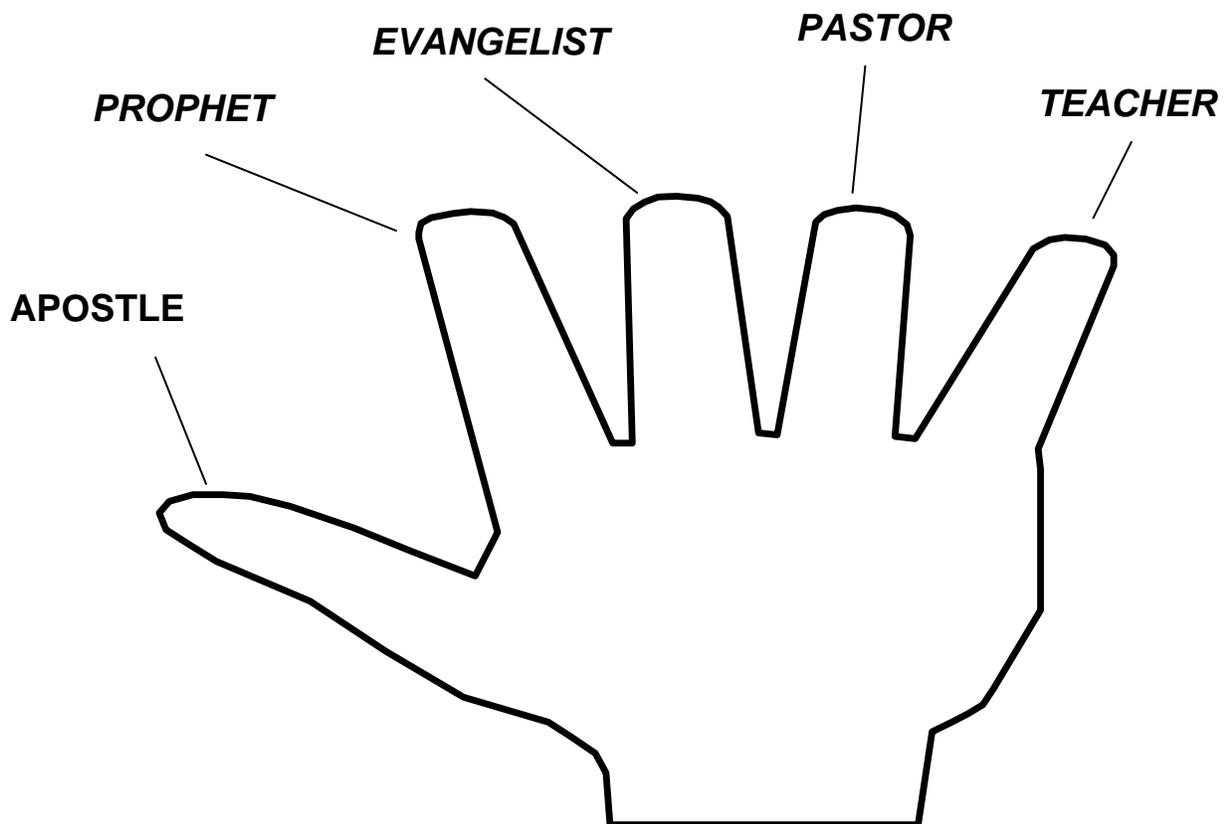
We should always be aware that we are God's chosen people and walk worthy of that calling. Our lives should be lived in such a way that it ministers to all those who see and know us, because these gifts are *"for the perfecting of the saints."*

We should endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit. We need to understand that it is the same Spirit living in us that bonds us together. The same Spirit gives us gifts to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Head of the Church.

THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY GIFTS

Ephesians 4:11 - *“He called some to be Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers”* (theologically known as the five-fold ministry gifts).

- **Apostles** are those that are sent out to establish and maintain church foundation and government in beginning a new or existing ministry. More commonly, they establish the government of the church.
- **Prophets** declare God’s Word to the Body. They enforce God’s word through exaltation, judgment, and vision. Additionally, prophets give words of direction with clarity of the will and way of God.
- **Evangelists** declare and exalt the Word of God to the lost. Having a heart for the lost, the evangelist’s primary audience is unsaved people.
- **Pastors** nurture, comfort and protect God’s people.
- Finally, **Teachers** ground God’s people. They are gifted to interpret the Word of God and educate others how to live the word of God through teaching, correction and instruction.



THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

I Timothy 3:1 - *“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.”* While not a spiritual gift clearly outlined in scripture, the office of a bishop has become quite prevalent in the protestant and non-denominational churches in our society so further study of this title / office is warranted.

The etymology of the word bishop comes from the Greek word episkopos which can be generally translated as bishop, overseer, superintendent, supervisor, or foreman.

Words related to episkopos are used in two other verses. Some English Bibles translate this word as bishop (KJV, RSV, NRSV, etc.), while others, attempting to distance themselves from certain types of church hierarchy, use an alternative such as "overseer" (NIV, ESV, etc.).

The ministry of these New Testament episkopoi was not directly commissioned by Jesus, but appears to be a natural, practical development of the church during the first and second centuries AD. The portions of the New Testament that mention episkopoi do not appear to be ordering a new type of ministry, but giving instructions for an already existing position within the early church. In places (particularly in Titus 1:7-10) it appears that the position of episkopos is similar or the same as that of presbyter, or elder, and later priest. The Epistle of Timothy mentions deacons in a manner that suggests that the office of deacon differs from the office of the bishop, and is subordinate to it, though it carries similar qualifications (1 Timothy 3:12-13).

Presbyter in the New Testament refers to a leader in local Christian congregations, a synonym of episkopos, which has come to mean bishop. In modern usage, it is distinct from bishop and synonymous with priest, pastor, elder, or minister in various Christian denominations. Its literal meaning in Greek (presbyteros) is "elder."

At the turn of the first century AD, the church started to acquire a clear organization. In the works of the Apostolic Fathers, and Ignatius of Antioch in particular, the role of the episkopos, or bishop, became more important.

By the first century AD, a bishop was expected to lead the church in each centre of Christian mission, supported by a council of presbyters (now a distinct and subordinate position) with a pool of deacons. As the church continued to expand, new churches in important cities gained their own bishop, but churches in the regions around an important city were served by presbyters and deacons from the bishop's city church. Thus, in time, the bishop changed from being the leader of a single church to being the leader of the churches of a given geographical area.

The most famous of all bishops is the Pope, the head of the Roman Catholic Church. As it has evolved in the protestant and non-denominational churches, the office of the bishop has been transformed into being an individual that shepherds, or gives oversight, to pastors of local churches.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Corinthians 12 - The Spiritual Gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit through a born-again, yielded believer. It is the choice of the Holy Spirit which gifts He desire to manifest through an individual. The manifestations of each gift are to benefit the Body of Christ. The basic manifestation of each gift is mentioned, however, the gifts are much more in-depth according to the will of the Holy Spirit.

<u>GIFTS</u>	<u>MANIFESTATION OF GIFTS</u>
Discerning of Spirits	The supernatural revelation of divine knowledge or insight into the realm of spirits to detect them and their plans; and to know the mind of men. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>
Faith	The supernatural ability to believe God without human doubt, unbelief, and reasoning. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>
Divers Kinds of Tongues	The supernatural utterance in other languages which are not known to the speaker. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>
Gift of Tongues	The ability to speak in a known language which is unknown to you and the ability to speak in a heavenly language which is unknown to you.
Gifts of Healing	The supernatural power to heal all manner of sickness without human aid or medicine. <i>Ref. Dake Bible.</i>
Interpretation of Tongues	The supernatural ability to translate unknown languages into the native tongue of the hearers. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>
The Gift of Prophecy	A gift of the Holy Spirit resident in certain believers. The supernatural ability to prophesy on a somewhat regular basis amidst God's people. The gift of prophecy operates only within the sphere of edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3). <i>Ref. Prophetic Gatherings in The Church, by David Blomgren</i>
The Office of a Prophet	An ascension gift ministry set in the New Testament church by the Lord. As seen in the negative question of I Corinthians 12:29, not all are prophets even though they may prophesy. The office of a prophet not only ministers in edification, exhortation and comfort, but also operates in the realm of guidance, rebuke, judgment, correction, and revelation. <i>Ref. Prophetic Gatherings in The Church, by David Blomgren</i>
Word of Knowledge	The supernatural revelation of divine knowledge, or insight into the mind, will, or plan of God; and also the plans of others that man could not know of himself. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>
Word of Wisdom	The supernatural revelation or insight into the divine will and purpose of God, revealing how to handle any circumstance. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>
Working of Miracles	The supernatural power to intervene in the ordinary course of nature and to counteract natural laws if necessary. <i>Ref. Dake Bible</i>

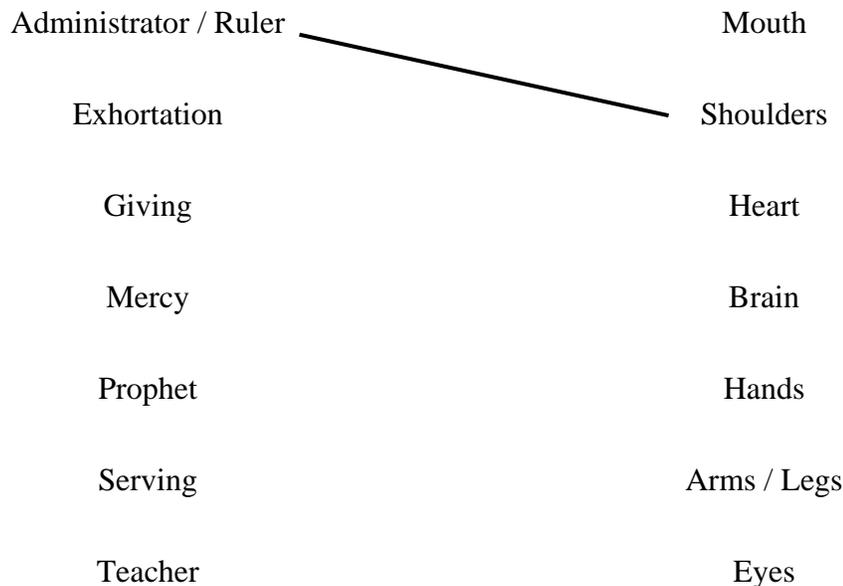
MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

Romans 12:3-8

God gives gifts according to His grace. We are not to get puffed up in our ministries but operate in them for God's glory, not ours. We are unique in our gifts, personalities, and abilities and should use them according to our faith.

Foundational gifts (sometimes referred to as "motivational gifts"), can be found in Romans 12:3-8. These gifts basically make up a person's personality. Recall we are many members, but one body. A natural body has many parts and our gifts make-up different parts of the Body of Christ.

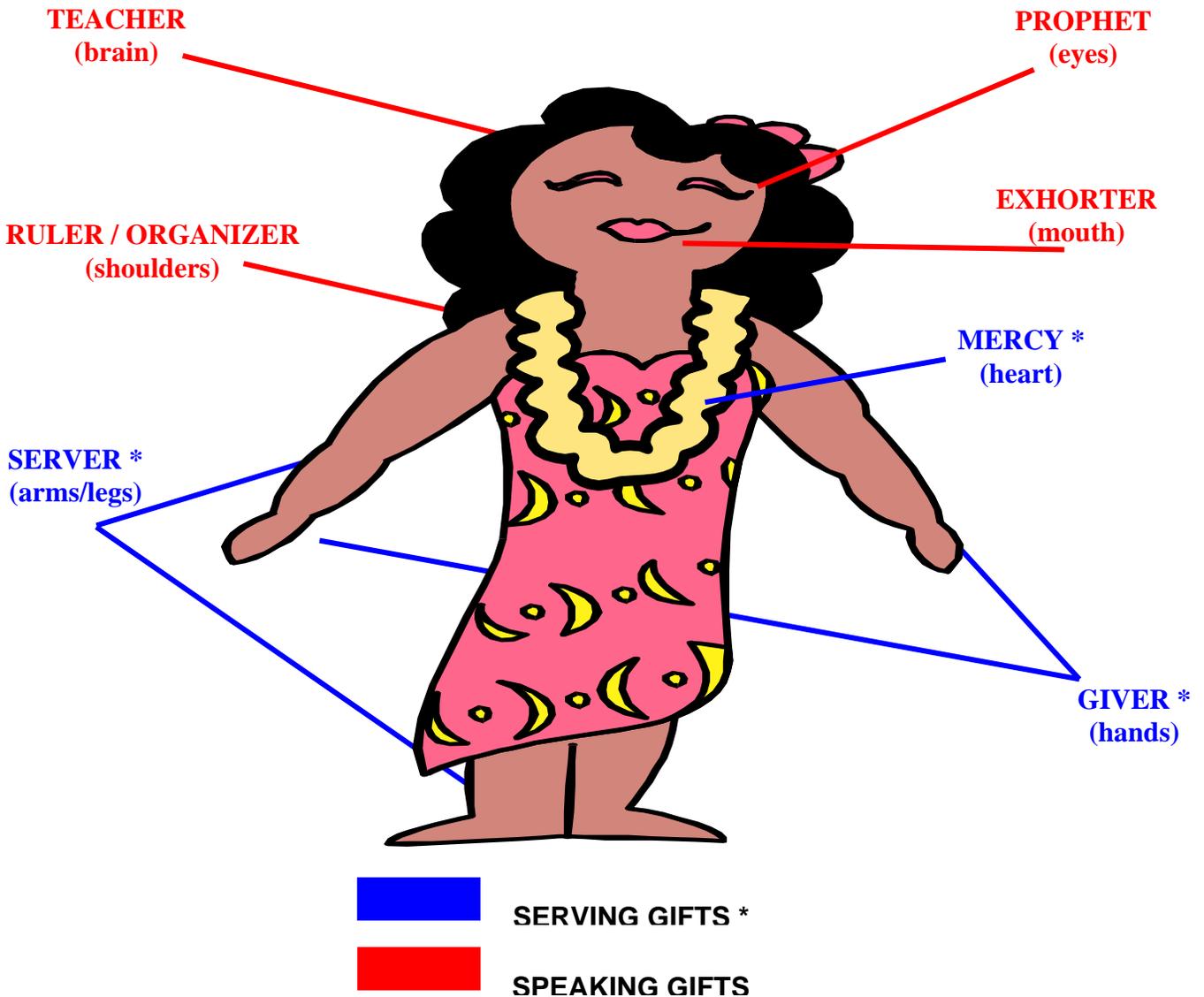
Can you match each gift with the part of the body? Draw a line to the proper gift that corresponds to the proper part of the body.



Most of the conflicts that we have with other Christians are simply the result of our misunderstanding their motivational gift or of their misusing that gift. The most important point to remember in understanding these gifts is that each person sees a given situation from the perspective of his/her motivational gift. Furthermore, each person will expect you to see those things which stand out to him/her. At the same time, you will probably expect others to see what is obvious to you in a given situation. Not only will other expect you to see things from their perspective, but also they will expect you to be as concerned about them as they are. Any lack of concern may be translated as a lack of spiritual maturity on your part or even as a sign that you are rejecting them.

The following is a listing of the motivational gifts and the proper manifestation of the gifts when yielded to the Holy Spirit.

<u>GIFTS</u>	<u>MANIFESTATION OF GIFTS</u>
Administrator / Ruler	The ability to lead and organize people and things in accomplishing God's work; get the job done
Exhortation	The ability to incite, urge or encourage others
Giving	The ability to give back to God, through others, what He has given to us
Mercy	Performing deeds of love to the suffering and hurting
Prophecy	The ability to coordinate efforts of projects to reach key goals and objectives (Not the office of the Prophet)
Serving	See and meet practical needs by helping and assisting others
Teacher	Validate truth (Not the office of the Teacher)



Now, let's take the time to discover your motivational gift(s). In the following exercise, check the box that most describes your behaviors, actions and/or feelings.

#1 _____

- You can sense when people have hurt feelings.
- You react to those who are insensitive to others feelings.
- You are able to discern genuine love.
- You desire deep friendships in which there is a mutual commitment.
- You seem to attract people who tell you their problems
- You find it difficult to be firm or decisive with people.
- You tend to take up offenses for those whom you love.
- You need quality time to explain how you feel.
- You want to remove those who cause hurts to others.
- You often wonder why God allows people to suffer.

#2 _____

- You motivate people to become what you see they could be.
- You like to give counsel in logical steps of action.
- You can usually discern a person's level of spiritual maturity.
- You enjoy working out projects to help people grow spiritually.
- You sometimes raise expectations of results prematurely.
- You dislike teaching that does not give practical direction.
- You like to see the faces responses of those whom you counsel.
- You often take "family time" to counsel others.
- You enjoy giving examples from the lives of others.
- You soon give up on those who do not follow your counsel.
- You find it hard to follow through on the project you have started.
- You identify with people where they are in order to counsel them.

#3 _____

- You can visualize the final result of a major undertaking
- You enjoy coordinating the efforts of many to reach a common goal.
- You can break down a large task into achievable goals.
- You are able to delegate assignments to others.
- You see people as resources that can be used to get a job done.
- You are willing to endure reaction in order to accomplish a task.
- You require loyalty in those who are under your supervision.
- You remove yourself from petty details to focus on the final goal.
- You can encourage your workers and inspire them to action.

#4 _____

- You see actions as either right or wrong.
- You react strongly to people who are not what they appear to be.
- You can usually detect them when something is not what it appears.
- You can quickly discern a person's character.
- You feel a responsibility to correct those who do wrong.

- You separate yourself from those who refuse to repent of evil.
- You explain what is wrong with an item before you sell it.
- You let people know how you feel about important issues.
- You enjoy people who are completely honest with you.
- You are quick to judge yourself when you fail.
- You are willing to do right even if it means suffering alone for it.

#5 _____

- You want to make sure that statements are true and accurate.
- You desire to gain as much knowledge as you can.
- You react to people who make unfounded statements.
- You check the credentials of one who wants to teach you.
- You use your mind to check out an argument.
- You enjoy spending hours doing research on a subject.
- You like to tell others as many facts as you can on a topic.
- You pay close attention to words and phrases.
- You tend to be silent in a matter until you check it out.
- You like to study material in a systematic sequence.

#6 _____

- You notice the practical needs of others and enjoy meeting them.
- You enjoy serving to free others for more important things.
- You are willing to neglect your own work to help others.
- You sometimes go beyond your physical strength in serving others.
- You can remember the likes and dislikes of others.
- You can usually detect ways to serve before anyone else can.
- You will even use your own funds to get a job done quickly.
- You do not mind doing jobs by yourself.
- You don't want public praise, but you do need to feel appreciated.
- You find it difficult to say 'no' to those who ask for help.
- You like to put 'extra touches' on the jobs you do.

#7 _____

- You are very thrifty with money for yourself and your family.
- You enjoy investing money in the ministries of other people.
- You have an ability to make money by wise investments.
- You desire to keep your giving a secret.
- You react negatively to pressure appeals for money.
- You like to encourage others to give with your gifts.
- You want the ministries you support to be as effective as possible.
- You enjoy giving to needs which others tend to overlook.
- You sometimes fear that your gifts will corrupt those who get them.
- You desire to give gifts of high quality.
- You enjoy knowing that your gifts were specific answers to prayer.

❖ Which person did you check the most?

#1 (atleast 9 out 10) – **Mercy**

#2 (atleast 11 out 12) – **Exhorter**

#3 (atleast 8 out 9) – **Organizer/Administrator/Ruler**

#4 (atleast 10 out 11) – **Prophet**

#5 (atleast 9 out 10) – **Teacher**

#6 (atleast 10 out 11) – **Server**

#7 (atleast 10 out 11) – **Giver**

Well, which motivational gift best described your behaviors, actions and/or feelings. Ask the Christianity facilitator to reveal the answers to discover your gifts.

IDENTIFYING YOUR MINISTRY GIFT(S)

1. Pray for GOD’s direction and wisdom. The following types of prayers can get you headed in the right direction: James 1:5; Hebrews 4:16; Mark 11:24-25.
 - **Search Me** - Psalms 139:23-24
 - **Break Me** - Ecclesiastics 3:3; Galatians 2:20; Luke 9:23-24 - We must die to self and become broken before we can be used by God. What are some habits, behaviors, and traits that need to be broken in you?
 - **Stretch Me** - God is calling us out of our “comfort zone”. We cannot expect for God to only have us serve where we are most familiar and most comfortable. We must walk in faith (Judges 6:11-16). Gideon was called “mighty warrior by the angel of the Lord (vs. 12), but he saw himself as the least in the weakest clan of Manesseh (vs. 15).
 - **Lead Me** - II Corinthians 5:7; Proverbs 3:5-6
 - **Use Me** - Isaiah 6:8-9
2. Don’t limit God by only what you can imagine, or by your fears. His thoughts and ways are beyond and above ours (see Isaiah 55:8-11). If God called you to do something, He will give you everything you need to carry it out (II Tim. 1:7).
3. Continue to grow in the Word of God -- study and meditate (Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:3; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17).
4. Be available to the ministries who need laborers (Matthew 10:2).
5. Begin to notice what characteristics “flow” in you. You may, for example, have always gone out of your way to help someone in need, even as a child or you may have always enjoyed giving without caring about recognition.
6. Most importantly, make sure you do everything as “unto the Lord” (I Corinthians 10:31). Do a check and balance on yourself once you become involved.
7. Keep in mind, **SERVING GOD IS A LIFESTYLE!**