

What color is your spiritual gift?

How do you relate to God through the Trinity?

Justice
Creator

God

Grace
Spirit

Jesus
Truth

For what purpose would you use your gift?

Small Groups to Explore @ Connection Point Sign-up

Artistic	Apostle
Deliverance	
Craftsmanship	Counseling
Discernment	
Giving	Evangelism
Faith	
Hospitality	Helps
Healing	
Knowledge	Leadership
Interpretation	
Mercy	Missionary
Miracles	
Music	Service
Prayer	
Organization	Shepherding
Prophecy	
Voluntary poverty	Singleness
Suffering	
Wisdom	Teaching
Tongues	

Paul's view of spiritual gifts is a "Trinitarian" perspective: God offering us a balance of three gift expressions through each person of the Trinity, which speaks to our three dimensions of life, our spirits, our souls, and our bodies, respectively.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.	Spirit → gifts	Power
There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.	Jesus → service	Commitment
There are different kinds of working, but the same God.	Creator → working	Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:4 - 6

And further that these gifts have practical support enabling us to be God's agents in the world, as Paul summarizes: "For this reason . . . we have not stopped praying for you and asking God . . .

. . . to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding . . .	Wisdom
. . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God . . .	Commitment
. . . being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might.	Power

Colossians 1:9 - 11

How to Find and Explore My Spiritual Gifts

- Grow as a Disciple of Christ to serve
- Small group format
 - How do I relate to God?
 - What gifts did God give to me?
 - What do these gifts mean to me? To others in my group?
- Leader facilitated
 - 3 sessions to answer these questions
 - Plus 2 follow-ups, as you are led/able
 - What is my Spiritual Style for my Spiritual Gift?
 - Where do I start to use my Spiritual Gift?
- Resources
 - Threefold Art of Experiencing God
 - 3 Colors of Ministry
 - Cost: \$10 donation for materials
- Sign-up at Connection Point
 - Choose day and time



How to Find and Explore My Spiritual Gifts

Our personal objective in growing as disciples of Christ is to use our spiritual gifts, given by God through the Spirit, in bearing love, the fruit of the Spirit, to others; the fruit is greater than the gift, as an objective is greater than the tools used to obtain it (1 Cor.12:1-11, and Jana Purkis-Brash, sermon "Spiritual Gifts Unwrapped - Discovery," 11/6/2011). We can join God in wiping away the tears of the suffering in the present. As we wipe away the tears of others, God wipes away our tears. As we feed other's hunger, God satisfies our real hunger, beyond earthly bread. We gather eternity into the present moment by joining God's final promise today, placing us with the saints around the throne (Rev.7:9-17 and Ben Padgett, Disciplines 2011, pg 323).

We can relate to God only through the ways He chooses to reveal Himself: 1) for us in His creation; 2) to us in His salvation offered freely by Jesus; and 3) by His grace as incorporated into us through His Spirit. This is our Trinitarian compass for finding our way into complete communion with God, which He so urgently desires for all His children. Many gifts have been promised, and if we receive them, and use them for the good of others, then they too may know God and receive their own gifts.

We can each identify our spiritual gifts by discovering them within the help of a small group, allowing deep exploration and confidential discussion with those in whom we can build a strong relationship as brother and sister disciples. Each group will be facilitated by a trained leader. We are planning a three session experience, but each small group can determine their own pace and duration through consensus. After our gifts discovery, each small, intimate community of believers has the option to continue through two follow-up studies, a second to discover our own Spiritual Styles, which give us the context for how to interpret our understanding of our gifts, and a third to find how we can begin to use our gifts through the fruit of the Spirit.

We will use resources from the Natural Church Development process which PUMC has been using to improve our church community - this series will be directed to growing our individual discipleship. The Threefold Art of Experiencing God will enable us to understand God's ways of relating to us as a foundation for our spiritual gifts. The 3 Colors of Ministry will show us how to identify our giftedness. A \$10 donation from participants will help us provide these high quality resources by a volume discount from the publisher. Each person will receive both titles. The follow-up series will be available at about \$6.50 each.

Each person in the congregation, from youth (9 - 12 grade) to adult, can sign-up for a small group, meeting at a convenient day/time for them, at the Connection Point. Small groups may begin meeting at any time, by mutual agreement with their leader, and there is no scheduled completion date for any of the sessions. At the completion of all three parts of this series, each member of a group will feel empowered by the Spirit through her/his own gifts to become servant disciples for the common good of others, and to the glory of God.



**Though We
Move on
Different
Pathways, We
are Walking to
Your Throne.**