

2.10,11 Experiencing the Holy Spirit and growing in his gifts **Simon Orton, John & Alison Risbridger**

A. INTRODUCING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The person of the Holy Spirit

The work of the Holy Spirit

Romans 5:9 – adoption, fatherhood and sonship

B. GROWING IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A wide range of gifts

1. Group Work based on 1 Cor 12:1-13:3

Without getting stuck in the detail, try to work out a summary heading (different from the NIVs!) for each of these sections of the passage:

12:1-11

12:12-31a

12:31a-13:3

What was the key learning point for you for each section?

Track 2: Our Story

Experiencing the blessing of God

Spiritual Gifts – what they are

The Message of Wisdom and the Message of Knowledge (7)

Faith

Gifts of Healing(s) (lit)

Miraculous Powers – lit workings of powers

Prophecy

Distinguishing between spirits

Tongues and Interpretation

Teaching

Those able to help others

Guidance / Leading (?Admin – old NIV)

Spiritual Gifts – what are they for?

Strengthening oneself

Strengthening the church

A sign for unbelievers

Spiritual Gifts – are they all for today?

Spiritual Gifts – how to grow in yours

Decide that you have gifts and that the church needs them (1 Cor 12:7)

Discover what your gifts are

Develop your gifts

Discipline your gifts

C. EXPERIENCING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Three contrasting stories

Q & A

Appendix - What are your spiritual gifts? (Taken from The Network Course, Willow Creek)

1. I can visualise a coming event, anticipate potential problems, and develop strategies to meet them.
2. I enjoy working creatively with various materials, making things that are useful for ministry and that honour God.
3. I reassure and challenge those who need to take courageous action in their faith, family, or life – and try to affirm their worth and value.
4. I am unwavering in my belief that God will absolutely work in circumstances in which success cannot be guaranteed by human effort alone, and challenge others to trust Him too.
5. I manage my money to free some up for giving, and take joy in giving to ministries that are well led and are making a difference for Christ in the lives of people.
6. I see spiritual significance in doing practical tasks, and enjoy working behind the scenes to support the work of others, often without being asked.
7. I enjoy meeting new people and helping them feel welcome, and love times of fellowship and social interaction in the church.
8. I am able to cast a vision for ministry that others want to follow, and enjoy equipping others to perform to the best of their ability - and find it more natural to lead than to be led.
9. I empathise with hurting people and desire to help in their healing process, and can look through a person's handicaps or problems to see a person that matters to God.
10. I am culturally sensitive and comfortable with different ethnic groups, and am willing to take an active part in starting a new church.
11. I feel a compulsion to speak the words God gives me to strengthen, encourage, challenge and comfort others – and have sometimes been able to shed light on current realities in someone's life through God's revelation to me, that helps them see His desire for their future.
12. I have the ability to communicate the gospel with clarity and conviction, and love to spend time with non-Christians, searching for opportunities to share my faith with them.
13. I can faithfully provide long-term emotional and spiritual support and concern for others, and take responsibility to nurture the whole person in his or her walk with God.
14. I am able to communicate God's word effectively, applying it into people's lives. I am frustrated when people lack biblical knowledge.

Track 2: Our Story

Experiencing the blessing of God

15. I receive affirmation from others concerning the reliability of my insights about them and of perceptions I have of others, and I can quickly discern spiritual truth from error.
16. I seek certainty and truth from Scripture in order to avoid superficial understandings and speculation, and feel a responsibility to handle the information wisely.
17. Others often seek me out for advice about personal and spiritual matters, and I can give practical advice to help others through complicated situations.
18. I have repeatedly seen an instant healing as I laid hands on someone and prayed.
19. When I hear people speak in tongues, I feel the Spirit revealing his message to me, and I speak it aloud, interpreting it for the church.
20. I have experienced the power of God within me to cast out demons and heal the sick, and I see his supernatural intervention in nature.
21. I have spoken in a language I do not understand, and someone has spoken out to interpret what I had just said.

If you have answered yes to one or more of these questions it may indicate an area of spiritual gifting for you (the number of the question corresponds to the gift it may indicate):

1. Administration
2. Craftsmanship
3. Encouragement
4. Faith
5. Giving
6. Helps
7. Hospitality
8. Leadership
9. Mercy
10. Apostleship
11. Prophecy
12. Evangelism
13. Pastoring
14. Teaching
15. Discernment
16. Knowledge
17. Wisdom
18. Healing
19. Interpretation
20. Miracles
21. Tongues

It's important to say that this is just a start; the process of discernment goes much deeper, involving prayer and seeking the wisdom of others. The Network Course is an excellent resource to take you through this process.