



DISCOVERY: WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

Have you ever felt like you had nothing special to offer? Like everyone else around you had remarkable talents and abilities, but you were just... ordinary? I've been there. Standing in rooms full of gifted people, wondering what I could possibly contribute to the Kingdom of God.

But here's your truth ... God never creates anyone without purpose, and He never sends anyone on a mission without equipping them for the journey.

COURSE GOAL

To help you **discover your spiritual gifts, understand your divine purpose, and find your unique place in ministry.**

COURSE TEXT

*"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I do not want you to be ignorant...** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."*

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Agnoeo

The Greek word for "ignorant" here is *agnoeo*, which means "to be without knowledge, to be unaware, to not understand." **God doesn't want you wandering through life clueless about how He's wired you!**

THE PROBLEM OF IGNORANCE

Here's what ignorance about spiritual gifts produces:

- It creates spectators instead of participants.
- It produces frustration and insecurity.
- It leads to burnout and misplaced effort.
- It robs the church of your unique contribution.

THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1. EVERY BELIEVER HAS AT LEAST ONE SPIRITUAL GIFT

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to EACH ONE for the profit of all."

Vs. 7

The moment you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ and were born again, the Holy Spirit took up residence in your life. And when He moved in, He didn't come empty-handed. He brought gifts with Him!

2. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE DIVERSE AND VARIED

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." Vs. 4

The word "diversities" in Greek is *diairesis*, which means "distributions, varieties, differences." **God is not a copy-and-paste Creator. He's an artist who delights in variety!**

3. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the PROFIT OF ALL."

Vs. 7

Your spiritual gifts are not for you—they're for others. They're not about personal advancement or building your own kingdom. They're about serving the body of Christ and advancing God's kingdom.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Charis

The Greek word for "spiritual gifts" is *charisma*, which comes from the root word *charis*, meaning "grace." Literally, spiritual gifts are **"grace gifts"**—supernatural abilities given by God's grace to accomplish supernatural purposes.

WORKING DEFINITION:

A spiritual gift is a divine enablement given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at salvation for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and advancing God's kingdom. Let's break that down:

- **"Divine enablement"**
- **"Given by the Holy Spirit"**
- **"To every believer"**
- **"At salvation"**
- **"For the purpose of building up the body"**

GIFTS VS. TALENTS VS. FRUIT

NATURAL TALENTS	SPIRITUAL GIFTS	FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
Present at birth	Given at salvation	Developed over time
Can be used for self	Must be used for others	Affects your character
Everyone has some	Every believer has some	Every believer should display all
Singing, athletics, art	Teaching, prophecy, mercy	Love, joy, peace, patience

THE MAIN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

They appear primarily in four passages: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28, and Ephesians 4:11.

Here's a simplified list of the major gifts:

Ministry Gifts (serving others):

- Serving/Helps
- Mercy
- Giving
- Hospitality

Communication Gifts (speaking truth):

- Teaching
- Prophecy
- Exhortation/Encouragement
- Evangelism
- Apostleship

Leadership Gifts (directing the body):

- Leadership
- Administration
- Pastoring

Revelation Gifts (supernatural insight):

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Discernment

Power Gifts (supernatural intervention):

- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

WHY GIFT DISCOVERY MATTERS

Here's why discovering your gifts matters:

1. It brings clarity to your calling
2. It increases your effectiveness
3. It protects you from burnout
4. It benefits the entire body
5. It brings fulfillment and joy

ARE ALL THESE GIFTS STILL FOR TODAY?

Here's why we believe **ALL the gifts listed in Scripture are available and active in the church today:**

1. The Bible never says these gifts would cease
2. Jesus said signs would follow believers—period
3. We see these gifts in action today
4. We desperately need the supernatural today

DISCOVERY EXERCISE #1: PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take 10 minutes and work through these questions:

1. Have you ever felt like you had nothing special to offer God or His church?
Describe that feeling.

2. Looking at the list of spiritual gifts, which 2-3 immediately grabbed your attention? (Don't overthink this—just write down your first impressions)

3. When have you felt most "in the zone" while serving others? What were you doing?

4. What activities energize you rather than drain you?

5. If someone gave you \$1 million and said you had to use it for ministry, what would you do with it? (This reveals your passion)

6. Complete this sentence: "If I could do anything for God without fear of failure, I would..."

SPIRITUAL GIFTS QUOTES

Circle the one that resonates most with you and write a short paragraph explaining why.

"Your gift is not about you; it's about others. Serve with humility and love." - Unknown

.....

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." - 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

.....

"When you discover your spiritual gift, you unlock the door to your divine destiny." - Myles Munroe

.....

"Spiritual gifts are tools for building others up. If they're not being used, they're just taking up space." - Bill Hybels

.....

"You can't hire someone to do your exercise for you, and you can't hire someone to live out your spiritual gifts for you." - Christine Caine

.....

"Your spiritual gift is God's way of making you an answer to someone else's prayer." - Unknown

.....

"The purpose of spiritual gifts is not to make us feel special, but to make us useful." - Andy Stanley

.....

"Everybody is gifted. But some people never open their package." - Unknown

Why this quote matters to me:

ASSIGNMENT

This week, I want you to conduct **three "gift discovery interviews."** Ask three people who know you well (spouse, friend, co-worker, family member) this question:

"When you think about me, what do you see as my strengths? What do I do that seems to come naturally to me and helps others?"

Write down exactly what they say—don't filter it or argue with it. Often, others can see gifts in us that we overlook because they seem so natural to us.

Interview #1: Name: _____

What they said:

Interview #2: Name: _____

What they said:

Interview #3: Name: _____

What they said:

Bring your findings back next week. We'll use them as part of your ongoing discovery process.



PURPOSE: UNDERSTANDING YOUR PURPOSE

We've all had those moments where we thought, "What am I even doing with my life? What's the point of all this?" But here's what I love about being a Christian: We don't have to wonder. God already told us. It's right here...

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." | **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Poiero

"We are His workmanship" - The Greek word there is *poiema*. You know what English word comes from that? **Poem**. You are God's poetry. His masterpiece. His work of art.

You were made on purpose for a purpose!

WHY DID GOD GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1. YOUR GIFTS REVEAL GOD'S NATURE TO THE WORLD

When you operate in your spiritual gifts, you're not just helping people—you're showing them what God is like.

Your gifts are like windows into God's character.

2. YOUR GIFTS COMPLETE THE BODY OF CHRIST

Paul uses the analogy of a body in **1 Corinthians 12**. He says the church is like a body—and every part is essential.

When you don't use your gifts, the body is incomplete.

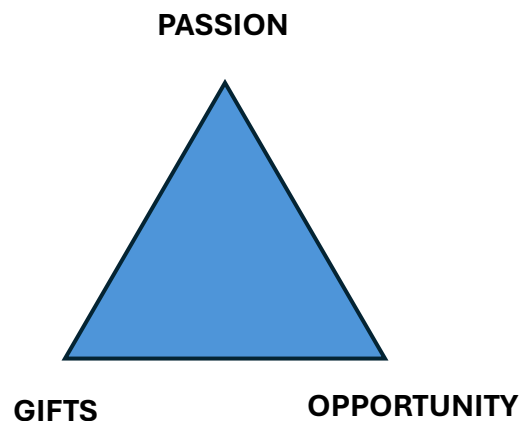
"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Romans 12:4-5

3. YOUR GIFTS FULFILL YOUR PERSONAL DESTINY

You can have all the money in the world, all the success, all the Instagram followers—but if you're not walking in your God-given purpose, something inside you will always feel empty.

DISCOVERING YOUR SPECIFIC PURPOSE

The Purpose Triangle. There are three points, and when they all line up, that's your sweet spot.



Point 1: PASSION - What makes your heart beat faster?

God doesn't just give you gifts randomly. He connects them to your passions. What breaks your heart? What fires you up? What makes you want to jump out of bed in the morning?

Nehemiah had a burden for the walls of Jerusalem. That burden became his assignment. What's your burden? What keeps you up at night?

Point 2: GIFTS - What has God equipped you to do?

Your passion points you in the right direction. Your gifts equip you to actually do something about it.

Your passion without your gifts leads to frustration. You care, but you don't know how to help. Your gifts without passion leads to burnout. You're capable, but you don't really care. But when passion and gifts line up?

Point 3: OPPORTUNITY - Where is the door open?

You can have passion and gifts, but if there's no opportunity, you're stuck. Purpose happens where your passion and gifts meet an actual need.

When all three points of the triangle line up—passion, gifts, and opportunity—that's your purpose zone. That's where you come alive. That's where you make the biggest impact.

THE DANGER OF COMPARISON

In *John 21*, Jesus is talking to Peter about his future. Peter looks over and sees John and asks Jesus, "What about him?" And Jesus basically says ...

"That's none of your business. You follow Me."

Your assignment is your assignment. Their assignment is their assignment. Stop looking sideways. Look up.

YOUR PURPOSE IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Your purpose isn't just about what you accomplish in your lifetime. It's about what you set in motion for generations to come.

"We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done... that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments."

| Psalm 78:4-7

When you walk in your purpose, you're not just impacting today—you're impacting tomorrow. You're creating a legacy.

DAVID AND GOLIATH ... A NEW ANGLE

David wasn't just randomly good with a slingshot. He'd been using it for years as a shepherd, protecting his sheep from lions and bears. That was his gift—he was accurate, focused, skilled with that sling.

But he also had a passion—he couldn't stand seeing God's people mocked. When he heard Goliath taunting Israel, something rose up in him. "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

And there was an opportunity—nobody else was willing to fight.

Passion. Gift. Opportunity.

DISCOVERY EXERCISE #2: THE PURPOSE ASSESSMENT

Work through these questions. Be brutally honest:

1. **PASSION CHECK:** If you could solve one problem in the world and money wasn't an issue, what would it be?

2. **GIFT CHECK:** Looking at the spiritual gifts list from last week, which 3-5 gifts do you think you might have?

3. **EXPERIENCE CHECK:** What's the hardest thing you've been through that God brought you out of? How could that experience help someone else?

4. **ENERGY CHECK:** When have you served others and felt more energized afterward, not drained?

5. **FEEDBACK CHECK:** Based on the interviews you did this week, what themes did you hear? What did multiple people say about you?

6. **OPPORTUNITY CHECK:** What need do you see around you that keeps bothering you—like, "Why isn't someone doing something about that?"

SPIRITUAL GIFTS QUOTES

Circle the quote that speaks to you and write why it matters:

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." - Mark Twain

.....

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." - Howard Thurman

.....

"God created you on purpose for a purpose." - Rick Warren

.....

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." - Leo Buscaglia

.....

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." - Pablo Picasso

.....

"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how." - Friedrich Nietzsche

Why this quote matters to me:

ASSIGNMENT

This week, I want you to **serve somewhere you've never served before.**

Pick a ministry in the church you've never tried. Maybe it's greeting. Maybe it's kids' ministry. Maybe it's helping to set up chairs. Maybe it's praying for people after service.

Whatever it is, step outside your normal routine and try something new. Just once. See how it feels.

Write down your experience:

What did you do?

How did it feel?

Did anything surprise you?

Could you see yourself doing this long-term?

Bring your notes back next week.



PLACEMENT: FINDING YOUR PLACE IN MINISTRY

WHERE DO I FIT?

Have you ever tried to force a puzzle piece into the wrong spot? You're working on a puzzle, you've got this piece in your hand, and you're CONVINCED it goes right there. So you push it. You angle it. You try to jam it in.

And it just... doesn't fit.

But later, you come back, pick up that same piece, and BAM—it slides perfectly into a completely different spot. The piece was never the problem. It was exactly the right shape. You were just trying to put it in the wrong place.

THE BODY PRINCIPLE

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Paul's using the analogy of a human body to explain how the church should function. And honestly, it's brilliant.

When you try to operate outside your gifting, two things happen:

1. The body loses a foot (now nobody's walking)
2. The body still doesn't get another eye (because feet can't see!)

Paul says in **verse 18**: ***"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased."***

God PLACED you. He set you. He positioned you. Not randomly. Not accidentally. ON PURPOSE.

FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR PLACEMENT

1. EVERY PART IS ESSENTIAL

"If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body?" (verses 15-17)

Just because you're not in a high-profile role doesn't mean you're not important.

No role is too small when it's the role God designed you for.

2. EVERY PART IS DIFFERENT

"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?" (verse 17)

God loves diversity! He intentionally designed the body with different parts that have different functions.

You don't have to be like everyone else. God made you unique on purpose!

3. EVERY PART NEEDS EVERY OTHER PART

"And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'" (verse 21)

- **Pride says:** "I don't need anyone else. I can do this on my own."
- **Insecurity says:** "I'm not needed. They could do this without me."
- **Both are lies.** We need each other.

4. EVERY PART IS PLACED BY GOD

"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased." (verse 18)

God Himself placed you where you are. It's not random. It's not a mistake.

THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Think about Esther. A Jewish girl. Orphan. Through a crazy series of events, she becomes queen of Persia. But Esther didn't try to become queen. She didn't campaign for it. She didn't network her way into the palace. **God placed her there.**

"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" | Esther 4:14

What if God has positioned YOU exactly where you are for such a time as this? What if your gifts, your experiences, your connections, your availability—what if all of it is converging right here, right now, for a purpose bigger than you realize?

FINDING YOUR SWEET SPOT

How do you actually find your place? How do you know where you're supposed to serve? Let me give you a framework. It's called the **SWEET SPOT FORMULA**:

SWEET SPOT = Your GIFTS + Your PASSION × Current NEED

Let's break it down:

YOUR GIFTS - What has God equipped you to do?

YOUR PASSION - What breaks your heart? What fires you up?

CURRENT NEED - What needs to be done right now?

When all three of these line up, that's your sweet spot.

THE THREE LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

LEVEL 1: ATTENDERS

These are people who show up on Sunday. They're present, they worship, they listen, they might even tithe. But they're not serving anywhere. They're consumers, not contributors.

Nothing wrong with being an attender when you're new or going through a tough season. But God didn't save you to be a permanent spectator.

LEVEL 2: VOLUNTEERS

These are people who serve somewhere. They've found a spot, they show up, they contribute. This is good! This is where most active church members should be.

LEVEL 3: LEADERS

These are people who not only serve but also lead others in serving. They recruit, train, and multiply themselves.

EXCUSES THAT KEEP US FROM FINDING OUR PLACE

EXCUSE #1: "I'm too busy."

EXCUSE #2: "I don't have anything to offer."

EXCUSE #3: "I'll serve when I get my life together."

EXCUSE #4: "I'm afraid I'll fail."

EXCUSE #5: "Nobody asked me."

THE POWER OF PLACEMENT

What happens when you find your place and start serving in your gifts?

1. You Come Alive

There's something that happens when you operate in your sweet spot. You think, "THIS is what I was made for!"

2. Ministry Becomes Natural, Not Forced

When you're in the wrong place, ministry feels like work. When you're in the right place, ministry feels like breathing.

3. People Around You Are Blessed

When you're operating in your gifts, people benefit. Lives change. Needs are met. The kingdom advances.

4. You Experience God in A New Way

There's something about stepping out in faith and serving that opens your eyes to see God working.

DISCOVERY EXERCISE #3: PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT

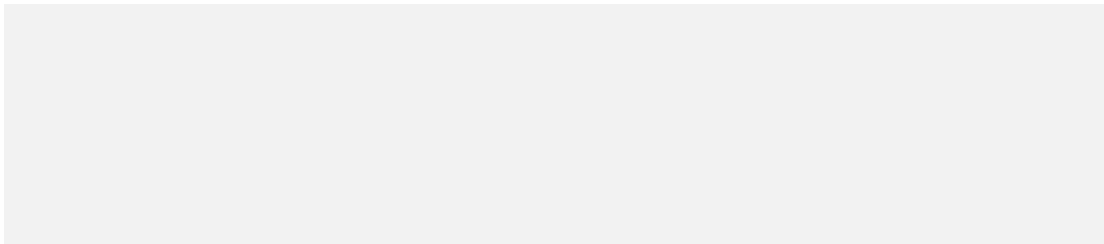
Let's figure out where you might fit:

PART A: GIFT + PASSION MATCH

1. Based on the last two weeks, what do you think your top 2-3 spiritual gifts are?

2. What area of ministry are you most passionate about? (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Children/Youth
 - ☐ Hospitality/Welcome
 - ☐ Worship/Creative Arts
 - ☐ Prayer/Intercession
 - ☐ Outreach/Evangelism
 - ☐ Teaching/Discipleship
 - ☐ Administration/Organization
 - ☐ Pastoral Care/Counseling
 - ☐ Technical/Media
 - ☐ Missions/Compassion

3. Where do your gifts and passion overlap?



PART B: AVAILABILITY CHECK

1. Realistically, how much time per week could you commit to serving? ☐ 1-2 hours
 - ☐ 3-5 hours
 - ☐ 6-10 hours
 - ☐ 10+ hours

2. What day(s)/time(s) work best for you?

- ☐ Sunday mornings
- ☐ Sunday evenings
- ☐ Weeknights
- ☐ Weekends
- ☐ Flexible

PART C: CURRENT NEEDS

Look at the list of ministries in your church. Which ones have current needs that match your gifts and passion?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PART D: NEXT STEP

Based on this assessment, what's ONE specific ministry you could try in the next 30 days?

I commit to trying: _____

ASSIGNMENT

This is it. This is where the rubber meets the road.

Your assignment this week: **TAKE ACTION.**

1. **Contact a ministry leader** in an area that matches your gifts and passion.
Ask them about serving opportunities.
2. **Schedule a meeting** or a phone call to learn more about what serving in that area looks like.
3. **Commit to trying it** at least once in the next month.

Write down:

- **Ministry area you're exploring:** _____
- **Leader you're contacting:** _____
- **Date you'll reach out:** _____

Don't overthink this. Don't wait for the perfect fit. Just try something. Step out. See what God does.

Next week, we're talking about moving from availability to participation. But you can't participate if you don't first make yourself available.

Let's do this!



PARTICIPATION: FROM SPECTATOR TO PARTICIPANT

Romans 12:1-8 is Paul's blueprint for participation.

God's not asking for your opinions. He's not asking for your good intentions. He's asking for YOUR BODY. Your hands. Your feet. Your time. Your energy. **Your actual participation.**

*"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, **LET US USE THEM.**" | Romans 12:6*

THE AVAILABILITY-TO-PARTICIPATION PIPELINE

Stage 1: Awareness

"I have gifts." (Week 1 - Discovery)

Stage 2: Clarity

"I know my purpose." (Week 2 - Purpose)

Stage 3: Placement

"I know where I fit." (Week 3 - Placement)

Stage 4: Availability

"I'm willing to serve."

Stage 5: Participation

"I'm actively serving." ← this is where we are today

Stage 6: Multiplication

"I'm raising up others to serve."

FIVE SHIFTS FROM AVAILABILITY TO PARTICIPATION

Shift #1: From Consumer to Contributor

- **A consumer asks:** "What can the church do for me?"
- **A contributor asks:** "What can I do for the church?"
- **A consumer** has opinions about everything but ownership of nothing.
- **A contributor** takes responsibility and makes things happen.
- **A consumer** evaluates the sermon, critiques the worship, and judges the coffee.
- **A contributor** shows up early to set up chairs, serves in the nursery, and brings the coffee.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." | Acts 20:35

Shift #2: From Someday to Today

How many people have been saying "someday I'll serve" for the last five years?

- Someday when the kids are older.
- Someday when work slows down.
- Someday when I know more Bible.
- Someday when I feel more equipped.

Someday

Someday is a dangerous word. It lets you feel good about your intentions without ever taking action. *Proverbs 27:1* warns us: *"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."*

"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." | James 4:17

Shift #3: From Perfection to Progression

Here's a secret: **You're never going to feel 100% ready.** You're never going to have it all figured out. You're never going to be the perfect version of yourself.

The disciples were a hot mess! Peter was impulsive. Thomas was a doubter. Matthew was a tax collector (basically a traitor). James and John had anger issues. But Jesus didn't wait until they got their act together. He said, **"Follow Me,"** and they learned on the job.

Shift #4: From Comfort to Courage

Serving might require stepping outside your comfort zone.

- It's uncomfortable to show up early when you'd rather sleep in.
- It's uncomfortable to talk to strangers when you'd rather hang with your friends.
- It's uncomfortable to lead when you'd rather follow.
- It's uncomfortable to give when you'd rather keep.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." | Joshua 1:9

Shift #5: From Independence to Interdependence

One of the biggest lies of our culture is that you can do it all on your own. "I don't need anyone. I'm self-made. I'm independent." But that's not how God designed the church. **We NEED each other.**

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

| Romans 12:5

THE PARTICIPATION PROMISE

Promise #1: You'll Experience Joy

There's a joy that comes from serving that you can't get any other way. It's the joy of obedience. The joy of purpose. The joy of making a difference.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing." | **Psalm 100:2**

Promise #2: You'll Grow Spiritually

When you serve, you grow. You learn to trust God. You see Him work. You develop character. You become more like Jesus.

"I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." | **John 13**

Promise #3: You'll Multiply Your Impact

When you participate, you don't just help one person—you create a ripple effect.

You never know how far your obedience will reach.

Promise #4: You'll Hear *"Well Done"*

This is the big one.

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." | **Matthew 25:23**

Imagine hearing those words from Jesus. ***"Well done."*** Not "Well said." Not "Well intended." **WELL DONE.**

FINAL DISCOVERY EXERCISE: DEPLOYMENT PLAN

In your manual, create your personal deployment plan:

1. My Top 3 Spiritual Gifts:

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. My Purpose Statement:

(In one sentence, what is God calling you to do?)

3. My Ministry Placement:

(Where are you committing to serve for the next 30 days?)

4. My First Step:

(What's the very first action you'll take this week?)

5. My Accountability Partner:

(Who will keep you on track?)

FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Serve for 30 days. Then come back and tell us your story.

We want to hear:

- Where you served
- What you learned
- How God showed up
- What surprised you
- How you grew

Your story will inspire others. Your obedience will create momentum. Your participation will change lives. **This isn't the end—it's the beginning.**

Go make a difference. Go use your gifts. Go change the world.

RESOURCE CREDITS

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CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed the NEXT GIFTS series!

Now go live it out!

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