

## ***DISCOVERING YOUR DIVINE DESIGN***

**Who are you? What are you? How would you define or describe yourself?** There are many ways to do that but every human being starts from the point of reference that he/she is a unique and holy expression of the image of God.

Even more, as Christians we are those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and are being progressively restored in the image of God by the Holy Spirit and, even more, are being given special abilities or capacities to love and serve God by loving and serving others in a redemptive way. These abilities or capacities are called in the Bible “Spiritual Gifts”.

In BOTH of these foundational ways we are each a unique and wonderful expression of creation, redemption, of God Himself.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

These works will be rewarded (not merit but gracious reward) – Matthew 16:27; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelations 20:12; 22:12.

### **Definition of a Spiritual Gift**

1. From the word “charisma” or “charismata”
2. A special enabling or ability (s) to serve others in a redemptive, sanctifying, or spiritual way.
3. Not a natural talent, a role, or fruit of the Spirit.

## **KEY TEXTS (and what we learn from them)**

### **I Corinthians 12-14**

Key concept of “The Body of Christ”

vv. 1-3 – being a Christian a supernatural, spiritual reality, not merely formal, institutional, or superficial.

v.4-6 – There are different kinds of:

(1) Gifts (vv. 8-10)

(2) Contexts

(3) Empowerings

vv. 7

(1) Every Christian has a gift(s)

(2) Given “for the common good”

v. 11 – All from the Spirit who apportions as He wills

vv.12-26 – The interdependence and mutual value of all believers and their gifts

vv. 27-31 - Summary

Chapter 13 – The more excellent way of love

Ch. 14 – Prophecy and tongues

**Ephesians 4:11-16** – Again, key idea of “The Body of Christ”

**I Peter 4:7-11**

(1) Loving one another *earnestly*

(2) Showing hospitality

(3) Using our gifts to serve one another

- a “stewardship”
  
- of God’s “varied grace”
  
- that God might be glorified

**Romans 12:1-8**

v. 3 – “Be sober minded, not thinking of yourselves more highly than you ought”

vv.4-8 – Again, the concept of the Body of Christ with many members

vv. 1-2 – the foundation and motive of everything; all service seen as an act of worship

**SO, how do you go about actually discovering your divine design and help others do the same?**

- (1) Blend of personality, passions, and gifts
- (2) Look at what your drawn to and good at
- (3) Listen to feedback; what others say and affirm
- (4) Use of helpful instruments

**Knowing your Divine Design:**

- (1) Helps you focus your limited time and energy productively
- (2) Is where you should get further training
- (3) Keep in mind that it can change!
- (4) Be careful of myopia and pride