



MAYBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

 FLOURISH
Gifts

The logo for 'FLOURISH Gifts' features a stylized green leaf icon above the word 'FLOURISH' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word 'Gifts' is positioned to the right of 'FLOURISH' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Everyone has gifts. We might not always be aware of what they are, or how best to use them, but God has given each of us our own personal toolkit of gifts so that we might flourish and bless others around us.

YOU WERE DELIBERATELY MADE WITH GIFTS

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
- 1 Peter 4:10

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

- Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

- Psalm 139:13

GOD'S GIFTS WORK DIFFERENTLY

Human gifts: you are the end recipient

God's gifts: you are **not** the end recipient

GIFTS AND FALSE HUMILITY

It's not modest to say we don't have gifts. It actually insults God, because he gave them to us. It's not arrogant to say you have gifts. You're not taking credit; they're just things God has given you to use, like a toolkit.

DISCUSS

- ✿ What is it to be gifted at something? What does that mean?
- ✿ Why does God give us gifts?
- ✿ Why doesn't He give anyone all the gifts?

GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

1. All the stuff God can do, we get to do in a smaller way.
2. No gift is more 'spiritual' than any other - all of them are from the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 12:6-8

Context: Enthusiastic encouragement to use gifts to serve others.

Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy

1 CORINTHIANS

Context: Gifts at the fore when Christians gather to worship.

Words of Wisdom, Words of Knowledge, Faith, Healing(s), Miracles, Prophecy, Distinguishing Spirits, Tongues, Interpreting Tongues, Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Helps, Administration

EPHESIANS 4:11

Context: Gifts given to build up the church through equipping

Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher

SOME OTHER GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-10)
Intercession (Romans 8:26-27)
Craftsmanship (Genesis 4:22)
Intelligence (Romans 12:2)
Wisdom (Proverbs 2:6)
Musicianship (Genesis 4:21)
Celibacy (1 Corinthians 7:7)
Martyrdom (1 Corinthians 13:3)



HOW DO I DISCERN MY GIFTS?

Some of us know full well what our gifts are, while other struggle to know - for a variety of reasons. However there are some ways that we can discern what our gifts are - you just have to BEEF them up.

BURDEN

If you spot a problem that not everyone else spots, and have a nagging sense that someone needs to step in, then you may be gifted at whatever it is the situation needs.

EFFECTIVENESS

If you have a particular gift, you are probably quite effective when you use it, i.e. it has a qualitative and lasting impact on others.

ENERGY

Most people have a passion for the thing they are gifted at - they actually want to do it! If you are very drawn to do something, it's likely you are good at it and have a contribution to make.

FEEDBACK

If other people tell you that you have a particular gift, you probably do have it. If you are told you have a gift, you could ask how it could be used more. This is probably the best way of discerning a gift as it is less biased than your own perspective (positively or negatively).

DISCUSS



What gifts do you think you have? Maybe get input from others at the table who know you.

- ✿ Do you have any gifts that are 'dormant' or may not be known to others around you?
- ✿ What things can hold you back from using your gifts?

USING OUR GIFTS

WHAT HOLDS US BACK?

- *Lack of confidence*
- *Laziness*
- *Unidentified gifts*
- *Over-spiritualising*
- *Waiting to be asked / lack of opportunity*

HOW TO MOVE ON

- *Pray for insight and opportunity*
- *Ask others for feedback and suggestions*
- *Seek help from someone you think is gifted in the same ways*
- *Be willing to take a risk*
- *Be mindful of the 80-20 rule*
- *Start small!*

DISCUSS

- ✿ Think about your gifts. What are the contexts in which you get to use them?
- ✿ What proportion of your time do you spend using your gifts a) in life generally? b) in your church involvement?
- ✿ What do you need to do to better develop your gifts? Who could help you?
- ✿ How do we encourage other people in how they use their gifts? How can you get better at this?

