

# Seeking Your Place

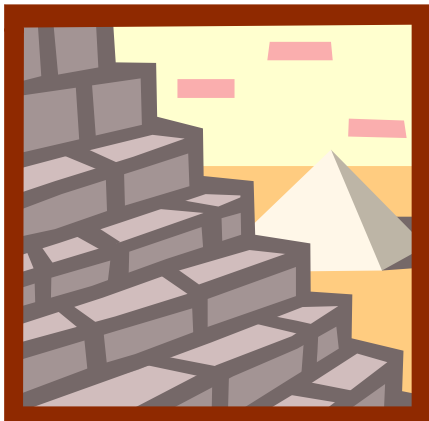
by Laura Wilson,  
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Paul talks of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant . . . <sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,<sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup>And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues<sup>[d]</sup>? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But eagerly desire<sup>[e]</sup> the greater gifts.

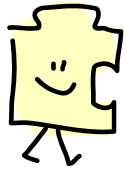


## Seven Steps Toward Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

(from Gifted For Service, LWML)

1. Pray – Ask God for understanding, wisdom and direction in discovering your gifts. Be still and listen for the needs to which God draws your heart.
2. Study – Study the scriptures, learn what gifts (not exhaustive) are mentioned in the Bible.
3. Examine – Examine life experiences and abilities that may shape the use of your gift.
4. Experiment – You have the freedom to try new ministries until you find the one that “fits.”
5. Question – What degree of satisfaction and fulfillment do you find in what you are doing?
6. Evaluate – Do others benefit from your gift? Gifts are given for practical use in the Body of Christ.
7. Verify – Do other Christians affirm your own ideas of what your gifts are or aren’t? It is as important to ask “which gifts don’t I have?” as well as “which gifts do I have?” Listen to what others say about you. So often, others can see your strengths much better than you can.

## What kind of puzzle piece are you?



Corner piece

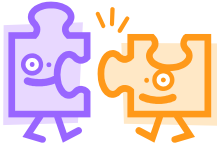
Holding everything together

Side piece

There for others to lean on

Brightly colored piece

A leader; you have an outgoing personality and are right in the middle of things



Soft colored piece

You are always there to support those around you; you provide kind words and smooth over any difficulties

Brown piece

You don't feel like you fit in at all, but without you, the puzzle is incomplete, as you quietly serve Him.



Lost piece

You don't have the time, energy or the dedication to serve at this time

Our faith in Jesus Christ takes the worry out of, "Where do I fit it?" God picks us up and places us in just the right place - the place where He wants us to serve. He alone knows where we should be and how we "fit" into the picture. It is only after the picture is complete that we can see the beauty of it. God not only solves the puzzle with His promise of forgiveness of our sins and life eternal, but He sees the beauty in each individual piece.

### Gifts Mentioned in the Bible (not exhaustive) (from Gifted For Service, LWML)

**Romans 13** – prophecy, service, teaching, leadership, exhortation, giving, mercy

**1 Corinthians 12** – wisdom, faith, knowledge, miracles, discernment, administration, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, apostle, healing, helps

**Ephesians 4** – evangelism, pastor

**1 Corinthians 7:7-9** – celibacy

**1 Corinthians 13:3** – martyrdom

**1 Peter 4:9** – hospitality

**1 Corinthians 13:3** – voluntary poverty

**James 5:14-16** - Intercession

**Ephesians 3:7** - missionary

### Slogans for Encouragement

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten.  
Insanity is doing the same things the exact same way and expecting a different result.

God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Phil. 4:13

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Ideas and inspiration from various LWML resources, including Gifted for Service and the Spring 2001 Quarterly.