

# Seminar 8 – Serving

*Spiritual Giftedness and Service*



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# INTRODUCTION

The Lord has a special gift for every youth. How can these gifts be expressed at the local church. What opportunities are available for each gift? Who are the key people in the journey? What is the role of the nuclear family and the church family? How can these gifts be used to encourage maximum involvement of the youth? Why should the gifts of the youth be recognized and embraced?



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# SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

- Develop an appreciation for Spiritual Gifts in Youth Ministry
- Establish a theological basis for Spiritual Gifts
- Demonstrate the relevance of identifying and utilizing Spiritual Gifts in young adults and teens
- Understand how to conduct a Spiritual Gifts Inventory
- Learn how to recognize and affirm spiritual gifts and use them in building up the church of God on earth.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN MINISTRY

- **The Promise**

Jesus made a promise to send the Comforter, whom He identified as the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is functional and operational in the daily life of everyone.
- One role of the Holy Spirit is to give gifts to God's children.
- All the gifts are given to build up God's church and to equip each disciple for service.



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# The Prophecy

- The prophet Joel foresaw an unprecedented manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the last days. (Joel 2: 28, 29).
- Unprecedented talents, gifts, and abilities will be demonstrated in those who are so gifted by God.
- Young people will have enhanced visions and revelations of God's purpose is for their lives.
- This will be affirmed and endorsed through the wisdom given to older Christians in dreams.



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# The Fulfillment

- God never intends for all of the spiritual gifts to reside in any one individual.
- All gifts, including the gifts of faith and grace, are given to humankind by the Holy Spirit of God. It is our privilege to receive them and to use them for the purposes God intended.
- As Christian disciples, all Adventist youth can be assured that this gift is as readily available to them.



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# Explore

List five gifts that God's spirit has given to the church



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# THE GIFTS DEMONSTRATED IN BIBLE HISTORY

Can you identify the specific gift or talent in these bible characters?

- Samson
- Solomon
- Hosea
- Ruth
- Esther



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

- Faithful men and women in all ages have understood the benefits of living by the Holy Spirit.
- One of the great advantages youth leaders have is to inspire and motivate youth to develop their God-given gifts and talents.
- Youth leaders have a VIP advantage and can help to identify and encourage these gifts.
- Many talents remain unused and dormant simply because they were never identified or encouraged.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

- An insightful and observant youth leader will engage youth in the development of these gifts.
- This must be a deliberate and intentional process. The following steps are not linear; they are circular.
- Once you have gone through steps one through five, you are back at one again to start over.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

## Step One: Conduct a Spiritual Gifts Inventory

- You will find the link for the Adventist Youth Ministries Spiritual Gifts Inventory at the end of this seminar
- It would be helpful to be familiar with the general categories of gifts as given in the Bible.
- It should also be understood that the lists in Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Ephesians are not exhaustive.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

## Step Two: Identify the gifts and abilities of the youth

- You and your young people will enjoy the exploration and study of spiritual gifts. An important thing you will see happening is them encouraging and affirming each other. One will shyly think they don't have a gift, but the inventory shows they do. A friend, or several, chime in--" Oh, yes, you do! Remember that time when you---?" Of course, you will help them to understand that one of the important steps of discerning a gift is that it is affirmed by others when it is exercised.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

## Step Three: Encourage those gifts and talents

- No matter how much the youth encourage each other, it will be your task as leader to be the head cheerleader.
- You don't want to give the impression that the young person gets any credit for whatever gift God has bestowed, as if they are somehow special above the others and "deserve" this gift somehow. But you certainly do want to affirm and encourage.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

## **Step Four: Engage or utilize these gifts and talents in ministry**

- This is when you create the plans we have talked about at other points in this seminar and mobilize your energetic young “army” for Jesus. Great things will happen, and then you will come together, evaluate, take note of changes you want to make next time, and yes, comfort each other for mistakes made and encourage each other to try again, with your hands in God’s.



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# SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY

## Step Five: Affirm those gifts constantly

- As a youth leader, you know, yourself, how easy it is to get discouraged, or simply drift away and forget your calling in the midst of life and its stresses. For young people, this is even more true.
- Constant, mutual encouragement will go a long way toward helping all of you move ahead on the journey God is leading you on, to become fully committed disciples of Jesus.



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# Explore

List at least five (5) gifts or talents you have identified in the youth in your local congregation?



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# CONCLUSION

- All Christians have full and complete access to the Holy Spirit at all times and are beneficiaries of the gifts which He bestows.
- It is the privilege of every youth to be a recipient of one or more of these gifts.
- Youth leaders have a unique privilege and opportunity to encourage young people to identify and develop their spiritual gifts.



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# ACTIVITIES

- List at least five (5) gifts or talents you have identified in the youth in your local congregation
- Course leader will lead participants in completing the Spiritual Gifts Inventory. This is a major portion of the evaluation process.



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# RESOURCES

<http://youth.adventist.org/Resources/Spiritual-Gifts-Assessment/Spiritual-Gifts-Questionnaire>



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