



Young Women Active for Christ

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Strengths and Weaknesses

Draw Near—*Worship and prepare your heart to hear from God's Word.*

Share prayer requests and lead girls in prayer. Play worship music of your choice and prepare your hearts to hear from God's Word. Suggested songs: "Do Everything" – Stephen Curtis Chapman "If We Are the Body" – Casting Crowns

This month's prayer requests: _____

Go Deep—*Dig into the Bible to learn truths from God's Word.*

Read Ephesians 4:16.

When you get saved, you become a part of God's family. Just like a woman takes her husband's last name when she gets married, we each take on the name of Jesus Christ and are called "Christians."

Think about the people in your family. Doesn't each person have something they do really well or something that's considered their job? Maybe your mom is an awesome gardener, but not such a great cook. On the other hand, maybe your dad can grill a mean steak, but he has a brown thumb and can't grow a thing. In this example, your mom's weakness is filled by your dad's strength and your dad's weakness is filled by your mom's strength.

This is what Paul was talking about in Ephesians 4:16 when he said, "working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself..." When we each do our part, we are stronger.

Think about it like this. If you go to the gym to work out every day and do arm exercises, then you will have strong arms. You'll be able to lift heavy things and do all kinds of things with your arms. But if you always work out your arms and never work out your legs or core, then you will be weak in those areas.

The body of Christ, which is the church, needs to be strong in all areas. It would be impossible for one person, no matter how strong, to fill all the needs of the church. God knew this, and He designed His family to run like a person's body. He gave each of us specific spiritual gifts—gifts we are supposed to use—in order to make His family as strong as possible.

Because we all have different spiritual gifts, we all have different strengths and weaknesses. If you tried to fill all the roles of the church on your own, you would probably be really good at a few things and really bad at others. But if we work together, with each person doing what they do best, then we will be a strong, efficient body.

It's important to remember that one part of the body isn't more important than another part of the body. While we all do different things, we are serving the same God. Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-24. These verses tell us that we are all important to the body of Christ. Maybe you enjoy writing. You are important to the body of Christ because you could write Bible studies, Christian articles, and encouraging notes to others. Maybe your gift is in music. You are important to the body of Christ because you can lead people in praising God and bring encouraging messages to people through song. Maybe you love to cook. You are important to the body of Christ because you can serve. You might help cook for people who are sick and show the love of Christ to those that are hurting. Each gift is different, and each gift is necessary. Without you and your unique gift, something is missing in the church.

Our spiritual gifts come from God. He decides what gift He is going to give each person (1 Corinthians 12:18). These gifts are ours—just because. We don't have to earn them, and we don't have to ask for them, but we do need to use them. Don't waste your time being jealous of a friend's gift. Instead, find out what your gift is and use it. Your gift may not be glamorous. Some people are gifted teachers, speakers and musicians while others are given behind-the-scenes gifts like serving others. Sometimes, we want those glamorous gifts. We see the people who have those gifts doing big things for God, and we think, "If only I could sing like that, I could do something big for God..." Listen to Stephen Curtis Chapman's song "Do Everything" if you haven't already. In it, he says, "little stuff, big stuff, in-between stuff, God sees it all the same." This is so true. Even when we feel like we're not making an impact, God sees our faithfulness and our obedience. He will bless our efforts and our gifts when He sees that we are faithful.

Reflect—Group discussion questions.

What are your strengths and weaknesses? How do you think God can use those strengths and weaknesses?

Have you ever wished you could do something big for God, but thought you didn't have the talents or gifts needed to do that?

How do you think God uses the "big stuff, little stuff and in-between stuff" we do for His kingdom?

Get Real—Apply God's Word to your life.

Wondering what your spiritual gift is? There are lots of different gifts, and the only way to know for sure which ones you have is to pray about it and ask God to lead you as you discover your strengths and weaknesses. There are some cool quizzes you can take that will give you a pretty good idea of what your spiritual gifts may be.

(Leaders can download either the simple quiz or a more complex version. Choose the one that fits your group. Print and distribute copies for all girls.)

Go ahead and take the quiz, then share your results with your friends.

Did the results surprise you?

When your friends shared their results, did it surprise you, or can you see those qualities in them already?

Now that you have an idea of what your spiritual gifts may be, dig into God's Word to find out more about them. (Using a Bible dictionary and concordance will help. Your pastor or youth leader should be able to show you how, or you can go to www.blueletterbible.com and use the search engine there.) Pray and thank God for these gifts. Then ask Him how He wants you to use them.

Be sure to check out next month's study, where you'll learn how to put your gifts into action.

Meet the Author



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