

Wednesday, April 5

When we affirm our baptism we commit "To serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." (Affirmation of Baptism service, Evangelical Worship Augsburg Fortress 2006)

Where are you at?

Searching: I am often amazed at the way some disciples selflessly serve others.

Exploring: I know Christ invites me to join him serving others and I'm wondering how I should do this.

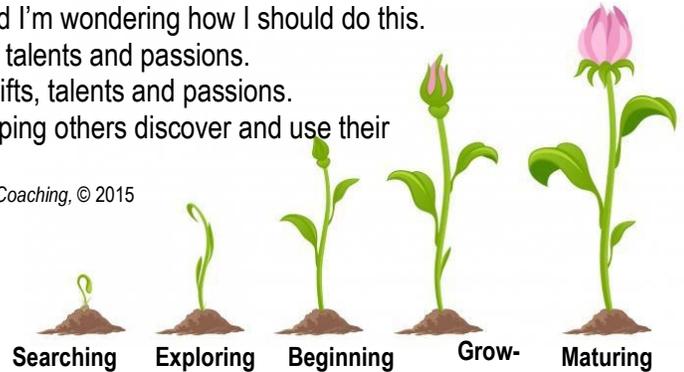
Beginning: I experiment in different areas as I discover my gifts, talents and passions.

Growing: I join Jesus in mission to others using my God-given gifts, talents and passions.

Maturing: I live to serve Jesus with my whole life and I enjoy helping others discover and use their gifts in serving.

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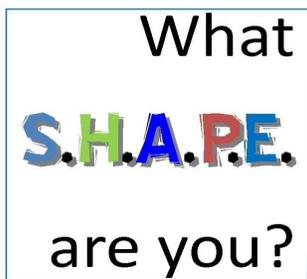
Looking at the list above, where are you at in serving?



spiritual **gift assessment**

How can I Recognize My Gifts and Talents?

One way is to take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. A spiritual gifts inventory is designed to point us in the direction of how God, through the Holy Spirit, has equipped us for service in the Kingdom. You can find an online spiritual gift inventory on our website (stjohnsspencer.org) hover on the "Share" tab, then click on "Discovering Spiritual Gifts". Once you answer the questions, you will have your results open in another tab.



S– Spiritual Gifts: What are your gifts (identified by inventory?)

H– Heart: What is your passion? (e.g. homeless, abused, working poor, education, etc)

A– Abilities: What are you good at doing? How are you talented?

P– Personality: Do you work best in front of crowds, one-on-one, or by yourself? Do you build a plan or just "go for it"?

E– Experiences: What life experiences have shaped who you are?

Seven Basic Principles of Spiritual Gifts

- Spiritual gifts are given to the believer by the Holy Spirit
- Spiritual gifts are given to every believer without exception
- Spiritual gifts are gifts of God's grace
- The Spirit gives diverse gifts for a diversity of ministers
- Spiritual gifts are to be employed for building up the body of Christ.
- Gifted believers are part of the Body of Christ.
- Gifts must always be used in Love.

Scriptures Related to Spiritual Gifts

The following passages are related to the identification and application of spiritual gifts. Read through them and identify the Seven Principles of Spiritual Gifts as they appear.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1 Peter 4:9-10

1 Corinthians 12:28

Exodus 31:3

Romans 12:6-8

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Ephesians 4:11

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- ◇ Describe a time when you served others and walked away having the sense that you had received so much more than you had given.
- ◇ What do you see as your strongest gifts and interests? How can these be used in your congregation to serve others?
- ◇ Have you participated in work for justice that changed your life, community or world? What happened? Why or how did you get involved?