



Three Questions to Develop Your Spiritual Gifts

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In today's episode, Pastor Carter reminds us- YOLO. To fulfill our purpose, the questions we ask are key. Listen to this valuable message to hear how to ask the right questions to develop your God-given gifts. The Church needs you to do what only you can, to make an impact for Christ.

Watch your priorities, you don't come first. // Commencement speakers are always telling young people, 'Follow your passions. Be true to yourself'. While this sounds great, and you shouldn't waste your life trying to be someone else, make sure you're not making yourself the priority. When you put yourself first, your life will begin and end with 'self'. The spiritually mature don't ask what they want from life, but, 'What is God asking of me, from my life?'.

Don't ask for only what you want and bury your spiritual gifts. // Make your spiritual gifts a priority, discover them and use them, they reveal your purpose. Remember, the power is from God, not from you, and it's for building up the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* The greatest thing you can do is strengthen the Church and create progress with your God-given gifts. When we don't explore and use our spiritual gifts, we're leaving fruit in seed form, fruit that God wants and has planned to use. Pursue fruitfulness through your gift-mix in partnership with others.

Discover your spiritual gifts by asking:

- 1. What do you have an affinity for?** What is pulling you? What lights you up? What human needs do you resonate with? What are you drawn to? What are your passions? On the flip side, what bothers you? What do you want to fix? Stay humble and present yourself as teachable to mentors who can help you develop your gifts. God guides us through our interests.
- 2. What do you have the ability to do well?** Where are you effective? Notice, there will be a trail of people being helped. Are people benefitting from your gift? Where has it been relatively easy for you to produce results? Being gifted doesn't mean much without faithfulness and hard work. The confirmation of your gift from others will come naturally, just keep working. 1 Corinthians 15:10 NLT *I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.* Work with what you have (not what you don't have), trust God's purpose, and be willing to step out of your



comfort zone. Thank God for how He made you. Judgment doesn't belong when it comes to giftedness, since they are gifts and come from God. Exodus 4:15 ESV *You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.*

- 3. What do you have the opportunity to do?** What is there to do here? Your gift will make room for you. Proverbs 18:16 NASB95 *A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.* What doors for service are open, right where you are? Don't expect or even try to start at the top, express a willingness to do whatever is necessary for the health of the mission. Hint: it may not be glamorous, take advantage of secondary opportunities. You do not have to be the best, stay thankful for how God made you. Pray for the gifts your Church needs, not the ones you would prefer. Luke 9:1 NASB95 *And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.*

Your sweet spot is right in the middle of the answers to these three questions. God has equipped and called you to do something, to move in these particular directions. Know, value, and use your spiritual gifts.