SOFTWARE & TECH

Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey

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Discovering Your Divine Design: The Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey

Understanding how God has uniquely equipped you for service is one of the most exciting and practical aspects of the Christian life. For decades, believers have turned to assessments and inventories to help identify their strengths, passions, and areas of gifting. Among the most trusted tools available today is the **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**. This resource, offered by Lifeway Christian Resources, has helped countless individuals, small groups, and entire congregations unlock the potential God has placed within them. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what this survey is, how it works, why it matters, and how you can use it to grow in your faith and service.

Whether you are a new believer curious about your role in the church or a seasoned leader looking to help others find their place, the journey of discovering your spiritual gifts is both humbling and empowering. The survey provides a structured, biblically-grounded way to begin that journey.

What Is the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Survey?

The **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**is a self-assessment tool designed to help Christians identify the spiritual gifts God has given them. It is based on the biblical passages that list and describe these gifts, primarily found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. The survey typically includes a series of statements or questions that prompt you to reflect on your experiences, passions, and natural inclinations within a faith context.

Lifeway's survey is distinct because it is research-based and has been refined over many years. It is used by churches, Bible study groups, and individuals worldwide. The survey is accessible online through the Lifeway website, making it easy to take at your own pace. The results provide a personalized profile of your top gifts, along with descriptions and practical suggestions for using them in ministry.

The Biblical Foundation of Spiritual Gifts

Before diving into the survey itself, it is important to understand what spiritual gifts are from a biblical perspective. According to Scripture, every believer receives at least one spiritual gift at the moment of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:7). These gifts are not natural talents, though God can certainly use talents as well. Rather, they are supernatural enablements given by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of building up the body of Christ—the church.

The gifts include, but are not limited to, teaching, serving, leadership, giving, mercy, encouragement, prophecy, healing, administration, and hospitality. No single gift is more important than another; each works together for the common good. The **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**helps you see which of these gifts the Holy Spirit has emphasized in your life.

How the Survey Works

The survey typically consists of a range of statements such as “I enjoy visiting the sick or lonely” or “I can easily organize tasks and people to accomplish a goal.” You are asked to rate each statement on a scale (for example, from “not like me at all” to “definitely like me”). Your answers are then tallied to produce a score for each of the recognized gifts. The highest scores indicate your primary areas of spiritual gifting.

The entire process usually takes fifteen to thirty minutes. It is designed to be taken individually, but many churches administer it as part of a membership class or small group curriculum. After completing the survey, you receive a report that ranks your gifts and explains each one. Some versions of the survey also provide suggestions for putting your gifts into action both within the church and in everyday life.

Online Access via Lifeway.com

The **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**is available directly on the Lifeway website. Users can create a free account or log in to access the survey. The online platform makes it convenient to take the assessment from any device. Once completed, you can save your results and even share them with a pastor or group leader. Lifeway also offers resources such as books, studies, and leader guides that complement the survey and deepen the learning experience.

Why Take the Spiritual Gifts Survey?

Christians often struggle with questions like, “What is my purpose in the church?” or “Where can I best serve God’s kingdom?” The survey provides clarity. It helps move believers from guesswork to confidence in their calling. Here are several compelling reasons to take the **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**:

- Self-awareness: Learn more about how God has wired you and why you feel passionate about certain areas of ministry.
- Effective service: When you serve in an area aligned with your gifts, you are more effective, energized, and fruitful.
- Church unity: When each member knows and uses their gifts, the entire church functions more harmoniously, as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12.
- Spiritual growth: Using your gifts draws you closer to God and others, deepening your faith.
- Preventing burnout: Serving outside your gift area can lead to frustration and exhaustion. The survey helps you focus where you are most needed and best equipped.

Key Spiritual Gifts Typically Identified

While different Christian traditions may list gifts slightly differently, the **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey** typically includes the following categories. Each gift is defined and accompanied by scriptural references.

Gifts of Speaking and Communication

- Teaching: The ability to explain and apply biblical truths clearly, helping others learn and grow in knowledge.
- Prophecy: Speaking forth God’s truth, often involving correction, encouragement, or insight for the present situation.
- Exhortation (Encouragement): The gift of encouraging others to live out their faith, often through comfort, challenge, and practical advice.
- Wisdom and Knowledge: Deep understanding of God’s Word and how to apply it to complex situations.

Gifts of Service and Practical Help

- Serving (Helps): A desire and ability to meet practical needs, such as preparing meals, maintaining facilities, or assisting others in their tasks.

- Administration (Leadership): The ability to organize, plan, and oversee projects or people to achieve goals effectively.
- Giving: A generous spirit and the ability to earn and share material resources cheerfully to support God's work.
- Hospitality: Making others feel welcomed and cared for, especially those who are strangers or in need.

Gifts of Compassion and Care

- Mercy: Deep compassion for those who are suffering, accompanied by a desire to provide comfort and care.
- Pastoring (Shepherding): A heart for nurturing and guiding individuals or groups in their spiritual journey.
- Intercession: A strong inclination toward prayer and a burden to pray for others.

Gifts of Faith and Miraculous Works

- Faith: Exceptional trust in God's power and promises, often inspiring others to believe for great things.
- Healing and Miracles: The ability to pray for and see God's supernatural intervention in physical or spiritual matters.

It is normal to have more than one gift, and they often work together. For example, someone with the gift of teaching might also have the gift of administration, making them an excellent small-group leader or curriculum developer.

How to Use Your Survey Results

After receiving your results from the **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**, the next step is application. A report alone does little good if it is not acted upon. Here are practical ways to put your gifts into motion:

1. Review and reflect: Read the descriptions of your top gifts. Consider how you have already used them, perhaps without realizing it.
2. Seek confirmation: Share your results with a pastor, mentor, or trusted friend who knows you well. Ask if the assessment aligns with what they have observed.
3. Explore ministry opportunities: Look for places in your church or community where your gifts are needed. For instance, if you have the gift of mercy, consider visiting shut-ins or joining a crisis care team.
4. Start small: Try using your gift in a low-risk way, such as helping with a one-time event or assisting a ministry leader.
5. Keep growing: Spiritual gifts can be developed over time through practice, training, and prayer. Commit to ongoing learning.

Integrating the Survey with Other Assessments

While the **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**is a powerful tool, it works best alongside other forms of self-discovery. Many churches also use personality assessments like DISC or Myers-Briggs, as well as passion inventories. Combining these insights gives a fuller picture of how you are uniquely designed for ministry. For example, someone with the gift of teaching and a personality that leans toward structure might excel in leading a Bible study class, whereas a teacher with a more flexible personality might thrive in one-on-one discipleship.

Lifeway itself offers additional resources such as the "S.H.A.P.E." study, which stands for Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. This holistic approach ensures that no aspect of your design is overlooked.

Potential Limitations and Cautions

Even the best spiritual gifts survey has limitations. It is a helpful indicator, not an infallible diagnosis. Some cautionary points include:

- Self-perception bias: People may over- or underrate themselves. Honest reflection is crucial.
- Cultural influences: Cultural expectations can skew how you answer questions. Try to answer based on who you are in Christ, not on what others expect.
- Not exhaustive: Some biblical gifts, like martyrdom or celibacy, may not be included. Also, the Holy Spirit can empower you in ways beyond the survey categories.
- Need for community: A survey should never replace the voice of the church. Always submit your findings to the wisdom of your spiritual leaders and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Keep in mind that spiritual gifts are meant for service, not for pride or comparison. The goal is not to feel superior because you have a flashier gift, but to humbly use what you have received to bless others. As 1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Making the Most of the Lifeway Survey in Your Church

Churches that incorporate the **Lifeway Com Spiritual Gifts Survey**into their discipleship pathway often see increased member engagement and ministry effectiveness. Here are some ideas for church leaders:

- Offer the survey as part of new member classes or membership orientation.
- Use the results to staff ministry teams more intentionally. For example, invite those with administration gifts to join the planning team.
- Host a spiritual gifts workshop where attendees take the survey and discuss results in small groups.
- Pair the survey with a “ministry fair” where people can learn about opportunities that match their gifts.

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