

## “The Fear Factor”

### Presentation Handout

#### Not Me!!

- Years ago, Dave Phillips and his wife, Lynn, had a talk about the callings they felt God was stirring in them, like a ministry “bucket-list.”
  - As they discussed their ministry passions, they agreed that bringing relief to suffering children and reaching the next generation with the gospel were top priority.
  - The thought of starting a relief agency was considered, but Dave's response was, "That would mean I have to talk in front of people. No way!!" By nature, Dave was a very quiet, behind-the-scenes kind of man.
- Yet after much prayer, Dave trembly set aside his fears, as his wife, Lynn, and he started *Children's Hunger Fund* out of their garage.
- Six weeks after CHF was launched, in January of 1992, Dave received a phone call from the director of a cancer treatment center in Honduras asking if there was any way he could obtain a certain drug for seven children who would die without it.
  - Dave wrote down the name of the drug and told the director he had no idea how to get this type of drug. Before ending their call, they prayed, asking God to provide.
  - As Dave hung up the phone, not even letting go of the receiver, the phone rang again.
    - It was a pharmaceutical company in New Jersey asking him if he would have any use for 48,000 vials of *that exact drug* he just wrote down!
    - Not only did they offer him eight million dollars' worth of this drug, but they told Dave they would airlift it anyplace in the world he wanted!
    - Later Dave learned this company was one of only two that manufactured this particular drug in the United States.
- Within forty-eight hours, Dave had the drug sent to the treatment center in Honduras and to twenty other locations as well.
- It was then he believed that God was at work, validating his calling to this ministry!
- Year after year, God continues to provide miraculously for *Children's Hunger Fund*.
  - As of 2013, *one billion* in food and other relief has been distributed to children and families in need with more than 24,000 volunteers annually helping to assemble their “Food Paks” (an one-week supply of non-perishable food for a family of four) that help families in need around the world.

{Francis Chan, *Forgotten God* (David C. Cook, 2009), pp. 135-136}

**TAKE-AWAY:** The Holy Spirit has a way of “stretching” those He calls to ministry, in ways one doesn’t expect, causing a “fear-factor,” like it did for *Children's Hunger Fund's* founder, Dave Phillips. But, who God calls, He equips. So, how does His calling and equipping work? We'll discover His plan using the “Experiencing God” cycle to explain.

## God's Calling

{Following insights gleaned and adapted from *The Experiencing God Bible* by Drs. Henry & Richard Blackaby}

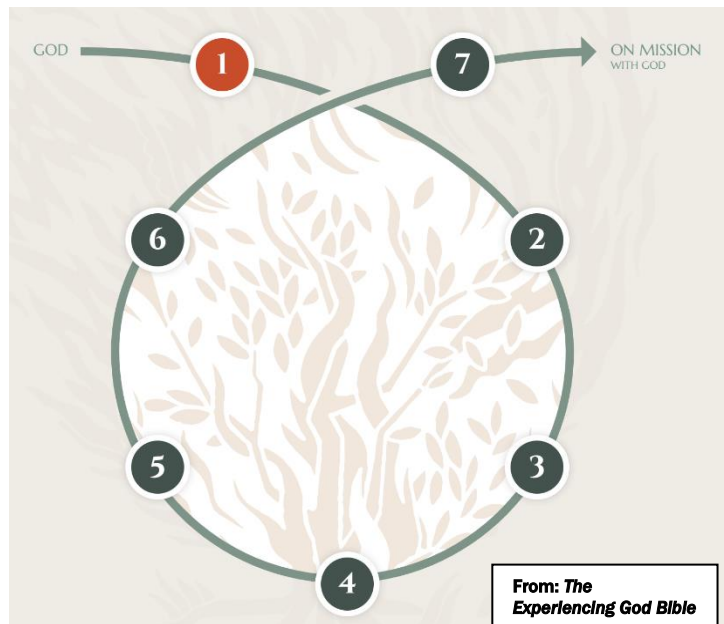
### ▪ [#1] God works {*2 Corinthians 5:18a, 19a*}

- For many, it seems God is a “sleeping Giant” who needs to be awakened to the realities of our world’s struggles and the needs of human beings.
  - Paul reminds us with the reality God is already at work in our world and in the lives of all human beings to bring about His purposes/will, healing, salvation, etc.!

- ❖ Paul words remind us that God has already reconciled sinful human beings to Himself in/through Christ Jesus {*Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:19-23 (20); 1 John 2:2; 4:9-(10), 19*}.
  - ✓ God in Jesus took upon Himself the sins of all humanity and died for them as though He had committed them {*2 Corinthians 5:20a*};
  - ✓ He didn’t wait for human beings to get interested in spiritual things. Instead, He imitated salvation for fallen humanity, reaching out to them first before they were interested.
  - ✓ So, when someone comes to faith in Jesus they are only responding to what God has already been doing in their lives through the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Thus, God is not indifferent to the sin-woos of our world or the suffering of humanity {*John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:10; 19*}.
  - ✓ He cares and loves sinful human beings, desiring their salvation, revealed in the fact He’s already been working in their lives.

### ▪ [#2] Love Relationship {*Jeremiah 31:3; Isaiah 54:5-6*}

- When God works it’s always with the idea of connecting with sinful humanity—bringing them into a love relationship with Himself.
  - The Holy Spirit led Bible writers to use multiple words to describe this experience:
    - ❖ John
      - ✓ “abides” {*John 15:4-10; 1 John 2:3-(6); 5:5-(6)*}
      - ✓ “believe(s/ed)”\”received” {*John 1:(12)-13; 3:15-16, 18; 11:25; 17:20; 1 John 5:1, 11-(13)*}
      - ✓ “know(n)” {*John 17:3, 8, 25*}
    - ❖ Paul
      - ✓ “believes” {*Acts 13:39; Romans 1:16; 4:5; 9:33; 10:4, 10-11*}
      - ✓ “reconciled” {*Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (20); Colossians 1:19-23 (21)*}
    - ❖ Peter/Mark
      - ✓ “believes” {*Mark 16:16; Acts 10:43; 1 Peter 2:6*}



- Whatever word the Bible writers may use, it's the same thought/message: **God desires/longs to be in relationship with sinful human beings!**
  - This has always been the end goal in His salvation/redemption plan for human beings {*John 17:20-23*} .
- **[#3] Invitation** {*2 Corinthians 5:20b; Matthew 11:28-29*}
  - God's working to draw humans into this love relationship with Himself culminates in His *invitation* to follow Him in a personal faith relationship and minister for Him.
    - When an individual comes to faith in Jesus (salvation), they are born into His kingdom as missionaries/witnesses for Him because the salvation invitation includes an invitation to serve others for Him as His witnesses/ambassadors.
      - ❖ One cannot separate salvation from a life of ministry/witness.
        - ✓ It's like when we [presenter: David] remodeled our home some years ago. Our general contractor-handyman did a great job for a fair price. Do you think we recommended him to others? We sure did! It's the same when someone meets Jesus. They can't help sharing Him with others!
    - In this invitation to serve/witness for Him one grows by God's grace in a life of selflessness—like God—as well as glorifying God by revealing Him to others, helping them come to salvation too.
      - ❖ Unless one lives a life of witness/service, they will become spiritually stunted, weak, distracted, and/or self-focused like someone who stops exercising or using their limbs, or a stagnant pond without water flow.
- **[#4] God speaks** {*Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 7, 11, 13, 27-30; Ephesians 4:1-11*}
  - When God calls/invites someone to serve/minister/witness for Him:
    - He equips them to serve through spiritual gifts and human talents.
      - ❖ Spiritual gifts are given to a believer/follower of God through the equipping power of the Holy Spirit {*1 Corinthians 12:4-(7)*}, which are then developed by experimentation through use.
        - ✓ Since the gift lists are different in *Romans*, *1 Corinthians*, and *Ephesians*, Bible commentators surmise Paul is not trying to give us an exhaustive list of gifts, but suggestive examples.
      - ❖ Human talents are abilities one develops in their life that the Holy Spirit can use to minister/witness to others.
        - ✓ Talents are something someone might have already developed before conversion.
        - ✓ After conversion, the Holy Spirit can use them to expand one's ability to witness for God.
    - He confirms His followers' spiritual gifts and talents through:
      - ❖ experimentation through use
      - ❖ others who are blessed or observe them in action
      - ❖ one's church family/fellow Christians.
    - God uses spiritual gifts and talents through His followers to:
      - ❖ build up His kingdom work, helping others to see God's love and care for them and lead them to salvation in Him {*Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:6-(7); Ephesians 4:12*}.

- ✓ If one of God's followers doesn't use their spiritual gifts and talents, His work suffers, particularly the local church where he/she is a member {*1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:16*}.
  - ✓ It's like missing a body part, which can cause individuals to adapt in ways they would not normally have had to {*1 Corinthians 12:12-26*}.
  - ✓ Thus, everyone's spiritual gifts and talents are essential, important for His Church's witness and health {*1 Corinthians 12: ; Ephesians 4:16*}!
- ❖ equip His followers to do the work of ministry/service/witness to others {*Ephesians 4:12a*}.
  - ✓ This equipping/training is how God's people learn how to use their gifts and talents in ministry/witness to others.
- ❖ edifying/building up of the Church/God's people by {*Ephesians 4:12b*}:
  - ✓ developing unity in faith and beliefs {*v. 13*}
  - ✓ growing/maturing God's followers in their Christian faith-walk {*v. 13*}
  - ✓ providing teaching that helps His people not be deceived by false doctrines and/or lifestyles {*v. 14*}
  - ✓ equipping His followers to know how to share Jesus and His Gospel truth in a loving way/method {*v. 15*}
- All spiritual gifts will continue until God's Church/His people reach full perfection at Christ's Second Coming.
  - In other words, some gifts didn't end with the New Testament/Apostolic times while others continued.
- How does one discover their spiritual gift(s)?
  - Take the "Spiritual Gifts Discovery" at the end of this handout on page 6.
  - Experiment with your spiritual gift(s) by using it/them through serving others.
  - Look for feedback from others you might be serving, fellow Christians, and/or your Church family.
- [#5] Crisis of faith {*Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 1:6; Matthew 25:14-15, 24-25*}
  - When God calls someone, he/she will sooner or later feel feelings of fear, inadequacy/inability, insignificance, overwhelmed-ness, unworthiness, etc.!
    - As the saying goes: "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called" {*Isaiah 6:1, 4-5; 1 Corinthians 1:20-29*}
    - I [presenter: David] have come to the conviction, if someone, sooner or later, doesn't feel this "weightiness" of the call, maybe they aren't called for this particular function or are trying to unknowingly do it in their own strength!
      - ❖ The Holy Spirit uses this experience to keep us humble, realizing that our calling and ministry/witness is not something we can do in our strength/power because it is not our calling, but God's!
      - ❖ It keeps us trusting God through faith to provide the equipping, funding, leading of circumstances, etc.!
      - ❖ In both cases God gets all the glory and honor as we realize we didn't perform something in our own, individual strength/power.
    - God uses this crisis of faith experience to call one to faith and action, much like the prophets Isaiah {*Isaiah 6:5*} and Jeremiah {*Jeremiah 1:6*} experienced.
      - ❖ They faced fear, realizing their own unworthiness, inadequacy/inability, or the hard reality of what lay ahead for them as God's messenger-witnesses.

- [#6] Adjust *{Isaiah 6:6-8}*
  - When faced with this crisis of faith, he/she must decide if they will make major adjustments to their life to join God in what He is already doing!
    - In this process one will have to step outside him/herself, moving by God's grace, past/through their feelings of fear, inadequacy/inability, insignificance, overwhelmed-ness, unworthiness, etc.
      - ❖ This is the only way an individual is able to truly minister for God!
      - ❖ Only leaning on God's grace through faith will make this required move a reality.
        - ✓ This is the only way the prophets Isaiah *{Isaiah 6:7-8}* and Jeremiah *{Jeremiah 1:9-10}* were able to make their faith-adjustment to trust God, moving forward to do His ministry, no matter what they thought or felt.
- [#7] Obey & Experience *{Isaiah 6:8; Jeremiah 1:17-19; 2:1}*
  - When one navigates their crisis of faith by adjusting to God's call, no matter what they may be feeling, and move forward in obedience by faith through God's grace they will experience a deeper walk with God and His heart of love for people.
    - This choice of obedience is willing to endure whatever may come in response to God's call.
      - ❖ Noah was ridiculed for his strange message to the unbelieving masses.
      - ❖ Tradition says, Isaiah was sawn in two in a hollow log by King Manasseh.
      - ❖ Jeremiah was constantly threatened, rejected, thrown in a well, left for dead, etc.
      - ❖ Yet, all remained faithful and steadfast to their God-given call to minister for Him, no matter what they endured!
  - In obeying God's call, one finds true joy/happiness and contentment!
    - Because one is now living in the will of God on the same page with Him in heart desire, life, and service.

## Resources

- Blackaby Ministries International [www.blackaby.org](http://www.blackaby.org)
- *The Experiencing God Bible* by Drs. Henry & Richard Blackaby

**LIVING CHOICE:** Will you by God's grace embrace His calling to serve for Him by blessing others through the use of your spiritual gifts, talents, time, finances, etc. so others might know, love and serve God too?

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY

1. I like organizing services and events.	34. I have a burden to pray for situations in our world.
2. I enjoy starting new churches.	35. God reveals insights not commonly/naturally known.
3. Working with my hands is fun for me.	36. I prefer to take leadership whenever necessary.
4. I can tell when someone is sincere or insincere.	37. I am very sensitive to sad stories.
5. I pray for the those who don't know Jesus daily.	38. Miracles often when I'm involved in something.
6. Encouraging others is a high priority for me.	39. I enjoy connecting with and coaching others.
7. Believing God for my daily needs is important to me.	40. Compassionately and caringly confronting someone with sin in their life is not hard to do.
8. Influencing others for the kingdom of God through finances is extremely important to me.	41. It bothers me when others sit around and do nothing.
9. I look for opportunities to pray the sick.	42. I share biblical truth with others to help them grow.
10. I enjoy doing the little things others don't like doing.	43. I speak other languages or spoke one miraculously.
11. Having people over to my home is something I do often.	44. When I study the Bible God gives me unique insights.
12. Spending hours in prayer for others is very enjoyable to me.	45. Creating a to-do/task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
13. I get insights about others while praying for them even though I don't really know them.	46. I'm attracted to ministries that plant new churches.
14. I tend to motivate others to get involved.	47. Building something with my hands is enjoyable.
15. My heart hurts when I see others hurting/suffering.	48. I can pinpoint issues or problems before others do.
16. I believe God will use me to enact miracles for Him.	49. I enjoy sharing the Gospel with strangers.
17. Caring for the hurting is paramount in my eyes.	50. I look for ways to encourage other people.
18. The willful sin of others really aggravates me.	51. I trust God has "my back" in every situation.
19. I enjoy serving behind the scenes.	52. Making more money means I can give more to God.
20. I take pleasure in explaining the Bible to others.	53. God has used me to bring healing to the sick.
21. God has helped me to understand different languages easily.	54. Being part of the process in accomplishing something is fulfilling to me.
22. I enjoy the book of Proverbs more than any other Bible book.	55. I tend to make total strangers feel welcome.
23. I am passionate about managing the details.	56. People often describe me as a prayer warrior.
24. I prefer to pioneer new ministry projects.	57. Others often affirm an insight that I expressed about them personally.
25. I consider myself a craftsperson or like doing crafts.	58. I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks/jobs.
26. I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.	59. I'm motivated to help others who are less fortunate.
27. I am greatly concerned about seeing the lost saved.	60. I have a constant hunger to see God's miraculous power.
28. I try to come across loving and caring.	61. I enjoy walking with others in their times of trouble.
29. Asking God for big things/needs is exciting to me.	62. I enjoy hearing passionate, clear preaching of truth.
30. I find ways to give offerings above my regular tithe and offerings.	63. I like to do the small things that others pass over.
31. I believe God still miraculously heals today.	64. I enjoy knowing biblical details and helping others understand them.
32. Helping others is one of my highest achievements.	65. Praying for the Holy Spirit is encouraging and enjoyable to me.
33. Creating a warm, welcoming environment is important to me.	66. When faced with difficulty I tend to make wise decisions or choices.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY RESULTS

Instructions: Read each statement on the preceding page once and record your initial reaction in the space provided below. Do not overthink this - in general, your first response is the best:

1 = almost never | 2 = seldom | 3= sometimes | 4 = frequently | 5 = almost always

			TOTALS	GIFTS
1. _____	23. _____	45. _____	_____	A. Administration
2. _____	24. _____	46. _____	_____	B. Apostleship
3. _____	25. _____	47. _____	_____	C. Craftmanship
4. _____	26. _____	48. _____	_____	D. Discernment
5. _____	27. _____	49. _____	_____	E. Evangelism
6. _____	28. _____	50. _____	_____	F. Exhortation
7. _____	29. _____	51. _____	_____	G. Faith
8. _____	30. _____	52. _____	_____	H. Giving
9. _____	31. _____	53. _____	_____	I. Healing
10. _____	32. _____	54. _____	_____	J. Helps
11. _____	33. _____	55. _____	_____	K. Hospitality
12. _____	34. _____	56. _____	_____	L. Intercession
13. _____	35. _____	57. _____	_____	M. Word of Knowledge
14. _____	36. _____	58. _____	_____	N. Leadership
15. _____	37. _____	59. _____	_____	O. Mercy
16. _____	38. _____	60. _____	_____	P. Miracles
17. _____	39. _____	61. _____	_____	Q. Pastor/Shepherd
18. _____	40. _____	62. _____	_____	R. Prophecy
19. _____	41. _____	63. _____	_____	S. Service
20. _____	42. _____	64. _____	_____	T. Teaching
21. _____	43. _____	65. _____	_____	U. Tongues & Interpretation
22. _____	44. _____	66. _____	_____	V. Word of Wisdom



## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINITIONS with SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

The following Spiritual Gifts definitions correspond to the gifts listed in the *Spiritual Gifts Assessment*. They are not meant in any way to be exhaustive, complete, or final.

**A. ADMINISTRATION:** The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks {*Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28*}.

**B. APOSTLESHIP:** The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training {*Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14*}.

**C. CRAFTSMANSHIP:** The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications {*Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3*}.

**D. DISCERNMENT:** The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives, and the spiritual forces at work in situations {*Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6*}.

**E. EVANGELISM:** The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming Christians {*Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14*}.

**F. EXHORTATION:** The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to strengthen, comfort or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth {*Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25*}.

**G. FAITH:** The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life {*Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11*}.

**H. GIVING:** The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth without manipulating God's work {*Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7*}.

**I. HEALING:** The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and the practical healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness {*Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28*}.

**J. HELPS:** The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of Christian ministry tasks with the ability to often see the need before others do {*Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28*}.



**K. HOSPITALITY:** The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, church, or other social gatherings {*Acts 16:14- 15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9*}.

**L. INTERCESSION:** The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing God will answer for His glory and honor {*Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16*}.

**M. WORD OF KNOWLEDGE:** The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation through God's revelation by the Bible or the Holy Spirit's impression {*Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3*}.

**N. LEADERSHIP:** The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level of servicing while at the same time directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea {*Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17*}.

**O. MERCY:** The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way {*Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thess. 5:14*}.

**P. MIRACLES:** The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction {*Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28*}.

**Q. PASTOR/SHEPHERD:** The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues {*John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3*}.

**R. PROPHECY:** The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God {*Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5*}.

**S. SERVICE:** The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ {*Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14*}.

**T. TEACHING:** The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians. Acts 18:24-28, 20:20- 21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14

**U. TONGUES & INTERPRETATION:** The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to speak and/or interpret a human language share the Gospel to others from a different culture {*Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14*}.