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Initiation in Spiritual Formation

SF503 Hybrid Tuesday 5:30 PM- 8:30 PM

Professor: Dr. Wanda Walborn

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My top 3 spiritual gifts are Mercy-Showing, Serving, and Evangelism

I have always heard from my pastor and members of the church that I have multiple gifts. I have also heard the same from other people outside of the church community but it has never occurred to me to take a survey or to make an assessment of my spiritual gifts. After taking the online surveys I was so fascinated to discover the amazing gifts the Lord has bestowed upon me. This is truly a blessing to know these spiritual gifts are biblical doctrine and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to edify the church and to fulfill the Great Commission. In 1 Corinthians 2, the Bible speaks of the gifts that are freely given by God and cannot be earned or merited.

At the end of the surveys, it was identified that I have 3 dominant gifts, Mercy-Showing, Serving, and Evangelism. This assessment was quite interesting because initially, when I saw the survey I was leaning towards the gifts that were most appealing to me. I then turned to find the characteristics within me and matched them up with those gifts. It is difficult for me to get an accurate answer from these surveys. For a few of the questions, I was hesitating on choosing the answer because I was trying to determine what was true in my life. It was challenging to respond to specific questions because I was second-guessing myself as if I did not know myself well enough. For a quick second, I was wondering if I was fulfilling my dominant needs by answering correctly or if I was unsure how God made me. Discovering these three spiritual gifts of Mercy-Showing, Serving, and Evangelism is not a surprise because where ever I go I exhibit a caring evangelistic mentality and ability. My desire is to always be serving others with good intentions and not to be served. I am expressive with the gift of “mercy” and compassion at my church, and when I go out in the community the minister to the people. The Lord gave me the gift of discernment, which allows me the ability to identify the needs of individuals. Many times in the past the spirit woke me from my sleep to inform me of who needs some form of assistance and

direct me on what I should do. Then I must proceed to be obedient to the spirit and comply by going forth to supply assistance to those who are in need. This assessment of my spiritual gifts has opened my eyes and is an accurate depiction of my gifts.

Enneagram

According to the Enneagram assessment, I have 3 types of personality 2, 8 & 9!

Type 2: Is listed as the strength of being generous, selfless, helpful, sensitive, and positive.

Type 8: Is listed as a confident, protective, resourceful, Gusto, and protective.

Type 9: Is listed as strength of peace, positivity, harmony, and acceptance.

I must be candid about the assessment of the various type of my personality;

Astonishingly this is so accurate because these 3 types of personalities I exhibit are my spiritual gifts. I am very sensitive to people's needs and I have a positive harmonious spirit. Having this exposure to these personalities type is a gateway to understanding others and myself. This interpretation describes the pattern of emotions precisely.

After these assessments of my personality and spiritual gifts, I have a better understanding of my spiritual reality of myself. This is an eye-opener for me and highlighted the fact that the Lord made me in a particular way to serve within the church and the community. With this new finding of how the Lord created my personality and spiritual gifts, I will wait upon Him to propel me to greatness and I will humble myself to turn and gaze to serve God's people for His glory. I will cultivate a better prayer and fasting regiment in my life to deepen my relationship with God, which will bear much fruit. I will study the words of God to strengthen my gifts and let them be a light to my pathway. My desire is to fulfill the purpose He has called me for in His kingdom.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

This book is an excellent read that helps me evaluate my life and my spirituality by bring awareness of the unconscious habit of sadness. In **chapter 2** the question was asked; “What are you sad about”? The burden of my weakness of being sad is a reoccurring childhood experience memory. However, my strength superseded with of my love. I have never denied myself love or giving love.

In chapter 5:

My weakness is blaming myself all the times. My strength is rationalizing; I have the tendency to rationalize every thing I do.

In chapter 6:

My weakness is not praying together as a family, not being committed enough. My strength is praying by myself in a secret place with God.

In chapter 7:

My weakness is having high expectation in everything (unconscious) I am not aware until I am disappointed by someone. My strength is spoken I will express my expectation to someone so that they are aware.

Worked Cited

Scazzero, Peter. *“Emotionally Healthy Spirituality”* Unleash a Revolution in Your Life in Christ. Thomas Nelson, Nashville. 2006