Thresholds of faith

Charisms

Initial Trust

Spiritual Curiosity

This chart will help you grow in self-knowledge:

1) Circling the charisms (spiritual gifts) you think you have.
2) Put a ? next the gifts you think you might have.
3) Cross out the gifts you don't have.
4) Then, color-in the gifts you have on the chart:

Others need you to use your gifts.
Your gifts need to be discovered and activated through spiritual combustion (intentional use).
Don't leave your gifts in the attic to collect dust.

Mercy: is hands-on, practical deeds that relieve suffering and restore dignity | Mercy not only alleviates physical suffering, but also have an incredible ability to restore the dignity, hope, and sense of being loved by God to those who suffer | a person with this gift will find personally serving the poor, the rejected, and marginalized to be a compelling privilege even when it is difficult | I once worked with a nurse who told me, "It's very strange. I can just walk into a room where a patient is crawling the walls with fear, pain, or anxiety and they instantly calm down and relax into peace even though I haven't had time to do anything yet. I've noticed that this doesn't happen with all nurses." | The spiritual life of a person with this gift will falter if he/she does not have a chance to work directly with those who suffer.

Service: recognizing the gaps or unmet needs that prevent good things from happening, and personally doing whatever it takes to bridge the gap | a person with this gift has a kind of radar for the unmet needs around them and are personally motivated to respond in a hands-on way to meet those needs | He/she is typically self-starting and multi-talented, a jack-of-all-trades | Someone with this gift does not want to delegate; he/she makes things happen by taking personal, hands-on action | because someone with this gift is so capable and proactive - he/she is often moved quickly into leadership in voluntary organizations. | People with a charism of Service can become over-committed in all the wrong places | The challenge for someone with this charism is discerning when and where to say "no." • parishioners a priest routinely counts on to get a job done •

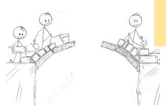
Healing: through whom God cures illness and restores health when healing is unlikely to occur quickly or to happen at all | someone with this gift heals others physically and emotionally in ways that clearly transcend normal clinical outcomes | Healing will occur much faster than normal or where healing is not expected to occur at all (the healing does not have to be medically inexplicable to be the fruit of this charism) | Healing needs some kind of contact with the person, preferably face-to-face, but sometimes over the phone or via Skype. This is one of the things that sets it apart from Intercessory Prayer.

Hospitality: warmly welcoming and caring for those in need of food, shelter, and friendship | a person with this gift makes a place for others as individuals and as a group | this is a means by which God heals and strengthens individuals through the experience of Christian community | Someone with this gift has an amazing ability to create a warm, welcoming environment in which a person's needs to be physically nurtured, have relational roots and personal / spiritual companionship are met | A person or family with this charism may welcome many individuals, but they always see you.

Craftsmanship: sacred or secular artistic creativity that beautifies and orders the physical world | The art created with this gift need not be explicitly religious for it to impact others for God's purposes | the power of this gift touches the whole of us and baptizes our imaginations and our senses | For those who are given this gift, creating beauty is a major form of prayer and a critical part of their spiritual life.

Giving: being a cheerful channel of God's provision by giving money and material goods with extraordinary generosity to those in need | Disciples with the charism of giving either are empowered to make money or find that money and other resources mysteriously come to them so that these things can be provided to others | People with this gift are confident that their own material needs will be met by God | People who struggle with belief in God's love and care can have their entire spiritual worldview transformed by witnessing or being the recipients of dramatic acts of generosity. Witnessing this charism in action can be enormously thought-provoking for agnostics and atheists as well as those at any threshold of pre-discipleship.

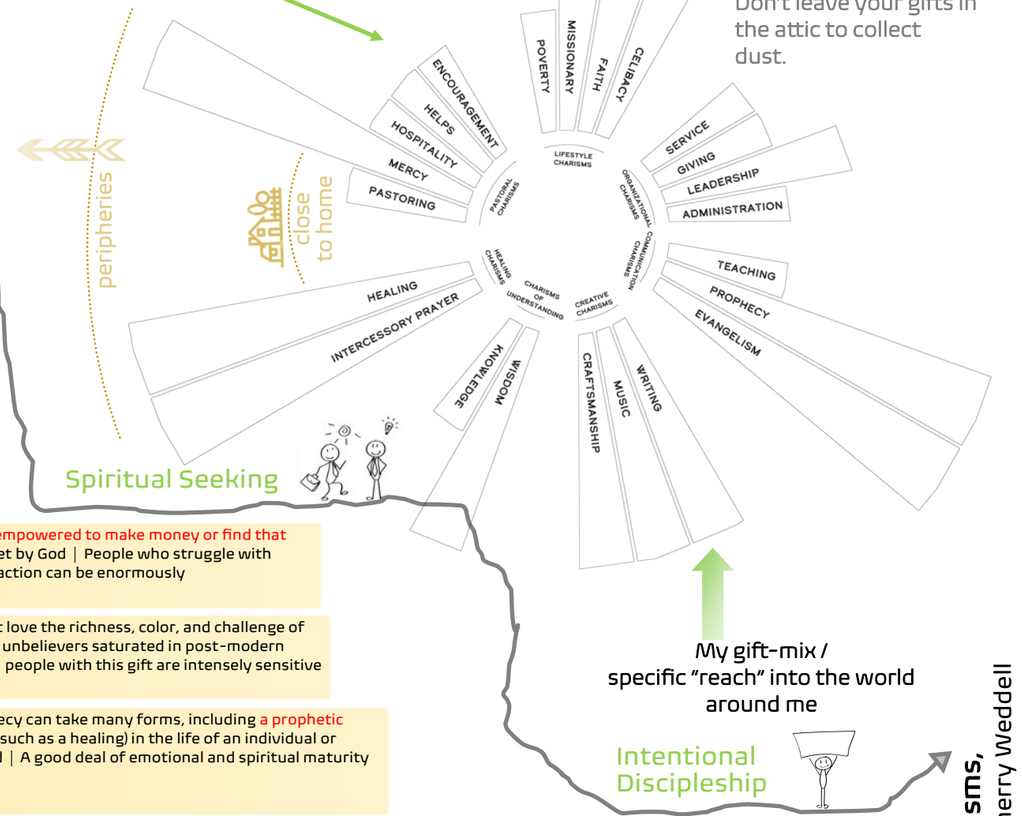
Missionary: effectively and joyfully using your charisms in a second culture | People with this gift become quickly bored and frustrated in mono-cultural settings | People with this gift love the richness, color, and challenge of relating to and working with people from different cultures | In the twenty-first century, this charism could also be exercised by disciples who can relate fruitfully to skeptics and unbelievers saturated in post-modern assumptions | people with this gift care passionately about living, relating, and speaking in ways that make the Gospel intelligible and credible to people from a different culture | people with this gift are intensely sensitive to the nuances of the culture in which they seek to be a witness of Jesus Christ.



Prophecy: by communicating a word or call of God to individuals or a group through inspired words or actions | The charism of Prophecy can take many forms, including a prophetic exhortation that calls people to action; a "word of knowledge" or "word of wisdom" through which God reveals what he is doing (such as a healing) in the life of an individual or community; an interior vision (not an apparition) or prophetic action through which God's word to a community is communicated | A good deal of emotional and spiritual maturity and disinterested discipline is necessary for someone with this charism to exercise it fruitfully.

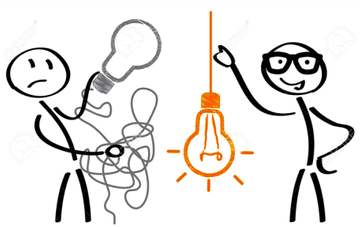
Spiritual Openness

Spiritual Seeking



My gift-mix / specific "reach" into the world around me

Intentional Discipleship

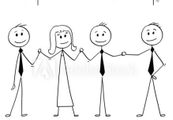


Leadership: sharing a new and compelling vision of a better future with others and then directing the overall efforts of the group as they work together to make that vision a reality | People with a charism of Leadership contemplate the world about them, asking, "What can we do together to change things for the better?" | people with this charism typically found new vision-centered groups or organizations | People often confuse the charisms of Leadership and Administration because they are both group-oriented gifts. The difference is that those with a charism of Leadership will come up with the original vision and gather a new group about that vision, while someone with the gift of Administration wants to coordinate a group's efforts to implement an existing vision | Disciples given the gift of Leadership need people with the charism of Administration about them | There are two questions I always ask someone who is discerning a possible charism of Leadership: (1) Have you ever started a new mission-centered group or organization? (2) Has someone with a charism of Helps offered to help you carry out a vision?

Helps: by using his or her skills, talents, and charisms to enable other individuals to serve God and people more fruitfully | The people exercising this gift get their joy and satisfaction from assisting you | People with this gift tend to stand behind the person they are helping | people with this gift are typically drawn to people with a charism of Leadership | people with this charism need to see how what he/she is doing is making a real difference in the life of the person he/she is seeking to help | Helps is all about assisting people who are trying to accomplish the mission for which God has anointed them.

Administration: planning and delegation, and by coordinating the resources and efforts of a group to accomplish a Kingdom purpose | you love to lead a group to achieve a complicated task | people with this charism don't necessarily come up with the original vision, but they are really effective at leading a group to implement the vision by planning, delegating, and then coordinating the efforts of a group | For people with this charism, delegation is his/her particular forte because he/she prefers to make things happen through the efforts of others. People with this gift can break up a complicated task and delegate different responsibilities to a number of different people while coordinating the efforts of the whole group. People with this gift are a "make it happen" people who are especially energized and fruitful when asked to lead a group to make it happen | People like working with someone with a charism of Administration because they know it will be a positive, low-stress experience: their time will not be wasted, their responsibilities will be clear, and the mission will be accomplished. • Well-organized office • The office / workspace is this person's war-room •

Extraordinary Faith: people with this charism have a radical trust in the love, power, and provision of God and an extraordinary freedom to act on that trust | Ask yourself this question: "Do you have a pattern of risk-taking for God's purposes?" | For those with the charism, this kind of risk-taking is not recklessness or carelessness | Where the average Christian sees a wall, the person of Extraordinary Faith sees an open door. The person with the charism of Extraordinary Faith often feels a spontaneous rush of confidence in God in the midst of an impossible situation | People with the charism of Extraordinary Faith will often be found on the bleeding edge of mission | When you are around somebody with Extraordinary Faith, your own faith in the presence, love, and power of God will grow. • Peace in the midst of tragedy (i.e. wake, funeral) •



Intercessory Prayer: sustained, intense prayer of a Christian for others as the means by which God's love and deliverance reaches those in need | A Person with this gift tends to see remarkable — even miraculous — answers to his/her prayers for others on a regular basis. | A person with this gift has a tremendous confidence that God hears and will answer his/her prayers. | Someone with this gift finds praying for others energizing | Such prayer is crucial to this work because it changes the spiritual atmosphere of a place or community. Intercessory prayer also fosters the spiritual openness of individuals, even those who just happen to "drop by" our parish. • stays in Church effortlessly for long hours • loves to lead/facilitate Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Litanies, Novenas, etc. •

"When people start discerning their charisms, they start discerning their vocation" – Sherry Weddell

"Self knowledge is so important that, even if you were raised right up to the heavens, I should like you never to relax your cultivation of it.." - St. Teresa of Avila

Thresholds of faith

Charisms

Initial Trust — Spiritual Curiosity — Spiritual Openness — Spiritual Seeking — Intentional Discipleship

Wisdom: extraordinary insight that enables the person who has this gift to come up with original or creative solutions to specific problems and to make good decisions | Wisdom focuses on inspired, creative solutions to practical problems. Wisdom is all about the creative application of knowledge in order to better the lives of human beings and build the Kingdom of God | It is not enough for a Wisdom person that something simply be objectively true. It must also be applicable in a way that makes a significant difference in the lives of real people and brings glory to God | Wisdom is the gift of extraordinary problem-solving insight that is triggered by an encounter with and understanding of a real-life problem that cries out for a solution | One of the signs of this charism is that a deep understanding of negative realities doesn't depress you, but sparks your energy and creativity, because you know that contemplating a problem is the first step toward finding an elegant, transforming solution. You do not need an academic background to exercise this charism | People with this charism often find themselves sought out by those who want to talk over the issues and situations they are facing. People with this charism are often brilliant at diagnosis and prescription | Where the rest of us see chaos, they see patterns, and therefore possible causes — and therefore possible remedies | Disciples exercising a charism of Wisdom are usually able to sum up the situation in clear, illuminating language | The words "insight" and "clarity" are often used to describe them. • will summarize convoluted/complex conversations in terms everyone can understand • synthesizes material and re-promulgates it so that it may bear fruit in people's lives • sees "LCD" in phenomenological terms

Knowledge: channel of God's truth through diligent, prayerful study and intellectual inquiry that enables the person with this gift to better understand God, him/herself, and the universe | supernaturally empowered study | The foundational passion for those with a charism of Knowledge is intellectual wonder, and you can follow it freely into realms as diverse as philosophy, theology, metaphysics, mathematics, or any of the other natural science | study is a major form of prayer | people with this charism often end up in academic settings or are involved with intellectually and culturally sophisticated apologetics | Someone with the charism of Knowledge can be enormously helpful working with intellectually oriented skeptics, agnostics, atheists, academics, and *those for whom truth is the transcendental that will most readily lead them to encountering God*. They can also help form disciples and apostles for mission in a skeptical world and in academic settings. • unshakable conviction that communicating the truth will win people over • sees "LCD" in academic terms

Poverty: living a life of cheerful, voluntary simplicity or poverty in order to identify with Jesus and the poor | someone with this gift will feel uncomfortable when he/she has too much stuff | Someone with this gift is attracted to a life uncluttered by possessions and focused in simplicity on God and neighbor | This is a pretty rare charism at the parish level, so individuals with this gift can feel isolated and at odds with the values of other Catholics around them.

Music: writing or performing music for the delight of others and the praise of God | The music can be of any genre, played in a secular or religious setting, and still impact people and open them up to the presence of God | You do not have to be a professional or have had extensive training to have this charism.

Writing: using words to create works of truth or beauty that reflect the fullness of the human experience and bring glory to God | If writing is a charism, it will often feel like prayer or contemplation at the moment you are engaged in it and will be a major spiritual discipline for you.

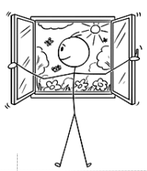
Prayerfully consider these questions as you read about each charism:

Q: What do you find energizing, satisfying and joyful in ministry?
Q: What makes your heart come alive?
Q: What do people often ask you for help with?
Q: When speaking / debating with others about the #1 thing the Church needs to be doing to reach hearts and minds, I project the following solution _____

Pastoring: building Christian community by nurturing the relationships and long-term spiritual growth of a group | directed toward shepherding groups, not individuals | one with this charism eagerly seeks to promote the long-term spiritual growth of individuals in and through Christian community | Someone with this gift will gather people into groups to grow in his/her methodology. | If your parish doesn't already have small Christian communities, someone with this gift will be eager to start them. | The charism of Pastoring is an important part of God's provision for our situation because a single priest cannot possibly manage care of the souls of three thousand people by himself | one with this charism prefers to work with groups that are small enough to know everyone in the group personally: twenty people, not two hundred.

Teaching: enabling others to learn information and skills that help them reach their fullest spiritual and personal potential | one with this charism lives for the joy of witnessing the great "Aha!" moment when the learner they are working with grasps the implications of some new knowledge or skill | people who normally do not like a subject, or do well in it, suddenly find it surprisingly interesting | People with this charism are always thinking how they can pass on their knowledge or skills to others

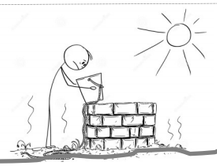
Evangelism: sharing the faith with others — baptized or not — in a way that draws them to intentionally follow Jesus Christ | People with this charism are constantly asking, "Where are these individuals in their living relationship with God, and how can I help them move closer to Jesus and his Church?" | even unbelievers and skeptics can find talking about God with the evangelizer to be intriguing and compelling | Most people with this gift are not very interested in insider ecclesial debates. They are too busy looking for ways to start spiritual conversations with friends — at work, at the gym, over coffee or a couple of beers | this charism can be exercised in a giant gathering like World Youth Day or with one person in an intimate conversation. The goal is the same: to give everyone a chance to respond to what Jesus has accomplished.
• cannot be constrained to desks, excessive planning, meetings • the street is this person's "war -room" •

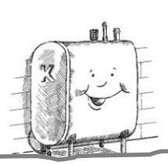


Encouragement: (useful in all thresholds) strengthening and healing individuals in remarkable ways through his or her presence and words | They never see a crowd; they see you in your uniqueness | Those listening to a preacher or teacher with this charism will feel as if he or she is speaking to them personally — even in the midst of a crowd | when working with a group they will still tune in to each individual member | They will be drawn to work or ministry that enables them to have extensive personal contact with individuals • sensitivity towards marginalized groups in society •

Celibacy: someone with this charism is most fulfilled and spiritually fruitful by remaining unmarried and celibate for the sake of Christ | For someone with this gift, a celibate life is not a void; it is not just the absence of marriage or romantic attachment - it is a positive call to a particular relational lifestyle that carries with it the freedom to take on unusual vocations or missions | Friendship is the primary kind of **relational intimacy** to which those with this gift are called | It is important for those with a charism of Celibacy to seriously contemplate the other charisms they have been given. Celibacy gives one freedom for something else, and that something else will be significantly shaped and colored by one's other charisms Celibacy calls us to live a life that would not make sense if God did not exist. •

5 Love Languages





Words of Affirmation : These individuals give and receive love most effectively through the sharing of encouraging, kind, or validating words, either in the form of verbal or written communication. An unsolicited compliment speaks directly to the heart!

Acts of Service: These individuals communicate and receive love best when engaging in an activity/task, without being asked, that can ease the burden of another. Any act great or small in which a person takes time to do something helpful for another can make a huge impact!

Quality Time: These individuals give and receive love through quality time. They feel that being present both mentally and emotionally for another is of the utmost importance. Setting time aside, active listening, and showing interest through meaningful conversation are ways to their heart!

Physical Touch: These individuals communicate love in tactile ways such as giving a hug, holding hands, or a pat on the back. Simply exhibiting body language that shows your attention is focused on and directed toward this individual means the world!

Receiving Gifts: For these individuals, receiving a meaningful gift makes them feel like they are known and cared for. This means putting time, love, and thoughtfulness into a gift. It is important to note that those with this love language, communicate through both the giving and receiving of gifts. A gift does not have to be expensive to be meaningful. It can be the gift of self/time or even a handmade card!

Love is not about abstractions... "Love can be expressed and received in all five languages. However, if you don't speak a person's primary love language, that person will not feel loved, even though you may be speaking the other four."

Visit: Siena.org

cf. Weddell, Sherry A.. Fruitful Discipleship: Living the Mission of Jesus in the Church and the World (p. 113-184). Our Sunday Visitor. Kindle Edition.
cf. Chapman, Gary D.. The 5 Love Languages. Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.