

In Search of God's Will

Discerning a Life of Faithfulness and Purpose

By Trevor Hudson

Study Guide Chapter 6: Uncovering and Exercising Our Gifts

1. Trevor Hudson writes: "There is something wonderful within each one of us that God wants to bring forth. We all have unique gifts that have been entrusted to us and we will be held accountable for how we use them. Every person has the task of uncovering and exercising the gifts that have been placed within them." How do you understand the concept of spiritual gifts?
2. What happens when we begin to use our gifts?
3. How can we as a church help each other uncover and use our gifts?
4. Read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. How do you relate this parable to using your spiritual gifts? Trevor writes, "When we play it safe and bury our gifts, we know the feelings of deadness that usually accompany the un-lived life." An important part of discerning God's personal will for our lives is identifying our gifts.
5. Read and discuss the Discernment Exercise on page 70 and consider the following:
 - Are you an undertaker – someone who buries their gifts?
 - Are you a caretaker – someone who plays it safe with their gifts?
 - Are you a risk taker – someone who trusts God enough to use your gifts adventurously?
6. Discuss 3 ways to explore how we uncover and exercise our gifts.
7. To discern how best to use our gifts in service to others, consider these questions:
 - How can I use my talent to bless someone around me today?
 - How can I use my talent to give God a good reputation among my family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors today?
8. Share, as you feel comfortable, some of your gifts and how you have used them or plan to use them or gifts you see in others and how you might encourage them in using their gifts. (See the Discernment Exercise on page 74 for a list of gifts)
9. Read I Peter 4:10-11. How is God glorified when we use our gifts? Read Matthew 5:16. For further reading about spiritual gifts, read Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:7-11, and Ephesians 4:11-13.
10. Read and discuss this takeaway: There is an angel within each of us waiting to be released. Sometimes we say we have no gifts or other people have more gifts. But this can actually be false modesty or humility. We need to acknowledge our gifts, name them and offer them to God, and then step out and use them for the well-being of others. When we do this, we begin to discover the fullness of life that God intends for each of us.

Mount Tabor UMC Church Wide Study
September 7 – November 16, 2025

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