

# Our Purpose, Calling & Spiritual Gifts



How we understand it when we read the bible



How Pastors preach on it



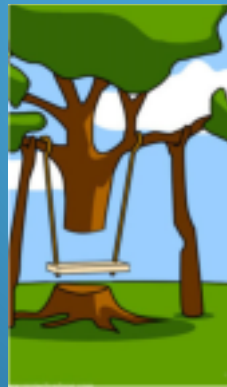
How our friends explain it



What Sunday school teachers say about it



How we think we understand it



What books teach about it



What the world knows about it



How the Lord wants us to see it

**Purpose**



**God has a purpose and a calling for every believer. All believers share the same purpose**

**Calling**



**Every believer is a unique blend of personality, values, experiences, and passions that are used in our calling to work out God's purpose**

**Spiritual Gifts and Talents**



**Every believer has been given spiritual gift and talents as tools for our calling to fulfill our purposes in God**

# Purpose – What does Jesus Christ want us to do?

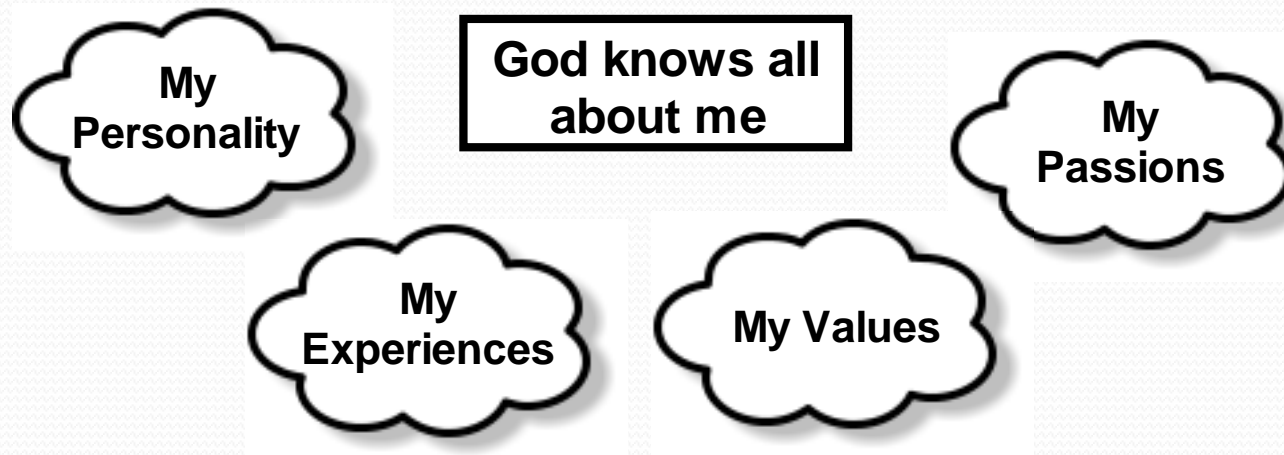


All believers in Jesus Christ have a common purpose, but separate and unique callings

# Does Jesus Christ really know me personally?

**Protects me** **Desires my** **Cares for me**  
**Comforts me** **fellowship** **Knows my name**  
**Disciplines me** **Experienced my trials**  
**Knows my thoughts** **Understands me**

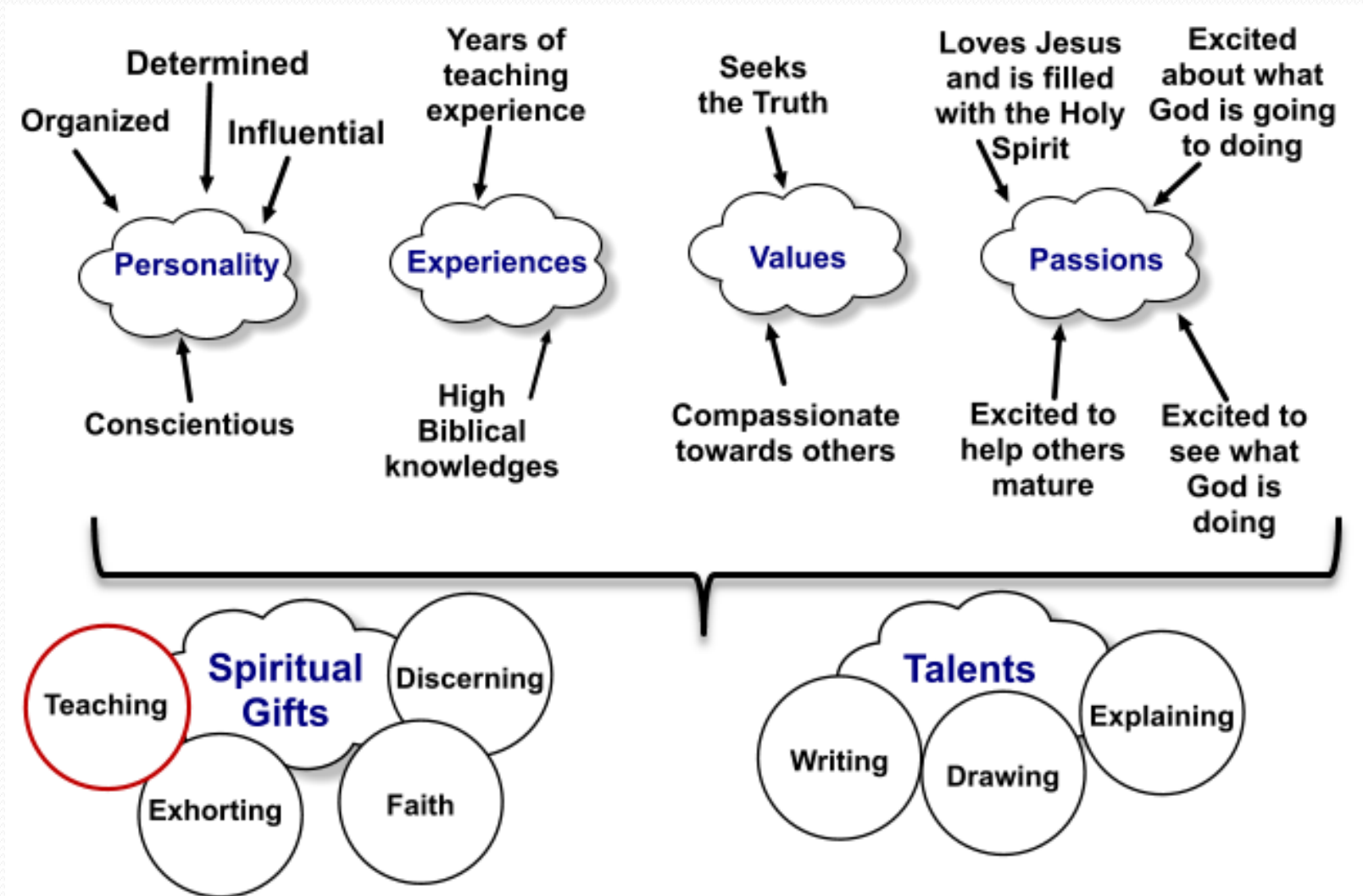
Am I unique in my personality, life experiences,  
what I value and my passions?



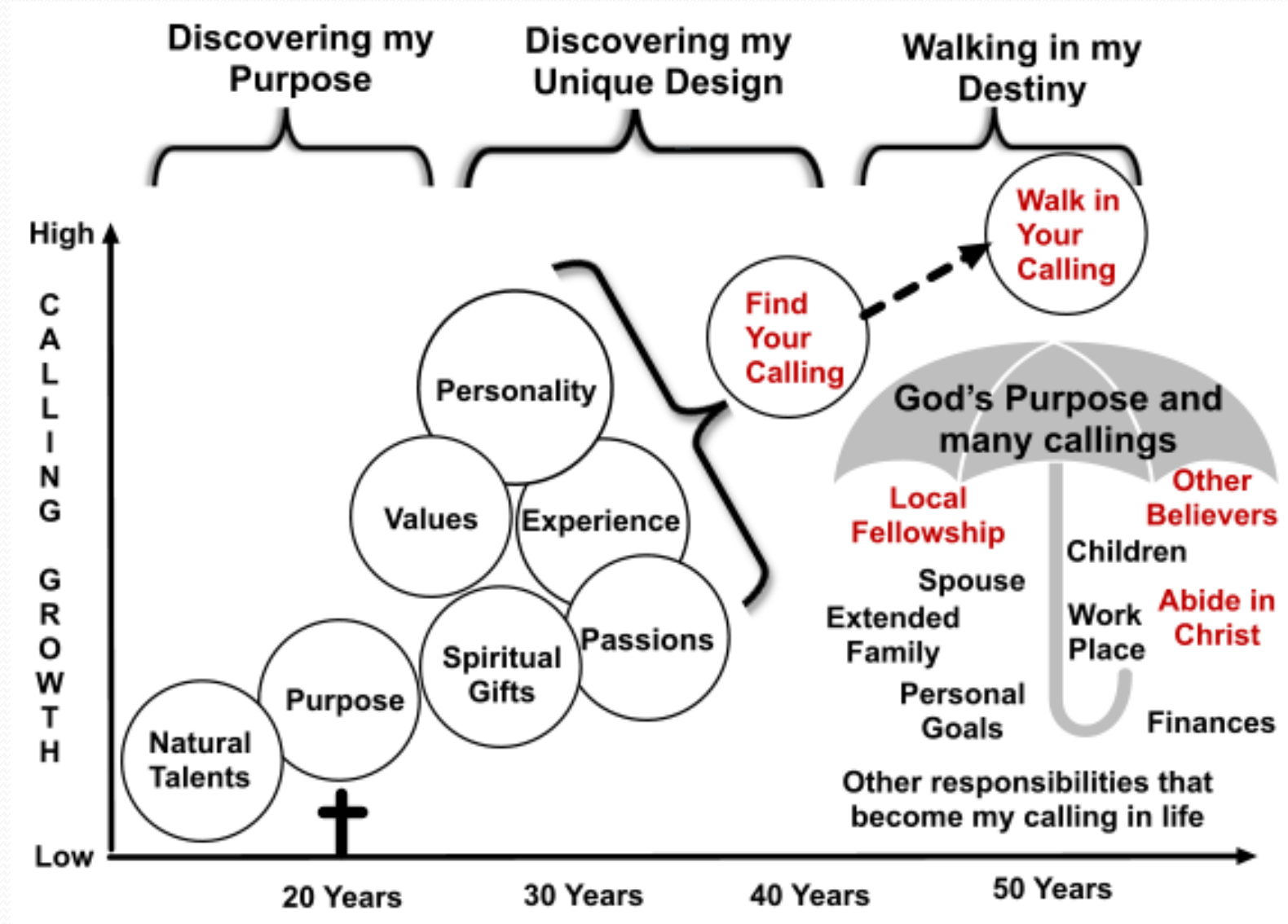
Does it seem reasonable that God will open up opportunities for us to use the uniqueness of who we are combined with the Spiritual Gift and talents He has given us to minister to those around us?

# Discovering our Unique Design helps us to find their calling

Example - A believer knows that God is calling them to help other believers discover their own calling of God



# Discovering and developing our calling into our destiny



# Are we really called by God to fulfill His purposes?

- Calling - A calling is God's personal, individual invitation to carry out the unique task He has for you.
- What was the calling of the following people:
  - Noah
  - Moses
  - John the Baptist
  - Paul
  - Timothy
  - Martin Luther King
  - Mother Teresa
  - Billy Graham
  - Dr. James Dobson
  - Casting Crowns (musicians)



What believers do you know personally that definitely have a calling on their lives?



How do they act that convinces you they are pursuing their calling?

# How do we know what God's call on our life is?

**Calling – Something that becomes a major theme or passion in your life.**

- Your mind and heart repeatably comes back to.
- You spend your time, your resources, your money to see your calling work itself out.
- You feel a sense of personal responsibility to fulfill it.
- Your actions often run contrary to others who are not called to commit to the calling.
- People tends to see you as a fanatic, someone who is too zealous and out of balance with reality.





# Some questions to help discover your calling

Try some of these questions out to help get a sense of what your calling from God could be.

- What **makes you angry or frustrated** about the local fellowship you attend that you would like changed?
- What **makes you sad** and tugs at your heart when you see it.
- What are the themes in the bible that **overwhelm you** when you read them? What thematic passages never grow old to you?
- Who are the people in your fellowship you **feel are the most in need** of Jesus Christ in their life?

# Discovering your calling through what bothers you

What could God be calling you to do? **What would this calling look like if taken to an extreme?**

-  • It bothers you... that people at the fellowship you attend never ask others to come over for dinner.
-  • It bothers you... that people at the fellowship you attend don't know or understand some basic bible teaching.
-  • It bothers you... that people at the fellowship you attend don't ask for prayer for healing.
- It bothers you... that the fellowship you attend has a certain age group that is ignored and not ministered to.
-  • It bothers you... that the fellowship you attend doesn't stress discipleship as a key approach for maturity in Jesus Christ.

**What's bothering you? Anyone want to share what God might be or is calling you out to do?**

# How do you know you are operating in your calling

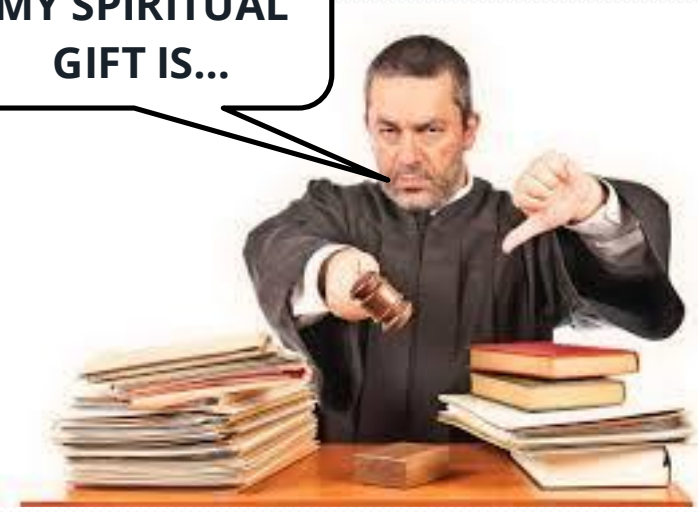
- Others will be blessed and thank you with a testimony of how you through the grace of God changed their thinking and their lives
- You will have an inward testimony from the Holy Spirit that this is what you were made for
- It will be easy for you to make sacrifices of time, money and energy for the sake of fulfilling your call
- You will find it easy to fulfill your call in difficult situations
- What comes hard for others to do in the operation of your calling, you will find easy
- You will work hard at developing your skill in the operation of your calling and it won't be a burden
- You will become restless within your soul when you are not following your calling

# My Spiritual Gift??



**PETTINESS  
IS MY  
SPIRITUAL GIFT.**

**GUESS WHAT  
MY SPIRITUAL  
GIFT IS...**



**WE KNOW WHAT  
OUR SPIRITUAL  
GIFT IS!!**



# Spiritual Gifts not mentioned in the Bible

Barna Research Group - More than one-fifth (21%) of survey respondents claimed to have spiritual gifts that aren't mentioned in the Bible.

These include:

- a sense of humor
- singing
- health
- life
- happiness
- patience
- a job
- a house
- compromise
- premonition
- creativity
- clairvoyance.

Different teaching on spiritual gifts having a broader scope than just the 19 mentioned in scriptures. Could the Spiritual Gift list be open ended? Sure, could be!!

# Natural gifts, Talents and Spiritual Gifts

**Natural Gift** – Super abilities seen at very early age

**Talents** – Have a natural tendency to excel at something. What other find difficult, the person with the talent finds easy.

**Spiritual Gifts** – God given gifts given at salvation for the building up of fellow believers

## What makes a gift spiritual?

1. Given by God to a believer at salvation
2. Can produce supernatural results
3. Used exclusively to promote Gods purposes and plans

## Questions about our natural gifts and talents versus Spiritual Gifts?

1. Can't a natural talent for speaking, teaching, wisdom be used to minister to people just like a Spiritual Gift?
2. Is art, music, painting, work working skills, writing, poetry, dancing, cooking and other forms of natural talents really Spiritual Gifts? Because they originate with God?

# Natural gifts, Talents and Spiritual Gifts

Natural Talents	vs	Spiritual Gifts
Born with a talent or high ability.		Not born with but given by Holy Spirit at salvation.
Improves with practice .		Improves when done by a person who is filled with the Holy Spirit.
Has a measured amount at birth.		Has a measured amount at rebirth.
God given as He pleases.		God given as He pleases.
Everyone has a talent for something.		Every believer is given a Spiritual Gift.
The focus of a talent is to bless other people.		The focus of Spiritual Gift is primarily to minister to other believers.
Can led to pride and misuse.		Can led to pride and misuse .
Talent can be ignored and not used.		Spiritual Gift can be ignored and not used.
Will be held accountable for use.		Will be held accountable for use.

## Every believer receives a spiritual gift

- Eph 4:7 **But to each one of us** grace was given according to the **measure** of Christ's gift
- 1Pe 4:10 **As each one has received a gift**, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is **given to each one** for the profit of all
- 1Co\_12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually as He wills.**
- Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according **to the grace that is given to us**

**Every believer is accountable as a steward** for what God has given them.

1Pe 4:10 **As each one has received a gift**, minister it to one another, as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

Matt 25 Giving of the talents to the servants each according to his own ability

# Got Gifts – Know what they are?

- Every believer has a Spiritual Gift
- Every believers has a measure of the Spiritual Gift
- God decides who gets what Spiritual Gift
- Spiritual Gifts are meant to build up, encourage and complete a local body of believers and as a means of point others to Jesus Christ
- We will be accountable for what we have done with what He has given us.



Do you know your spiritual gift? Want to share it?



If the purpose of Spiritual Gifts is to build up and knit the body of believers tightly together, how would that look like if your spiritual gift was **taken to an extreme** in your local fellowship?

# Where can your spiritual gift be used in the local fellowship?

<input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhorting	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading
<input type="checkbox"/> Mercy	<input type="checkbox"/> Word of Wisdom	<input type="checkbox"/> Healings
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith	<input type="checkbox"/> Word of Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Miracles
<input type="checkbox"/> Discerning of spirits	<input type="checkbox"/> Tongues	<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelists
<input type="checkbox"/> Apostles	<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation of Tongues	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastor-teacher
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaking		

Looking at the list of spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament, which gifts could be used:

- Vacation Bible School
- Homeless shelter
- Discipleship

# How do you find your Spiritual Gift?

- Ask God to reveal your special gift(s) to you. Ask Him to help you not only discover your gift, but to accept it as His special grace uniquely given to you by Him
- Ask others who have known you for a long time
- Look into your past and see what has excited you
- Take note of what others have said about you, What have you done that has blessed others. When people thank you, what do they say?
- Take an Spiritual Gift survey
- Look at the natural talents you have that might be working in your gifting
- Read Christian biographies and look for what resonates inside you.
- Watch movies and observe what moves you. What brings tear, anger, a sense of injustice, over whelming compassion or mercy.
- Try different things and look for what comes easy, what resonates in you spirit and what benefits and encourages other believers

# Your gifting is not your calling

Things that might happen when you make your gifting more important than those you have been called to serve:

- You will spend all your time practicing your talent or gift to be the best and in doing so you will ignore the people that really need you right now.
- You will share your gift with those who might give you greater influence with others versus with those who are desperate for help now.
- You will think less about who you are called to serve and more about the importance of being recognized by others.
- You will get jealous of those who have the same gift as you that are much more proficient at it than you.
- You will be more willing to stop serving others with your gift and just decide that if you're not getting the top credit, you don't have to use your gift.

# Seek to know and use your spiritual gift - Accountability

**We will each have to give an account of our works including the spiritual gift Jesus has give us**

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Rom 14:10,23 For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

## **Parable of the Talents – What will we say to Jesus?**

Mat 25:25-26 **And I was afraid**, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there you have what is yours.*' - "But his lord answered and said to him, '**You wicked and lazy servant**, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

What was the servant afraid of?

Mat 25:30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

# How would you encourage a person who is struggling with doubt about their calling and their Spiritual Gift?

**What would you say to a believer that expresses these issues about spiritual gifts?**

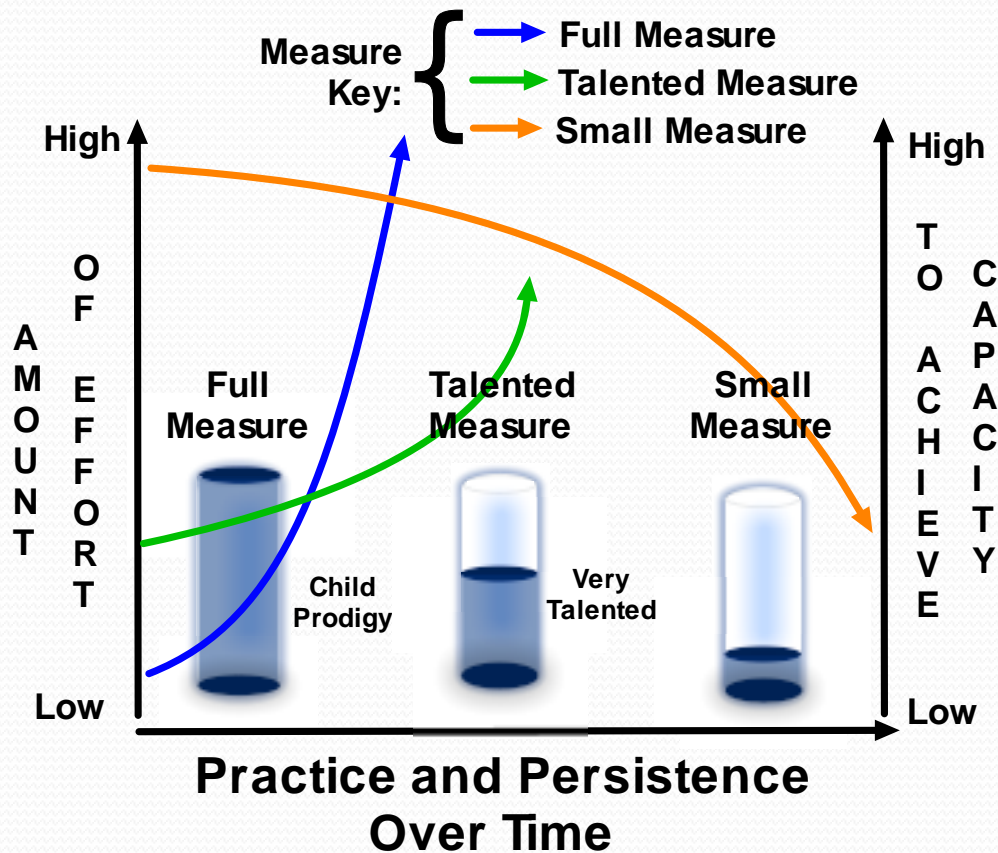
- I am a afraid of where God will lead me in His call for my life
- I am not qualified by any means to even think God can use me to point others to Him
- I know that if I start this journey I will fail in the end
- I am not sure I really know what God's calling is and what He has given me to fulfill it
- I see so many other people so much more qualified and experience. I can never be as good as them
- I am to busy with really important things in life to spend time right now trying to find my calling and my gifts

# How to use your gifting in your local fellowship when it doesn't seem as though spiritual gifts are emphasized

- **Spend time asking Jesus** for direction and understanding about the approach to the topic of spiritual gifts in the fellowship.
- **Talk to your friends** in the fellowship about spiritual gifts. Find out if they know what their gifting is and if have found a place in the fellowship to use them. Ask them about experiences the fellowship has had related to spiritual giftings. Spiritual gifts can be a divisive topic for some fellowships.
- **Talk to the leadership** about a place where your giftings can be used inside and outside of the fellowship.
- **Partner up with other believers** who have similar gifts but different talents. Use the strengths of each one to discover different ways to minister God's truth and grace to people. Regularly meet with those excited about using their gifts, discuss and "provoke one another" to press in and press on to build up believers in Christ.



## Effort VS Capacity to Achieve for people with varying measures of a natural gift



- **Full Measure** - When God gives a natural gift with a full measure, the person is able to reach a higher level of achievement in a shorter period of time.
- **Talented Measure** - When God gives a natural gift in varying measure, the person is able to reach a talented level of achievement in a better than average period of time
- **Small Measure** - When a person develops a skill in an area where they are not naturally gifted they will spend a lot of time developing the skill with lesser achievement as compared to the full and talented measure gifted.

Each of the three measures of gifting can be improved with practice and persistence