

I. ACCEPT

- A. That the power gifts are still available today
 - 1. General definition – *“These gifts demonstrate the power of God on a level that is obviously supernatural”*
- B. That you may be gifted in this way
- C. That you are not “weird” or “crazy”

II. DISCOVER & DETERMINE

- A. Examine
 - 1. What have you experienced before?
 - 2. When? What were the circumstances?
 - 3. How long does it last?
 - 4. How have you responded when it occurred? What happened then?
- B. Experiment
 - 1. Pray each day to be open to your gift being used
 - 2. Learn to recognize and accept the “warning signs” that your gift is being activated
 - 3. Seek a safe place to have them used and tested
 - a) Prayer teams
 - b) Talk with your pastor or others with a knowledge of these gifts

III. DEDICATE

- A. Yourself to God
- B. Your gift(s) to God
 - 1. The gifts in general
 - 2. That you will use them for His purpose and not your glory
 - 3. That you are available any time He determines to use them
 - a) His agenda, not yours
 - b) His will and plan, not yours
- C. Giving God your expectations
 - 1. *“He can’t use me!”*
 - 2. *“Why doesn’t it work every time?”*
 - 3. Trust God to “show up”
- D. To be used only for God’s use and not the enemy’s
 - 1. Satan can mess around with our gifts – don’t let him!

2. Ways we can allow them to be misused:
 - a) Misusing them for our glory or agenda
 - b) Not using them because of ignorance or fear
- E. How they will be used
 1. Just because you receive, e.g., a word of knowledge about someone, it doesn't mean you are to share that with them immediately
 2. Test the spirits!
 - a) 1 John 4:1-3 – *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God... This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.”*
 - b) “Lord, if this is from you, make it sharper and clearer. If not, remove it.”
 3. Learn to pray for God's wisdom and discernment to know what to do each time your gift is “activated” (and the courage to follow through on what He tells you to do)
 4. Possible ways God may have you use what you've received:
 - a) To be used for prayer “fodder” for your intercessions
 - b) To be used to help guide a conversation with that person in a specific direction
 - c) To share it with them immediately
 - Encouragement?
 - Confrontation?
 - d) To keep a record of it for future use in any of the above ways
 5. KEY – Don't assume the activation of your gift necessarily means immediate action on your part. On the other hand, once the Lord shows you what to do, don't hesitate in obeying no matter how awkward or uncomfortable it feels!

IV. CAUTIONS & WARNINGS

- A. Don't let your gift overwhelm you – you can pray for God to turn it off or soften it for a season if needed
- B. Pride – realize that, though pretty spectacular at times, this is just one of the many ways God gifts His children (Satan especially attacks us here)
- C. They are to be used to build up Christ's Body, but often help in evangelism as well
- D. Keep from reducing it to a technique
- E. Gift projection – don't assume everyone should have YOUR gift! Remember there is great variety in God's Kingdom – He created us this way!