

God's Body S.T.A.M.P.

God gives every person seven things at conception. These are our personal inheritance from God. We will refer to them as God's "Body Stamp of Grace." The combination of this seven-fold inheritance is as unique as a fingerprint. And although each fingerprint basically looks alike, close investigation reveals that no two fingerprints are identical. Each inherited "Body Stamp" is also unique. This study is designed to encourage a greater understanding of, and gratefulness for, the wonderful "Body Stamp" inheritance our generous heavenly Father has given to us.

1. BODY - A physical body is God's "early" inheritance to each individual (**Deuteronomy 8:18**). At death, each person must give an account of how he invested his body inheritance (**1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Romans 14:12**). God's "Body Stamp" also determines or influences other things:

- 1. Gender (Male or Female)** - This establishes your personal "job description" in life - **Genesis 1:27.**
- 2. Race** - **Ecclesiastes 11:5; Job 10:8-9; Genesis 11:1-9.**
- 3. Nationality** - **Esther 4:14.**
- 4. Economic Status** - **Psalm 40:5.**
- 5. Birth Order** - **Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 27:3.**
- 6. Physical Features** - **Psalm 139:13-18; Exodus 4:11; Isaiah 45:9.**
- 7. Aging and Death** - **Psalm 90:10, 12.**

2. SPIRITUAL "SERVICE" GIFT - **Romans 12:3-15** - Spiritual "service" gifts are designed to strengthen and build up the body of Christ as "every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part" (**Ephesians 4:16**).

There are three categories of "Spiritual Gifts," each with its own set of characteristics:

- 1. The Sign Gifts, or Manifestation Gifts** - **1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-30**. Miracles verify God's work in your life - they are God's "stamp of approval." These gifts have largely expired, although God is able to make use of certain gifts in extraordinary circumstances.
- 2. Support Gifts, or Ministry Gifts** - **Ephesians 4:7-12**. These are leadership gifts, used by God to guide the body of Christ.
- 3. Service Gifts, or Motivational Gifts** - **Romans 12:4-8**. These gifts are largely in full force today (with the exception of the gift of Prophecy, which has taken on a more limited nature), and they are seen, to some extent or another, in every Christian.

There are seven spiritual gifts listed in **Romans 12:4-8**. Each has its strengths, as well as its weaknesses:

- 1. Prophecy - Proclaiming Truth.** God has motivated the "prophet" to teach the body of Christ the importance of purity and holiness. They see and verbalize things as black and white, right and wrong. Their frankness may be viewed as harshness and intolerance of partial good. They are God's "blood hounds" for "sniffing out" sin. "Prophets" have a strong desire for justice; they are often unforgiving; they are often open about their own faults; and they tend to be impetuous and impulsive. They are perceivers, who treat all perceptions as fact.
- 2. Ministry - Serving.** God uses the "server" to illustrate the "Golden Rule:" Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. they love to help their fellow man. They are alert to detecting and meeting practical needs, but often have an inability to say "no." A "server" will "give you the shirt off his back," and finish a job with unexpected "extra" service. He also usually has "too many irons in the fire."
- 3. Teaching - The "teacher"** enjoys research as much as teaching. God has motivated them to maintain the purity and accuracy of the Word of God. They test the knowledge of those around them. They enjoy learning and accumulating information. Their requirement for verbal and written accuracy may appear judgmental and prideful of learning. They love books and knowledge.
- 4. Exhortation - Counseling.** God has motivated the "exhorter" to assist the body of Christ in solving its problems by revealing the laws of "cause and effect." An exhorter specializes in "one-on-one" counseling. they enjoy

"straightening out crooked things" by prescribing specific biblical steps of action to solve problems. They need to be cautious not to put confidence in their own counsel, but in counsel from the Word of God.

5. **Giving - The "giver"** loves to meet the financial needs of those around them. God uses them to teach us that "it is more blessed to give, than to receive," and to "give in secret." They like for their giving to motivate others to give. They live very frugally, and do not respond well to pressure appeals to give.
6. **Ruling - Organization.** The "ruler" has the God-given ability to bring organization and discipline to their surroundings. they can keep several projects going at one time, and delights in delegating tasks to responsible people. They are fulfilled in seeing all the pieces of the "project puzzle" come together, and others enjoying the finished product. To some, it may look as if they "love projects and use people." At times, they may show favoritism, with the goal of building loyalty.
7. **Mercy - Compassion.** The "mercy" naturally gravitates to those who are hurting, especially in their emotions. God uses this gift to teach us how to be tenderhearted and compassionate with our fellow man. they love children and the elderly, and are attracted to pets and stray animals. They react to insensitive people, and may take up another's offense. Unlike the "Prophet," they may tend to treat feelings as facts.

3. TALENTS - These are things you are born with - musical, artistic, and vocal talents, as well as aptitudes, coordination, and athletic abilities.

4. AVAILABILITIES (Opportunities) - These are opportunities that are made available to us in life. If your father is a mechanic, you may learn how to work on cars. You are able to get a higher education, meet certain people, and so on, because of your social and economic heritage. Furthermore, the different personality types and spiritual gifts which you are exposed to within the context of your family life will color your responses, provide a template for your general reactions, and provide opportunities, by your association with them, in your community and circle of influence.

5. MENTALITY (I.Q.) - Exodus 4:11 - This is something that you are born with. God chooses to dispense intelligence, as He sees fit. Someone with learning disabilities or Dyslexia does not have to be "handicapped" in their spirit (**2 Corinthians 10:12; 12:7-10**).

6. PERSONALITY - Temperament - Psalm 139:13-18 - God has "wired" our personality in four basic ways. These four are much like the four buttons on a cassette recorder. A person is usually primarily one of these buttons, with the characteristics of a secondary button or characteristic.

1. **Play (Sanguine)** - Very talkative, friendly, and people oriented. They often start things, but don't finish them. They are easily distracted, undisciplined, undependable, and often late. The Biblical goal for their life: Finish What You've Started (**Luke 14:28-29**).
2. **Rewind (Melancholy)** - Spends their life in the past. They are analytical and perfectionistic, and usually gifted in music, art, singing, and so on. They tend to have high expectations of themselves and others. Can be moody, negative, and critical. The Biblical goal for their life: Trust In God (**Psalm 62:5**).
3. **Fast Forward (Choleric)** - They are strong-willed, active, decisive, opinionated, and optimistic leaders. they will tend to lead and make decisions for anyone who will allow it. They are obsessed with being in charge. The Biblical goal for their life: Yield Your Will to God (**Luke 22:42; John 3:30**).
4. **Stop (Phlegmatic)** - They are slow, easy-going, quiet peacemakers, with a dry sense of humor. They can be self-protective, stingy, fearful, calculating, and indecisive. The Biblical goal for their life: Volunteer to Help (**2 Corinthians 12:15**).

7. GRACE

1. Grace is the God-given desire and power to do the will of God (**Philippians 2:13**).
2. Paul reminds us that "by the grace of God I am what I am" (**1 Corinthians 15:10**).
3. God uses grace to stir everything together, to give each person a direction and a purpose for the advancement of His kingdom. God finances the project with His Body S.T.A.M.P. "inheritance" gift to us.

