

Keith Hammond  
What Are  
You Doing



With Your  
**GIFTS?**  
A Lessons For Life Book



God,

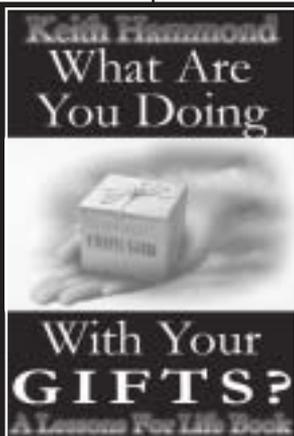
*I give you all the glory, honor, and praise for all that you have done in, to, and through, my life. Thank you for Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. To my wife, in this 28th year together; thank you for all your prayers. To my daughters, my love for you goes beyond words. Many blessings to you both. To my grandsons, it is a great joy to be Blessed with your unconditional love.*

What Are You Doing With Your Gifts?

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# Acknowledgements



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## Introduction

An in-depth look at the gifts that God has given to Brother Keith, and how he used them for 15 years at two local churches, with twelve of those years in leadership. He led the deacons and Sunday school teachers; was the graphic designer; technology specialist; architectural consultant; web designer; software developer; and many other duties. It challenges the reader to ask themselves, **'What Are You Doing With Your Gifts?'**



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*God Give Us Gifts, Skills Talents, Abilities, Memory, Knowledge, Resources, Vision and Provision.*

*Using Your Gifts To Help Build Up and Edify The Church And The Ministry Is A Divine Assignment. Now Go, and Get The Work Done.*

Several years ago, I was at the Congress of Christian Education learning new ways of teaching. The teacher was teaching how to get people interested and involved in their Sunday school classes. It was very helpful.

Then, another year my wife and I were in a class together. That class gave me more insight into team teaching. I am telling you this because I eventually realized that back then, God was training me to do what I am doing today.

I want to encourage you to use your God-given gifts in your church and in ministry. In the church there are several ways to do that. Ask your Pastor. But here are some examples of how I used my gifts over the 12 years I was at a church I attended.

- Served as the Pastor’s Right Hand
- Taught Sunday School and Bible Study
- Led the Deacons
- Led the Sunday School Teachers
- Designed Membership and Pledge Database
- Designed New Church Facility
- Designed and Programmed Website
- Published the Church Newsletter
- Published Prison Ministry Newsletter
- Published the Church Cookbook
- Graphic Design and Printing
- Audio/Visual Communications
- Technology, Systems and Internet
- Led the Prison Ministry
- Worked to Develop a Television Ministry

Do you see anything listed above that you could help do in your church? What ways do you see that you are gifted that aren’t listed here? Can you write down five?

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Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to help build up the church. You’ll find that in 1st Corinthians chapters 12 and 14.

Using your gifts should be evident in every part of a Christian life. How?

1. In Your Home [study, praise, worship and prayer]
2. In Your Church [see page two for examples]
3. In Your Ministry [feed the hungry, visit the sick, etc.]
4. In Your Life [Live, right, walk right, talk right]

On page two, I showed how I've used my gifts to help build up the church. But that's not enough. I'm supposed to also use my gifts in ministry. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead. Here are some examples of how I've used my gifts in ministry:

APRIL 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 • Bible Study	2 • Feed Hungry	3 • Prison Ministry	4 • Home Ministry
5 • 10am Sun Sch • 11am Worship	6 • Help Strangers • (find housing)	7 • Visit the Sick	8 • Bible Study	9 • Clothes Ministry	10 • Widowers Ministry	11 • Home Ministry
12 • 10am Sun Sch • 11am Worship	13 • Reach the lost • (on the streets)	14 • Visit the sick	15 • Bible Study	16 • Feed Hungry	17 • Prison Ministry	18 • Home Ministry
19 • 10am Sun Sch • 11am Worship	20 • Help Strangers • (find housing)	21 • Visit the Sick	22 • Bible Study	23 • Clothes Ministry	24 • Orphans Ministry	25 • Home Ministry • 1pm <del>Worship</del>
26 • 10am Sun Sch • 11am Worship	27 • Reach the lost • (Ride buses)	28 • Visit the Sick	29 • Bible Study	30 • Feed the Hungry		

Matthew 25:35-36 shows how we're supposed to use our gifts in ministry.

- On Mondays: I help strangers find housing and reach the lost.
- On Tuesdays: I visit the sick and sing, pray, read the Bible to them.
- On Thursdays: I feed the hungry and give clothing to those in need.
- On Fridays: I minister to prisoners and take care of widowers.
- On Saturdays: I minister at home to my wife, kids, and guests.

Jesus said if we do this to the least of one of His people, we have done it unto Him. Remember, we must worship God and we must work in ministry. Because faith without works is dead.

# Served as... the Pastor's Right Hand



I spent 12 years as a member of a local church. 10 of those years were in leadership. My pastor knew I was gifted so he trained me and then trusted me to carry out the duties he laid out for me. Some of those duties included:

- Representing him when he couldn't be at a certain place.
- Catering to his every need when he had to preach outside the church.
- Watching his back and everything going on around him at all times.
- Making sure he and his family has everything they needed.

As a servant, catering to the shepherd of the church I was a member of, this was part of my duty to use my gifts to help build up the church. Every chance I got, I tried to get more training and learn new, better and more effective ways to carry out my duties.

I matured into serving at funerals. From the time my dad passed in 1980 to 2000, I did not attend any funerals. I was so afraid of death and people that were dead, that I couldn't go anywhere near them. My pastor was the one who helped me get past my fear. He put me in the position that was responsible for making sure the funerals went smoothly. From meeting with the family to design the obituary; making sure the funeral set-up was on point; managing the audio/visual; making certain there was overflow seating; praying at funerals and burials; my pastor had me doing it all. Even before that, he would train me by taking me with him from time to time to the hospital when someone was ill and wasn't expected to make it. I started death in the face many times. Once I was ready, he started sending me alone.

Doing these things helped me not only mature, but used my gifts in ways that I had never thought of. And helped me uncover some gifts I never knew I had. Other times I served him include serving as his secretary in meetings at and away from the church in order to take notes and give him reports to use for follow up. After a while, my pastor started sending me alone to the meetings. It was his way of delegating, letting me know I was ready, and showing the church that there was someone else they could call on without having to always rely on him for all the answers to church operations and functions that he had no business focusing his time on.

For scripture to follow up, see Acts 6:1-6.

# Served as...



## Adult Sunday School Teacher

When I gave my life to Christ in 1997, I started attending church regularly but I would never go to Sunday school. In 2005, I went to prison at Stillwater Farm in Minnesota. I had always been able to teach and lead others, so it came natural to me. At Stillwater, I joined an existing daily Bible study, and was soon asked to lead the study. When I came out six months later, I was ready to teach. I started attending Sunday school. There was a transition taking place with a teacher so a position was opening in the adult class.

Five of the 10 years I was in leadership at the church, I attended the annual Congress of Christian Education. It is a weeklong training course that meets annually in various cities, offering training in a variety of areas.

I studied teaching. I was also taking other local courses to learn as much as I could about teaching and training others. I took courses at St. Paul's Lutheran Church near our church; I took courses at Bethel College; I was taking business courses at ProSource, University of St. Thomas; and my goal was to apply everything I was learning in every area I was learning it, as a Sunday School Teacher.

My training was extensive. Weeks before I taught my first class, I attended the regular weekly teacher's meeting. Months before that, I had already started attending Bible Study with my pastor at a 10:00 class he teaches. And, I was teaching Bible Studies at the halfway house I went to after being released from prison. So I was learning a variety of things I could apply.

And then I got the call. In a regular weekly teacher's meeting I was informed that the person who had been teaching the adult Sunday school class was no longer able to teach the class. And I was asked to step in.

Within weeks of teaching the adult Sunday school class, I was asked to lead the teachers. Although someone else was appointed to replace the existing Superintendent, I continued to train the teachers during our weekly sessions.

The training prepared me to teach others how to do what I had learned.

For scripture to follow up, see Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3.

# Served as...



## Adult Bible Study Teacher

Teaching Adult Sunday School earned me the call to fill in for my pastor when he needed to take a break or when he was unavailable to teach Bible study on Wednesday nights, and on some Wednesday mornings when he holds his more in-depth class. Both of these appointments matured me in many ways and allowed me to use my gifts of leading people and teaching different subjects that I've studied and received understanding of.

Teaching Adult Bible Study was different than teaching Adult Sunday school. I was able to utilize many more tools in the Bible Study that I was in the Sunday school because on Sunday morning, using the projection system would disrupt the set-up for the Sunday worship service, and on Wednesday nights it doesn't.

So I was able to introduce a broader lesson plan. One year, my pastor asked me to teach the Purpose Driven Life because I had read it several times, studied it, and had been teaching it to the men at halfway houses for a couple of years.

I created a lesson plan for all the teachers with a course selection that was taken from the glossary of the book, and from scripture that I was led to by the Holy Spirit as being useful for a particular lesson.

I incorporated the use of skits in both my Sunday school class and the Bible study. I was told that it was the first time anyone had ever done that in the adult class. It helped.

Skits are beneficial in a number of ways.

- It helps get the members involved.
- It helps uncover gifts in other members.
- It helps member see visually, how something is explained contextually.

As I grew, my teaching methods grew. As I learned, my students learned. I did my best to bring forth what I was being taught through my faith in God, relationship with Jesus Christ, and from being led by the Holy Spirit and some of the results can be seen on my website at [brotherkeith.org](http://brotherkeith.org)

For scripture to follow up, see Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3.



Brother Keith Hammond

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Brother Keith is a born again Christian. He is a Spirit-led man of God, teacher and author. His life has been transformed from things such as pride and prison to passion and purpose.

God is the author of the Bible. It is meant to be our instruction manual, our roadmap home. Without it, we are lost. Use the information in these books to help you and others.

God destroys the darkness behind us, to direct us toward our destiny ahead. So whatever you do on your journey, never turn back. God bless you in your walk with Christ. Amen.

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