

### PROPHETIC EVANGELISM: DESIGN AND DESTINY

The Apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 9:22.

• "... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

One effective way to start a spiritual conversation—with anyone, including those who are unchurched, non-religious, or part of New Age culture—is to ask the **Holy Spirit** what that person was *created to do*. What was God's *original design* and *ultimate destiny* for their life? Once you receive an impression or insight from the Holy Spirit, you might say to the person, "Would you like to hear what the Creator of the universe had in mind for you when He first imagined you?"

This approach can be a powerful tool to usher someone into an encounter with Jesus and to propel them toward their divine calling. It can bring deep healing and change the course of a person's life forever.

The goal is to **speak the person's language**—avoiding overly "churchy" or religious terminology—and to help them connect with **Jesus / God / Creator / Higher Power** in a way that feels authentic and personal.

It's amazing how the **Holy Spirit** will highlight specific details about a person's life, purpose, or identity. Often, in these moments, the individual begins to sense God's presence and invites His Spirit into their heart.

It is my conviction that every person would be compelled to believe the Gospel if they truly experienced a **supernatural encounter with the presence of a loving God.** 

Here are some potential areas to ask the Holy Spirit about to help you discern a person's Design & Destiny:

- 1. Mountains of Influence in Culture
- 2. Strengths & Talents
- 3. Spheres of Influence (Metron)
- 4. Gifts
- 5. Mantles

### 1. Mountains of Influence in Culture

In 1975, **Bill Bright**, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, and **Loren Cunningham**, founder of Youth With A Mission, had lunch together in Colorado. During that meeting, God simultaneously gave each of these change agents the same message—one meant to be shared with the other. Around that same time, **Francis Schaeffer** received a similar revelation.

That message was this: if we are to impact any nation for Jesus Christ, we must influence the **seven spheres (or mountains) of society** that form the pillars of any culture.

These seven mountains are:

- 1. **Religion:** Influencing a culture's worship and spiritual beliefs.
- 2. **Family:** Shaping family structures, values, and the upbringing of children.
- 3. Education: Influencing what is taught in schools and the principles children learn.
- 4. **Government:** Guiding the laws and leadership of a nation.
- 5. **Media:** Shaping the narrative and messages in news and current events.
- 6. **Arts & Entertainment:** Influencing cultural celebrations and moral standards in creative works.
- 7. **Business:** Shaping commerce and economic practices through ethical and biblically aligned principles.

There are many subgroups under these main categories. In essence, God was revealing to these three leaders **where the battlefield truly is**—the arenas where culture would be won or lost.

Their assignment was to **raise up a new generation of change agents** who would scale these mountains and understand the larger story of God's kingdom influence in the world.

**Ask the Holy Spirit:** "In which mountain(s) has this person been called to have the greatest influence—to shape culture and impact the world for the Kingdom of God?"



Source: Seven Mountain Mandate. The "Seven Mountains of Influence"

# 2. Strengths & Talents

God has given each of us unique **strengths**, **personal character attributes**, and **talents** that enable us to develop certain skills more easily and excel in specific areas.

Below is a list of the **34 CliftonStrengths™** from *StrengthsFinder* by Tom Rath.

\* As you review them, **ask the Holy Spirit** to reveal what "strengths and talents" He has placed within this person.

Achiever®	People strong in the Achiever theme have a great deal of stamina and work hard. They take great satisfaction from being busy and productive.
Activator®	People strong in the Activator theme can make things happen by turning thoughts into action. They are often impatient.
Adaptability®	People strong in the Adaptability theme prefer to "go with the flow." They tend to be "now" people who take things as they come and discover the future one day at a time.
Analytical®	People strong in the Analytical theme search for reasons and causes. They have the ability to think about all the factors that might affect a situation.
Arranger™	People strong in the Arranger theme can organize, but they also have a flexibility that complements this ability. They like to figure out how all of the pieces and resources can be arranged for maximum productivity.
Belief®	People strong in the Belief theme have certain core values that are unchanging. Out of these values emerges a defined purpose for their life.
Command®	People strong in the Command theme have presence. They can take control of a situation and make decisions.
Communication®	People strong in the Communication theme generally find it easy to put their thoughts into words. They are good conversationalists and presenters.
Competition®	People strong in the Competition theme measure their progress against the performance of others. They strive to win first place and revel in contests.
Connectedness®	People strong in the Connectedness theme have faith in the links between all things. They believe there are few coincidences and that almost every event has a reason.
Consistency® / Fairness™	People strong in the Consistency theme are keenly aware of the need to treat people the same. They try to treat everyone in the world fairly by setting up clear rules and adhering to them.
Context®	People strong in the Context theme enjoy thinking about the past. They understand the present by researching its history.

Deliberative®	People strong in the Deliberative theme are best described by the serious care they take in making decisions or choices. They anticipate the obstacles.
Developer®	People strong in the Developer theme, recognize and cultivate the potential in others. They spot the signs of each small improvement and derive satisfaction from these improvements.
Discipline™	People strong in the Discipline theme enjoy routine and structure. Their world is best described by the order they create.
Empathy™	People strong in the Empathy theme can sense the feelings of other people by imagining themselves in others' lives or others' situations.
Focus™	People strong in the Focus theme can take a direction, follow through, and make the corrections necessary to stay on track. They prioritize, then act.
Futuristic®	People strong in the Futuristic theme are inspired by the future and what could be. They inspire others with their visions of the future.
Harmony®	People strong in the Harmony theme look for consensus. They don't enjoy conflict; rather, they seek areas of agreement.
Ideation®	People strong in the Ideation theme are fascinated by ideas. They are able to find connections between seemingly disparate phenomena.
Inclusiveness® / Includer®	People strong in the Inclusiveness theme are accepting of others. They show awareness of those who feel left out, and make an effort to include them.
Individualization®	People strong in the Individualization theme are intrigued with the unique qualities of each person. They have a gift for figuring out how people who are different can work together productively.
Input®	People strong in the Input theme have a craving to know more. Often they like to collect and archive all kinds of information.
Intellection®	People strong in the Intellection theme are characterized by their intellectual activity. They are introspective and appreciate intellectual discussions.
Learner®	People strong in the Learner theme have a great desire to learn and want to continuously improve. In particular, the process of learning, rather than the outcome, excites them.
Maximizer®	People strong in the Maximizer theme focus on strengths as a way to stimulate personal and group excellence. They seek to transform something strong into something superb.
Positivity®	People strong in the Positivity theme have an enthusiasm that is contagious. They are upbeat and can get others excited about what they are going to do.

Relator®	People who are strong in the Relator theme enjoy close relationships with others. They find deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal.
	People strong in the Responsibility theme take psychological ownership of what they say they will do. They are committed to stable values such as honesty and loyalty.
Restorative®	People strong in the Restorative theme are adept at dealing with problems. They are good at figuring out what is wrong and resolving it.
Self-Assurance®	People strong in the Self-assurance theme feel confident in their ability to manage their own lives. They possess an inner compass that gives them confidence that their decisions are right.
Significance®	People strong in the Significance theme want to be very important in the eyes of others. They are independent and want to be recognized.
Strategic™	People strong in the Strategic theme create alternative ways to proceed. Faced with any given scenario, they can quickly spot the relevant patterns and issues.
Woo®	People strong in the Woo theme love the challenge of meeting new people and winning them over. They derive satisfaction from breaking the ice and making a connection with another person.

Source: CliftonStrengths® themes and definitions adapted from *Gallup, Inc.* — *CliftonStrengths 34 Theme Definitions* (© Gallup, Inc. All rights reserved. Used for educational purposes.)

# 3. Sphere of Influence (Metron)

**Metron** is an English term derived from the ancient Greek word meaning *measure* or *sphere of influence*.

Paul refers to this in 2 Corinthians 10:13–14:

"We, however, will not boast beyond our [metron], but within the limits of the sphere
which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. For we are not
overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you
that we came with the gospel of Christ."

Understanding our *metron*—our unique orbit or sphere of influence—helps us fulfill our destiny and operate effectively in our gifts and callings.

 "Grace, favor, and everything we need to be successful in ministry are given to us to accomplish our task when we are within our metron."
 (Source: Clark, R. "Advanced Apostolic Studies: Transitioning Every Believer into Apostolic Ministry." Spirit of Life Ministries, 2008. ISBN 9781886885172.)

For example, **my metron** includes people in recovery—those seeking healing, wholeness, and freedom from hurts, hang-ups, addictions, and trauma—particularly young women.

A *metron* can be defined by a **people group**—such as Muslims, the poor, or the Hispanic community of San Jose.

It can also be shaped by **life experiences** a person has gone through, such as divorce, the death of a child, or the loss of a loved one to suicide.

A *metron* can even extend to a **nation**. For example, **Heidi Baker's metron** is Mozambique, Africa. Her ministry, **Iris Global**, currently has:

- A network of more than 10,000 churches, including around 2,000 among the Makua people in northern Mozambique
- Over **9,687 children under care** through its programs <u>Iris Global</u>

Other examples of *metrons* might include ministry to the homeless, Vietnam veterans, or single mothers. The possibilities are truly endless.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a person's *metron*—the people group or sphere of influence where their impact will be greatest, and where God has specifically appointed and anointed them for Kingdom effectiveness.

## 4. Gifts

**Spiritual gifts** (or *charismata*) are divine endowments given by the **Holy Spirit**. These are the supernatural graces that individual believers receive to fulfill the mission of the Church.

They are described throughout the **New Testament**—primarily in **1 Corinthians 12**, **Romans 12**, and **Ephesians 4**, with additional references in **1 Peter 4**.

These gifts include both *natural-looking abilities* and *miraculous abilities*, but all are **empowered by the Holy Spirit** and operate for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Ask the Holy Spirit, "What spiritual gifts have You given this person?" Then help them understand these gifts in simple, relatable terms—encouraging them to begin learning, developing, and practicing their gifts now under the Spirit's guidance.

Spiritual Gift	Definition	Scripture References
Administration	God-given ability to guide the people of God toward accomplishing His purposes through planning, organizing, and supervising others.	1 Corinthians 12:28–31; Luke 14:28–30
Apostle	Provides general spiritual leadership and oversight of multiple churches; operates in all the supernatural gifts; demonstrates power ministry, church planting, and pioneering.	1 Corinthians 12:28–31; Ephesians 4:11–16; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Matthew 10:1–8; Acts 2:42–44
Craftsmanship / Artistic Expression	The skill to create artistic works that inspire and strengthen others spiritually; divine enablement to communicate God's truth through creative forms such as dance, painting, music, and design.	Exodus 28:3–4; 31:1–11; 35:30–35

Discernment / Distinguishing of Spirits	Ability to sense and identify spiritual influences—whether something originates from God, Satan, human spirit, or human error.	1 Corinthians 12:7–11
Encouragement / Exhortation	The gift of offering comfort, hope, and reassurance to others in a way that strengthens and consoles.	Romans 12:6–8; Titus 1:9; Acts 11:23–24; Acts 14:21–22; 1 Thessalonians 2:11–12; 5:9–11

#### Here are more Spiritual Gifts:

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Guidance	Hospitality	Pastor
Evangelism	Intercession	Words of Wisdom
Exhortation	Word of Knowledge	Prophecy
Faith	Leadership	Teaching
Giving	Mercy	Writing
Healing	Working Miracles	Speaking in Tongues
		Interpretation of
Helping	Missions	Tongues
Worship Leading	Celibacy	Voluntary Poverty

### 5. Mantles

In Bible times, a **mantle** was an outer cloak used for additional covering and warmth, especially at night. From the idea of something that *covers* in the natural, the term *mantle* symbolizes **spiritual covering**, **authority**, and **anointing** in the supernatural.

A powerful example of a spiritual mantle being passed from one person to another is found in **2 Kings 2**, where Elijah's mantle was passed to Elisha. Elisha asked for a *double portion*—and so it was granted. Scripture records **twice as many miracles** under Elisha's ministry as under Elijah's.

There is also a wonderful precedent in the **New Testament** for those who desire to press in, as Elisha did with Elijah. Jesus said:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he shall do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go to the Father."
 — John 14:12

The anointing that is in Jesus is available to His followers—and His mantle is greater than that of any prophet in the Old Testament.

Seeking these *greater works* often manifests in a believer's life through the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** deposited within them—such as healing, deliverance, evangelism, helps, administration, or other spiritual gifts mentioned in Section 4. The mantle you seek is often the mantle God desires to impart to you.

Spiritual mantles can still be passed today—from one person to another or from one generation to the next. If God has placed someone in your life who is a "spiritual giant" in a particular area of faith, you may seek the anointing and spiritual authority that rests upon them. Perhaps that is one reason God has brought that person into your life.

For example, **my spiritual father**, a deeply godly apostle, has often prayed for me and imparted to me "all good things by the Spirit of God that he has been given." I can clearly see his influence, anointing, and gifting at work in my own life and ministry—a direct result of the impartation freely given through him.

**Mak the Holy Spirit:** What *mantles* does this person carry?

Example Mantle	Corresponding Gifts and Callings
Moses	Leadership, communication, miracles
Paul	Teaching, church planting, power ministry, writing
Daniel	Interpretation of dreams, wisdom before kings
Nehemiah	Rebuilding broken "walls and lives"
Joshua	Strength, courage, and perseverance
Esther	Divine favor and influence in positions of power
Deborah	Leadership and governmental authority
Samuel	Judge, priest, and prophet
Heidi Baker	Transforming nations through compassion and revival
Benny Hinn	Healing and miracles anointing
Doug Addison	Prophetic and dream interpretation gifting
Joyce Meyer	Teaching, communication, and writing ministry

**Need Prayer or Someone to Walk Alongside You?** We'd love to connect with you. Call or text Pastor Wendy Close at (408) 209-6929. Email: wendyclose12@gmail.com

Join us for church! Sundays at 5 PM at Santa Cruz Convergence, 3775 Capitola Road, Capitola, CA. SantaCruzFirestarters.com