

## DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT - Lesson 5

5.17.09

“Exploring the Speaking Gifts” (1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Cor. 12:8-10,28; Romans 12:6-8)

### Personal Definition:

*PP Slide #1*

**SPIRITUAL GIFT** ✓ *A ministry characteristic of the Holy Spirit,  
✓ which God has given me in special abundance,  
✓ through which I can supernaturally serve the body of  
Christ, the church*

### **From 1 Peter 4**

**10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

**11** Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### **From Ephesians 4**

*four leaders of the church are given*

**11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

**12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

**13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

### **From Ephesians 2** *the leadership of apostles and prophets is not for today*

**19** So then you are . . . of God's household,

**20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.

**2 Corinthians 12:12** The signs of a true **apostle** were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

### **From 1 Corinthians 12**

*note the gifts mentioned*

**8** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

**9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

**10** and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

**28** And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

**11 gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:**

*PP Slide #2*

WISDOM KNOWLEDGE FAITH HEALING MIRACLES PROPHECY  
DISCERNMENT TONGUES INTERPRETATION HELPS  
ADMINISTRATION

**From Romans 12**

*note the gifts mentioned*

**6** Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

**7** if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

**8** or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**5 additional gifts mentioned in Romans 12:**

*PP Slide #3*

TEACHING EXHORTATION GIVING LEADING MERCY

**Putting them into 3 categories of SPEAKING, SERVING and SIGN:**

**Speaking (5)**

*PP*

*Slide #4*

Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation, Wisdom, Knowledge

**Serving (7)**

Faith, Discernment, Helps, Administration, Giving, Leading, Mercy

**Sign (4)**

Healing, Miracles, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

These may or may not be all the available giftings of “spirituals”

Many other gifts have been suggested by commentators – some mentioned in the Scripture as “gifts” but not listed in 1 Cor. or Romans. Others are suggested which just seem especially needed by the church and apparent in persons, and are given various verses in the Bible to support. Here are the most common found as suggested additional spiritual gifts:

CELIBACY HOSPITALITY MARTYRDOM APOSTLE EVANGELIST  
CRAFTSMENSHIP MUSIC WORSHIP LEADING INTERCESSION  
EKBALLISM  
MISSIONARY WRITING VOLUNTARY POVERTY PASTOR/SHEPHERD

I see these as either specific leaders God has given to the church:

Pastor/Shepherd, Missionary, Evangelist, Apostle [past], Worship Leader

Or specific talent or strength, but not a ministry quality specifically associated with the HS:

Music, Craftsmanship, Writing, Hospitality, Intercession

Or a special calling or role to play from God, but again not a HS ministry characteristic:

Celibacy, Martyrdom, Ekbballism, Voluntary Poverty

**Most I see as sub-catagories of the 16 gifts:**

Pastor/Shepherd, Worship Leading, Missionary - LEADING

Evangelist, Missionary – PROPHECY

Hospitality, Martyrdom, Voluntary Poverty - GIVING

Intercession, Writing – KNOWLEDGE

Ekbballism – DISCERNMENT, FAITH

Craftsmanship - HELPS

Music/Worship – EXHORTATION (or other)

“Bottom shelf” simplicity

*PP Slide*

#5

PROPHECY (proclaiming the Word)

KNOWLEDGE (understanding the Word)

WISDOM (applying the Word)

TEACHING (explaining the Word)

EXHORTATION (ministering the Word)

**PROPHECY** (Gk: propheteia; pro-“before”, phemi-“to speak” = to speak before [to someone]) i.e. to forthtell, not foretell English: “profess”

*PP Slide*

#6

***Defn.: The supernatural enabling to proclaim God’s truth in a timely, winsome way***

*2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy man of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*

*Revelation 19:10 For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*

*Revelation 22:18 If any man should add to these things, God shall add to him the plagues written in this book.*

*Romans 12:6 Let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith (i.e. consistent with God’s full proportion of doctrine*

Prophets can be an evangelist in a large setting (Billy Graham) or one-on-one setting (Bill Bright). But don’t think you must be an evangelist or public speaker. You might have the gift of prophecy to use in your local church in

large or small settings - sharing God's word in a timely, winsome way to remind and focus hearers.

**Those with the gift of prophecy often will . . .**

- feel they have a direct word from God to share
- have a great sense of urgency to their message
- be especially concerned about evangelism and will find ways to share
- have a desire to speak strongly against evil in society or in the church
- expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation
- speak a timely word from God causing conviction, repentance, and

edification

- see truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond
- warn of God's immediate or future judgment if there is no repentance
- 

“Prophets are God’s loudspeakers”

**KNOWLEDGE** “word of knowledge” – 1 Cor. 12:8

PP Slide  
#7

***Defn.: The supernatural enabling to understand God’s truth so as to observe and share deep spiritual truths***

*1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge . . .*

**Those with the gift of knowledge often will . . .**

- understand mysteries of the Bible others fail to see
- especially enjoy being at home in a book or studying
- search, systemitize and summarize the teachings of God
- enjoy creating timelines, charts, graphs, studies in numerology or word usage, etc.
- become writers, theologians, scholars, researchers, professors, apologists, etc.
- enjoy going deeper in their Biblical study than others

John Calvin was a lay theologian whose “Institutes” during the Reformation (17<sup>th</sup> Century) has affected generations since

This gift is greatly needed in an age where many seek experience over truth

This gift in our church would help us become a deeper source of learning for those wanting to dig deeper into the Scriptures

**WISDOM** “word of wisdom” – 1 Cor. 12:8 Greek: “solfia”

#8

**Defn.: The supernatural enabling to apply God's truth with practical application to behavior**

*James 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.*

Therefore – the gift of wisdom is typically accompanied by as especially gentle spirit

**Those with the gift of wisdom often will . . .**

- have an excellent ability to apply spiritual truth to everyday life.
- be sought out by people when they are facing problems
- consistently make good and correct decisions and judgments
- be able to easily determine the next steps to take in a difficult decision
- provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion
- make a good counselor, mentor, confidant and friend !

**TEACHING** Greek: didakikos

PP Slide #9

**Defn.: The supernatural enabling to explain God's truth so as to pass it on to another**

*2 Timothy 2:2 And the thing which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*

*1 Timothy 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith OAKS "MEN ALIVE" VERSE*

Therefore – those with the gift of teaching tend to both HAVE these 3 qualities and especially DESIRE them in others

**Those with the gift of teaching often will . . .**

- enjoy studying the Bible and related materials in order to communicate what they have learned to other Christians
- find it easy to organize information in such a way as to make it easy to communicate, understand, and remember
- communicate Biblical truth that inspires greater obedience to the word
- challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of scripture
- personally focus on changing lives by helping others understand the Bible better
- give attention to detail and accuracy

This is a gift especially essential to pastor a church, along with the gift of leading and a heart to shepherd *Eph. 4:11 “and He gave some . . . as pastors-teachers . . .”*

I believe many have the gift of teaching in PARENTING, leading SMALL GROUPS or DISCIPLESHIP. This does not have to be an “up front” gift or to many listeners

**EXHORTATION** Greek: parakaleo / parakletos = “comfortor”

“Para” – to draw in, “kleta” – to lift up (word picture)

PP Slide

#10

***Defn.: The supernatural enabling to encourage God’s truth to another to comfort, strengthen and challenge***

*Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today” lest any of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*

*2 Corinthians 1:3 [God] comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God*

**Those with the gift of exhortation often will . . .**

- come to the side of those who are weak in spirit to strengthen them
- be the one you seek out when you are discouraged or feeling weak
- challenge or confront others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- enjoy serving in church worship ministry
- be a positive person always looking for an encouragement to share
- be a social activist on moral issues
- have a personal past of recovery from affliction with which to help others
- be comfortable in counseling or mentoring those who are afflicted

## **APPLICATION**

- √ Explore these 5 gifts as possibilities of what God has given you
- √ Pray that God would reveal to you if any of these gifts are yours
- √ Ask others if they see these gifts in you
- √ Tell others if you think you see these gifts in them
  
- √ Come next week to explore the 7 SERVING GIFTS