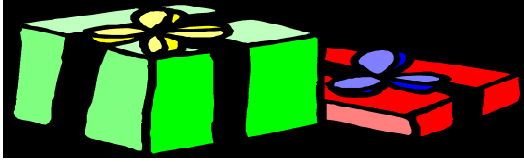


Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts



By Pastor Don Nicely

Our gifts and callings are for the purposes of serving others and building up the body of Christ. Whenever we use our gifts as God intended we receive a strong sense of fulfillment and usefulness in life. No matter what we do in life there isn't a better or more fulfilling job than that of a servant. The gifts that God has placed in us are for the sole purpose of building up the body of Christ and serving God. Even though there are many different functions and ministries they are all to build up and strengthen Christ's body, His church. In the New Testament there are twenty-one different listings of gifts as there are called and grouped into three different categories. Each member of the Godhead or Trinity has a listing that they are responsible for. The gifts of the Father are known as the motivational gifts. The gifts of the Son are known as the five-fold ministry gifts, and finally the gifts of the Spirit are known as the supernatural manifestation gifts. Each has a specific purpose and calling. Also remember that these are gifts and not talents or skills. Other vital ministries that are not listed are things like playing an instrument, worship leading, singing, organizing, and managing. These are vital, but they are skills and talents and not spiritual gifts. Let's now look at the gifts in each category and read a brief description of each.

THE GIFTS OF THE FATHER

Romans 12:6 - 8 (NKJV) ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

GIFT OF PROPHECY; This gift involves speaking under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit. It is primarily "forth telling" under the union and quickening of the mind of God. It differs slightly from the operation of the manifestation in 1 Corinthians 12 in that the manifestation of 1 Corinthians 12 may not be consistent and abiding. Where as this gift is. Read Acts 21:9

GIFT OF SERVICE (MINISTRY); This involves the motivation to serve in practical ways. People that are responsible, willing helpers and get a great sense of fulfillment from doing a job well are operating in this gift. They make great deacons. Acts 6:2&3

GIFT OF TEACHING; They have the motivation and ability to search out and expound on bible truths. Teachers are able to take difficult truths and explain in layman's terms. Acts 18:24

GIFTS OF EXHORTATION; The word exhort in the bible mean to consolation, encourage, to appeal or to comfort. To exhort means to urge or instruct someone to follow a particular course of action. People with this gift have the ability to see the needs of others and communicate the proper advice, warning or encouragement needed to get them on the right path. Acts 2:40

GIFT OF GIVING; These people enjoy financially contributing to the advancement of the kingdom of God. Usually they are prudent in making money so in turn they can give generously to the kingdom Acts 4:36-37

GIFT OF LEADERSHIP; The ability to motivate and lead others in accomplishing God's purposes. They usually have a clear vision or grasp of the kingdom of God and have the ability to inspire others into establishing their area of ministry. Administration is another area of this gifts operation. Acts 2:14

GIFT OF MERCY; They naturally identify with and have a strong empathy for those who suffer misfortune or are experiencing some type of hurt. Usually leads to doing acts of kindness and comfort. Acts 9:36

THE GIFTS OF THE SON

Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

APOSTLE; These people are pioneers with a vision for the “*church at large*” and not necessarily the local church itself. Church movements with worldwide visions are spawned from this gift. They are usually church organizers.

PROPHET; They speak forth the mind and will of God as directive, corrective and sometimes even predictive. New Testament prophets differ from the Old Testament in that their prophecies rest on the finished revelation of God’s word. Must be people of strong character.

EVANGELIST; They have a special burden for lost souls. They are able to preach the good news with power. Usually this ministry is accompanied by signs and wonders. They should be committed to a local church where they can equip people in evangelism.

PASTOR; This title literally means “shepherd.” They must feed and tend the flock of God with proper teachings from God’s word. Their ministry covers a broad aspect and many different facets of ministry. They also are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

TEACHER; This ministry is foundational; in establishing the saints in the work of the ministry. They must be sound in doctrine and well developed in their gift. The most powerful lesson of the teacher is taught by the example of the life that they live.

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts of the Spirit are also divided into three different categories.

THE MIND GIFTS

Word of Wisdom; A divine impartation from the Holy Spirit granting divine understanding and insight as to how to proceed in a given situation or circumstance Example

Matthew 22:17 - 22 (NKJV) ¹⁷Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarii’s. ²⁰And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” ²¹They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Word of Knowledge; An impartation of facts, information, or details about a person that you could not possibly have known about in the natural.

John 4:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

Discerning of spirits; Divine ability to perceive the spiritual source behind a word, action, mood, or motive. They can discern whether the origin is heavenly, human, or demonic.

Acts 8:20 (NKJV) ²⁰But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!

THE MANIFESTATION GIFTS

Gift of Faith; The God-given ability to believe for an impossible situation which goes way beyond normal faith. Acts 27:21-25

Gifts of healing; The supernatural ability to minister physical healing to those who are sick. The plural “*healings*” implies that the healing could be physical, mental, or emotional healing. This gift could be demonstrated over time. Acts 3:11

Working of Miracles; Performing a supernatural act against the laws of physical nature. Acts 13:11

THE MOUTH GIFTS

Tongues; Speaking in different languages that are unknown to the speaker. They could be speaking in the languages of men or the supernatural languages of angels. This gift is for anyone who will accept it and react to it. Acts 10:45-46

Interpretation of Tongues; Supernatural spontaneous ability to interpret an utterance in tongues into a language for those who are present to understand. Keep in mind that this gift is an interpretation and not a translation. 1 Corinthians 14:13

Prophecy; Speaking under the direct unction of the Holy Spirit to forth tell the mind of God. This is different from the office of prophet in that all believers are encouraged to prophecy, but not all are prophets. 1 Corinthians 14:1