

The Presentation of Spiritual Gifts

Three huge issues that affect a Christian's service: **1.** Marriage. **2.** Employment. **3.** Exercise of spiritual gift.

Two main Greek words. **1Co 12:4** Now there are diversities of **gifts** (*charisma*), but the same Spirit.

- *charisma* = a free gift of grace. Not something that can be *earned* or *deserved*.
- **1Co 12:1** Now concerning spiritual(s) **gifts**, brethren.
- *pneumatikos* = a spiritual manifestation. A spiritual gift is a *manifestation* of the Spirit's presence within.

Spiritual gift is not natural gift (e.g. singing). Natural ability *can* be used for the Lord's honour and glory.

- Paul = naturally academic, brilliant, logical mind. God used it. **80** questions in *Romans*.
- Spiritual gift = *special spiritual ability, freely given by God*. Only **Christians** possess *spiritual* gifts.

Every believer has spiritual gift/s given by God. *Unto every one of us is given* (Eph. 4.7).

As **every** man has received gift (1 Pet. 4.10). *The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man* (1 Cor. 12.7).

- How has God gifted you? Are you using it for His glory? Does it matter?
- Root word of *charisma* is *chairo* = joy, rejoicing. There is spiritual joy and fulfilment in using spiritual gift.

Three main passages in the NT concern spiritual gifts:

- **1 Cor. 12-14**: Practice of gift. To what degree is: God *glorified* (12)? Love *exercised* (13)? Church *edified* (14)?
- **Rom. 12**: Personal responsibility to exercise gift. **ESV**: *Having gifts, let us use them* (v.6).
- **Eph. 4**: Purpose of spiritual gifts. To *equip* the saints for service and *edify* the church.
- **1 Peter 4** summarises. **10** *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another (purpose), as good stewards of God's varied grace (personal responsibility): 11* *whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies (practice) – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (purpose).* **ESV**

The Panorama of Spiritual Gifts

There are **18** spiritual gifts listed in Scripture. Not exhaustive as gifts are added/removed as the lists progress. The Bible nowhere says *other* gifts do not exist, but it would seem every *sphere* of possible gift is covered, e.g. working with children, SS work comes under the *sphere* of evangelist.

- Peter gives **two** categories of gifts: speaking and serving. *If any man speak... If any man serve...*
- There are gifts that are *characterised* by speaking, e.g. teacher and those by service, e.g. giving.
- Others give **three** categories: *revelatory*; *confirmatory* (of the gospel); *contemporary* (present today).

Revelatory (5): Apostles; prophets; distinguishing of spirits; word of wisdom; word of knowledge.

Confirmatory (5): Faith; miracles; healing; tongues; interpretation of tongues.

Contemporary (8): Teacher; exhorter; evangelist; pastor-teacher; helps (ministry); rule (governments); giving; showing mercy. [*Four* are speaking gifts; *four* are serving gifts]

You are not an **apostle**. *Revelatory* = the canon of Scripture was not complete.

You do not have **tongues**. *Confirmatory* = to authenticate the gospel message, God's new work.

- **Teacher**. Mentioned in each passage. Literally 'to give instruction'.

The teacher *searches, arranges, explains* and *applies* Scripture. Requires diligent waiting upon God.

TE Wilson (went to Angola in 1923, 21 years old): 5% gift, 95% hard labour.

The *sphere* of the teacher is the local church (public or private, Aquila and Priscilla).

- **Exhortation** (Rom. 12.8). *Paraklesis*, to 'call to one's side'. Challenges the *will* and *conscience* (not mind). *To strengthen the weak, reassure the wavering, buttress the buffeted, steady the faltering, comfort the troubled and encourage the halting.*

Barnabas was the 'son of exhortation' (Acts 4.36). He exhorted Christians to remain true to the Lord (Acts 11) and continue in the faith in the face of adversity (Acts 14).

- **Evangelist** (Eph. 4.11). Sphere is the world (with a view to the local church).

The world is his parish, the love of Christ his constraint.

A good news person. Heart for lost souls (tracting, campaigns), their salvation *and* spiritual growth.

Philip (only named evangelist) went down to **Samaria** and preached **Christ** unto them and baptism (Acts 8).

- **Pastor-teacher** (Eph. 4.11). A *shepherd* who is apt to teach (feeds the flock, not themselves, Eze. 34).

A shepherd preserves *unity* (Matt. 9), *knows* and *protects* the sheep and *sacrifices* for the flock (John 10).

Don't get offended or offensive if the Pastor-Teacher puts a crook around your neck!

- **Helps/Ministry** (1 Cor. 12.28, Rom. 12.7). Helps = to *aid* or *assist* another. Ministry = to *serve*.

The gift of 'serving others'. To *lay hold of them* in order to *comfort* or *relieve* (physically).

More concerned about serving others than remembering themselves or meeting their own needs.

Phebe, servant of the church, helper of many (Rom. 16.1-2). **2 Timothy 1:16** *The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed (to cause to cease laboring) me, and was not ashamed of my chain: 17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.*

- **Giving**, with *simplicity* (Rom. 12.8). Marked by liberality and sincerity (no ulterior motive).

Act 4:37 *Having land (Barnabas), sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.* Prime real estate.

Not just *material* – giving of *time* and *resources* to further the work of God.

Difference between giving and the **gift** of giving. Luke 21 = rich out of their abundance, widow gave all that she had.

Widow was *motivated* by: love, thanksgiving and worship.

- **Governments/Rule** (1 Cor. 12.28, Rom. 12.8). Governments = a director, to 'steer the ship', 'pilot the vessel'.

Set the direction of the local church's spiritual course – evangelism, teaching, activities.

Rule = to 'stand before' and therefore *lead* by example – in personal life, character and spiritual exercise.

- Showing **mercy** with *cheerfulness* (Rom. 12.8). Empathy and compassion for those in sorrow or great need.

Example: *Lord Jesus with Widow of Nain. Dorcas: Act 9:36 Full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.*

Cheerfulness = thought of *gladness* (a genuine desire) and *readiness* of mind, being *prompt*.

Those so gifted make compassion and kindness their lifestyle. They do not simply react to emergencies, but continually seek opportunities to show pity for the miserable.