

Right Thinking in Using Spiritual Gifts - III

Introduction and Review

- ❑ Each local congregation is a functional church with all the necessary spiritual gifts (1Co. 12:27a; 1:7)
- ❑ Some spiritual gifts have greater or higher effects in edifying the church (1Co. 12:31a; 14:12)
- ❑ There are 5 lists of spiritual gifts containing both spectacular & more ordinary gifts – no list is intended to be exhaustive!
- ❑ Last week we considered the spectacular gifts, but today we will consider the more ordinary gifts.

I. Thinking About Basic Principles

- A. Believers must surrender bodies & minds (Rom. 12:1-3)
In order to effectively use spiritual gifts, the believer must yield his/her body & mind for God's service.
- B. Gifts bring effectiveness & joy in ministry (Rom. 12:6a)
"Having gifts" – God has given these gifts of grace to make us effective & to give us joy in our ministry. "χάρισμα" – gifts. "χαρά" – joy; "χάρις" – grace.
- C. Gifts will manifest themselves as believers function (v. 6b)
"let us use them" You must yield to the promptings of HS as He reveals needs in the body of Christ (ministry = service). If you are inactive, you will not discover your gifts.

II. Thinking About Basic Definitions & Examples

- A. **Prophecy (v. 6b)** = immediate inspiration from the HS for a believer to speak truth from God - edify, exhort & comfort (1Co. 14:3, 30). It reveals secrets of the **HEART** leading to conviction & action (1Co. 14:24-25) – sin, pain or change... *"in proportion to our faith" = conviction (Rom. 14:23c) & the scriptures (Jude 3). Gleanings: A believer can have this gift without being a prophet (Ac. 2:17; 21:9). This gift should not cause disorder or confusion in the church (1Co. 14:32-33, 40)! **This is not infallible inspiration as in the OT (1Co. 14:29). This is not preaching** (requires preparation – 1Tim. 4:15; 5:17; 2Tim. 2:15). This gift is needful in worship; we make room after songs, altar prayer, sermon & bible study.*

- B. **Service/Ministry (v. 7a)** = a supernatural concern & ability to meet the practical needs of others in a specific way (2Tim. 4:11; Ac. 6:1-6). *[Gleanings from life of Christ in Jn. 13:1-5] = sensitive to physical needs of people, uses available resources to meet needs (v. 4-5), will meet the needs personally, no service is too demeaning (v.5), saint of few words (v. 4-5). This is gift is needful in deaconate, ushers, cooking, setup, cleanup, etc.*
- C. **Teaching (v. 7b)** = the supernatural ability to interpret, explain & make application of the scriptures – **MIND!!!** *[Gleanings from life of Christ] = authority (Mk. 1:21-22), examples & analogies (Mk. 4:1ff), wisdom from the scriptures (Mk. 6:2), self-denial (Mk. 6:31-34), teaches plainly with many details (Mk. 8:31-32a), teaches plainly on controversial matters (Mk. 10:1-12; 12:14), teaches systematically with great detail (Lk. 24:27); OTHER TRAITS = teachable (2Tim. 2:2), studious (2Tim. 2:15). This gift is needful for teaching the scriptures in homes, church, fellowships, workplace, etc.*

Prophecy = heart, Service = hands, Teaching = mind

ILL: Learning to swim. There is initially fear & intimidation because of all the unknowns: water in mouth & nose, holding your breath, depth of water, etc. Once initial fears are overcome, you discover natural ability to float, kick, dog paddle, etc. – SWIM!

APPL: My beloved brother/sister, young/old you cannot continue standing around the pool in the kingdom of God. Come on in the water; don't be afraid to get wet, discover your sp. gifts & use your sp. gifts. Everyone had to begin where you are & we'll help discover & use with your special abilities. Get involved; get active!

CONCLUSION

The scriptures are to serve as a mirror for the saint. As we have looked into the mirror today, have you seen yourself; your gifts? If you have seen your gifts, are you using them to bring glory to the Great Giver of the gifts & to benefit His church? If you are not sure, do not be discouraged. Seek the **Lord** in prayer; ask **Him** for help; ask the **church** for help; be willing/ready to serve **people** & worship the **Lord** when we gather. Paul began this chapter by reminding us of the mercies of God – mercy is salvation, mercy in provisions, protection, healing, deliverance... Mercy reveals the massive & enormous heart of God to forgive us & help us even though we are guilty & helpless. This mercy is revealed in Jesus. Jesus willingly suffered & died for us who are the guilty & helpless ones. Jesus paid the debt for our sins; paid it all & all to Him we owe – our life & service...

If you are not a Christian, I've got good news for you. Jesus died to save sinners just like you. Will you believe...?

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