

Right Thinking in Using Spiritual Gifts - IV

Introduction and Review

- Spiritual gifts will manifest themselves as believers function in the body (v. 6b) = “**let us use them**”
- **Prophecy (v. 6b)** = *immediate inspiration from the HS for a believer to speak truth from God - edify, exhort, comfort & bring conviction to the HEART (1Co. 14:3, 24-25).*
- **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). This gift is needed in the diaconate, ushers, cook, clean, repair, etc.*
- **Teaching (v. 7b)** = *the supernatural ability to interpret, explain & make application of the scriptures – MIND!*

I. Thinking About Basic Principles

- A. You must give **special attention** to your special gifts
Gifts can be misused (1Co. 12-14) & unused (1Tim. 4:14), so concentrate on your gifts (if prophecy...teaching...).
- B. You must avoid becoming **arrogant** about this study
Do not assume that you already know & understand spiritual gifts nor should you take pleasure in learning about gifts with no intention to obey (1Co. 8:1b)

II. Thinking About Basic Definitions & Examples

- A. **Exhortation (v. 8a)** = *a supernatural ability to motivate people to obey God; encourage & comfort – HEART! [gleanings from life of Christ in Jn. 21:15-17] = Takes the initiative (v. 15a), Concerned w/obedience from the heart – motives (v. 15b), Deals with people where they are spiritually (discouraged, humiliated) & seeks true confession of personal condition = persistent & repetitious – “do you love Me” (v. 17c; 1Jn. 1:9), Seeks to comfort hurting people – saint is still useful to God = “tend My sheep” (v. 17); Provides clear instruction for change – “tend & feed My sheep”*

Exhortation addresses the heart – motives, will & emotions
Needful for the preacher, teacher, counselor, parents, etc.

- B. **Mercy (v. 8d)** = *the supernatural ability to discern when someone is in misery & provide comfort. [gleanings from the life of Christ in Lk. 4:18; 17:11-14] = Attracts people in misery (v. 12) – also blind, poor, demoniac, etc.(4:18); Attracted to people in misery (v. 14) – “When he saw them”; Wants to comfort & remove hurt (v. 14); A keen discernment regarding people who are hurting (Mt. 8: 1-2) –leper in a great crowd; Will make extraordinary sacrifices to help hurting people (Mt. 8:3) – lepers were isolated & never touched {Willing to make this sacrifice even while other people may be judgmental}. WITH CHEERFULNESS = thankful & joyful attitude for the privilege of helping. Hurting people need to know that they are being helped willingly, not under obligation. This gift is needed in diaconate, ministries that provide clothing & food, missions, etc.*

Mercy addresses the needs of the body & heart!

ILL: All sports teams will have occasions when they are in a slump – early or midway in a game. There are times when players are not executing, making mistakes & forgetting – resulting in discouragement, humiliation & even physical injury. Most teams have a team captain that can motivate team – help players discover what they’re doing wrong, correct it, make adjustments; help players injured physically & emotionally to recover and get back in the game!

APPL: The same is true among our team here in the body of Christ. We need you my brother & sister to move around among the team & encourage those you are not at their best, encourage some who are way off their game & some who have even stopped playing!

CONCLUSION

We must remember that Jesus as the Head of the body of Christ (church) knows that members will have trials, tests & troubles in life that lead us to discouragement, perplexity, brokenness & even humiliation. Members will also have experiences that leave us in misery both physically & spiritually. This is one of the fundamental reasons that Jesus has given some of you the gifts of exhortation & mercy. The body of Christ needs you to encourage & comfort hurting people. Therefore if you love Jesus, if you love other people & if you have these gifts, then use them for the glory of God, the benefit of members in the body & for your joy & fulfillment in ministry. We need you my beloved brother or sister!

If you are not a Christian, you can actually find comfort for your misery today. You can be delivered from the worse spiritual misery in all of life. Jesus is here to take you out of that condition of darkness & slavery to sin and bring you into the liberty of the kingdom of God. Will you believe...

SUBJECT: Right Thinking in Using Spiritual Gifts - IV

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Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore