

Right Thinking in Using Spiritual Gifts - V

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) – BODY or PHYSICAL.*
- **Teaching (v. 7b)** = *the supernatural ability to interpret, explain & make application of the scriptures – MIND!*
- **Exhortation (v. 8a)** = *a supernatural ability to motivate people to obey God; encourage & comfort – HEART!*
- **Mercy (v. 8d)** = *the supernatural ability to discern when someone is in misery & provide relief – Physical/Sp.*

Our physical & spiritual needs are met as we use our gifts!

I. Thinking About Basic Principles

- A. Every believer is unique & dependent (1Co. 12:29-30)
Every believer has one or more spiritual gifts, but no believer has all the spiritual gifts.
- B. You must **stir up/kindle afresh** your sp. gifts (2Tim. 1:6)
At times, every Christian needs encouragement to stay faithful in ministry; reminder of sincere faith - save & keep (v. 5), God's power (v. 7), other believers' suffering (v. 8)

II. Thinking About Basic Definitions & Examples

- A. **Giving (v. 8b)** = *the supernatural ability to sacrificially impart of oneself and possessions as needs might dictate! [gleanings from life of Christ] = The motivation is godly or right (Jn. 3:16), willing to make a personal sacrifice (Mt. 20:28), gives what is good & needful (Mt. 7:11). [gleanings from word study] = A burning desire to give (Rom. 1:11), a willingness to give personal, high quality items (Lk. 3:11), a willingness to work hard in order to have something to share with others (Eph. 4:28; 1Th. 2:8-9);*

“in generosity = pure motives & liberality (Mt. 6:1-4; 2Co 9:11-13). Christians with this gift may or may not have much material wealth (2Co. 8:1-3). This gift is needful to support the work of ministry, missions, individuals in crisis – give financially, clothing, food, skill, time; counseling, tutoring, etc.

Giving ensure that PHYSICAL needs are met in the body.

- B. **Leading (v. 8c)** = *the supernatural ability to oversee, manage matters & care for people in the body of Christ. [gleanings from life of Christ in Mt. 10] = calls helpers together for organization (v. 1), selects qualified people for assignments (v. 1), provides instructions for assignments (v. 5ff), delegates authority & responsibility (v. 1, 5ff), leads with humility & by example in lifestyle (v. 24-25).*

“with zeal” = seriously committed & devoted to the task.

Any member of the body of Christ may have this gift, but it is essential for a pastor (1Timothy & Titus) & any ministry coordinator or director.

Leading ensures that Physical & Spiritual needs are met.

ILL: Basketball team: Some players a particularly gifted to play guard, forward or center; to play offense or defense. However there are times when best offensive guard still has to play defense & the best defensive center has to shoot the ball. Even though each player has special skills for unique tasks, all players on the team still have to make contributions in other areas for the team to win!

APPL: The same is true among our team here in the body of Christ. Some are specially gifted to give with great generosity, but everyone believer is expected to be generous (2Co. 9:7b). Some are specially gifted to exhort, but all believers are expected to exhort others (2Co. 1:4).

CONCLUSION

My beloved brothers & sisters we know that Jesus is the Head of our church and our firm foundation (the Solid Rock). He is the source of everything good among us; every good thought, word or deed comes from Him. He is also the source of these good spiritual gifts of grace that we have been considering for the past couple of months. Since He has graciously given them to us, let us use them faithfully and diligently for His glory and for the good of all those who love Jesus! Remember that you were saved with a purpose in the kingdom of God and you have been given special abilities for that purpose. God has a plan and purpose for your life. Will you discover your special abilities & purpose in the kingdom & in this church?

If you are not a Christian, you cannot discover your purpose until you place your trust in Jesus to save you from the penalty of your sins. You cannot know your special abilities until you place your trust in Jesus to save. Jesus is willing to save now. Will you believe...?

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