

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #23 – Sunday AM1 JULY 29, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

Recommended reading: *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement: Confessions of a Former Worship Leader* by Dan Lucarini

In **Romans 12:7-9** Paul lists six permanent spiritual gifts that must be exercised for the church to function effectively.

Romans 12:7-8 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

PERMANENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I. SERVICE –

II. TEACHING -

- **Teach** – διδάσκω – DIDASKO “To teach or instruct”

Definition - The supernatural ability to break down *revealed* biblical truth, apply, and communicate it in a relevant manner to believers.

- Those with the gift of teaching will be led to teach to one of five categories of believers in the body of Christ.
 - a. Children
 - b. Teens
 - c. Young adults
 - d. Adults ← - - - - - → Ideally this is where pastor-teacher should take over.
- - - - - → With gift of teaching you might host a home Bible study.
 - e. Seniors - - - - - → With gift of teaching you might be led to teach a Bible class in a nursing home or other location outside of the church.

III. ENCOURAGING - EXHORTATION

- **Exhort** – παρακαλέω – PARAKALEO

Definition - The supernatural ability to encourage fellow believers to take action in realizing God’s will.

- **παρα καλέω**
 - > **παρα – PARA** – “From, with, or beside”
 - > The gift is fulfilled “from the side of a believer;” contact is essential!
 - > **καλέω – KALEO** – “To summon; to invite; to call”
 - > The gift calls; it summons; it encourages people to take action.

Definition of Spiritual Gift: *The Holy Spirit doing a particular service through the believer and using the believer to do it. (Chafer)*

Remember that you are a vessel.

- You are not doing the encouraging - God is encouraging the one you are along side of.
- You are not doing the teaching - God is doing the teaching through you. Done for the benefit of those you are teaching.

Characteristics of a vessel:

- A vessel houses something.
- As believers, we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit - **1 Corinthians 3:16** *Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
- A vessel is designed to be used by its owner.

2 Timothy 2:20-26 *Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels,*

- **Vessels - σκεῦος** – Literally a “jar” or “instrument;” something designed to have a use; designed with a purpose in mind.

We are vessels; we have a purpose as believers in the Lord.

²⁰ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:16-18 *But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith (πίστις) of some.*

- > False teaching will upset your spiritual life.
- > Bad food will make you gag!

²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the **Master**, prepared for every good work. ²² Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. ²⁴ The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

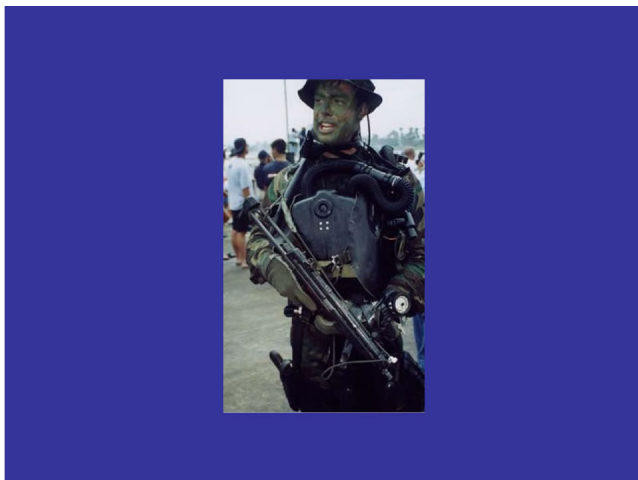
- We must ensure that we are able to be used by the Master.
 - > **Master** - **δεσπότης** – **DESPOTES** - “*The ruler; the master;*” the owner of the vessel
 - > In our case, “the Master” is the Lord.

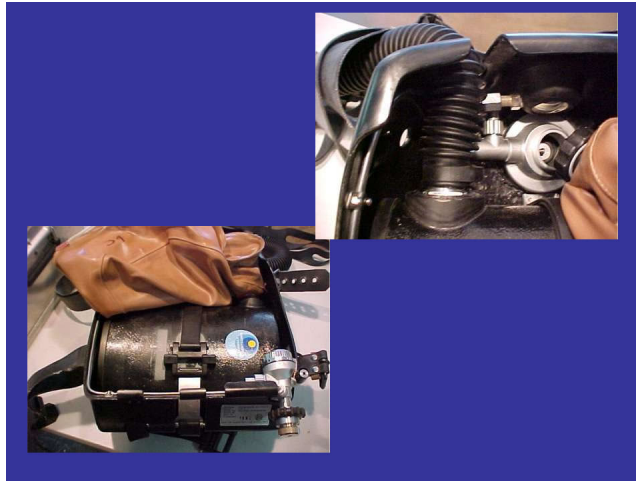
Three things we are responsible for to be used by the Lord as a vessel of honor:

1. **Sanctified** - **ἀγιάζω** – **HAGIAZO** – “*To be set aside or made suitable for use*”
 - > At salvation we were set apart; we were dedicated.
 - > In time we must have *presented ourselves* to the Lord [**Rom. 12:2**].
2. **Useful** - **εὐχρηστος** – **EUCHRESTOS** – “*Serviceable*”
 - > We are *serviceable* when we are in fellowship.
 - > Rebound when necessary; walk *by means of* the Spirit.
3. **Prepared** - **ἐτοιμάζω** – **HETOIMAZO** – “*Ready*”



POD: It is the believer’s responsibility to maintain serviceability for the Lord.





Drager LarV rebreather

POD: Serviceability insures being used as a vessel for honor.

✚ When our gift is functioning the Lord is using us.

✚ When our gift is functioning the Lord is performing a service through us for the benefit of fellow believers, *by the Spirit*.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.