

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #25 – Tuesday PM JULY 31, 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. . .

11 English Words Representing Permanent Spiritual Gifts and/or Activities			
56-57 AD Rom. 12:7-8	56 AD 1 Cor. 12:28	60-62 AD Eph. 4:11	64 AD 1 Pt. 4:11
1. service			servicing
2. teaching	teachers		
3. exhorting encouraging			
4. giving			
5. leading caring			
6. mercy			
7.	helps		
8.	administrations		
9.		evangelist	
10.		shepherd-teacher	
11.			speaking

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PERMANENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Definition of Spiritual Gift - By way of attempting an accurate definition, a gift in the spiritual sense means the Holy Spirit doing a particular service through the believer and using the believer to do it. Chafer, L. S. *Systematic theology*.

I. SERVICE

- Definition - from **διακονία** in the Greek. The supernatural ability to serve in an official or non-official capacity within a local church or ministry.

II. TEACHING

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

Along with the supernatural ability in all gifts comes the motivation from within – all the work of the Holy Spirit.

III. ENCOURAGING - EXHORTATION

- Definition - from **παρακαλέω** in the Greek. The supernatural ability to encourage fellow believers to take action in realizing God's will.

IV. GIVING –

- Definition - from **μεταδιδωμι** in the Greek. The supernatural ability to effortlessly give liberally in grace with faith from one's abundance.

- - Points of Doctrine - -

1. The protocol for giving is the same for all believers with or without the gift (**Phil 2:13 cf. 2 Cor 9:7; 1 Cor 12:7**).

2 Cor 9:6-7 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2. The difference is the spiritual gift of giving functions in the superlative.

Superlative: **1**: of, relating to, or constituting the degree of grammatical comparison that denotes an extreme or unsurpassed level or extent **2 a**: surpassing all others: SUPREME **b**: of very high quality: EXCELLENT **3**: EXCESSIVE, EXAGGERATED ¹

3. There is no guarantee of personal material blessing for the one who gives other than God multiplying the means to keep on giving.

Giving to accumulate material wealth is the carnal believer's motivation, NOT the grace oriented spiritual believer's motivation.

4. The purpose in God multiplying the believer's seed is for the believer to have an abundance to sow (**2 Cor 9:8-11**).

2 Cor 9:8-11 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; ⁹ as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." ¹⁰ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; ¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Sowing: To give away, disperse; to put into the field (ministry) that God has led you to (where you are being spiritually fed); providing for the needs of the saints.

5. Giving should be preceded with prayer and the Spirit's leading.

- The Lord will always make these matters apparent to you through the bearing witness ministry of the Spirit.
- Giving can be spur of the moment for the willing soul!

2 Cor 8:16-17 But thanks be to God who puts the same **earnestness** on your behalf in the heart of Titus. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

- **Earnestness** – **σπουδή** – **SPOUDE** – “Eagerness; a purposed mentality; zeal”

¹Merriam-Webster, I. (1996, c1993). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. Includes index. (10th ed.). Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster.

Note that it was God who places earnestness!

➤ **Puts** – **διδωμι** – **DIDOMI** – “To give”

2 Cor 8:1, 4 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, . . . **4 begging** us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

Begging for the honor to give with great encouragement.

God the Holy Spirit working in the Macedonians in (vv. 1-5) and working in Titus as well (v. 16) . . .

¹⁶ But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness **on your behalf** in the heart of Titus.

God works in the heart of believers through the bearing witness ministry of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **On your behalf** - God was doing this work for the benefit of fellow believers.

¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal [**παράκλησις** – “request”], but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

6. Giving should function apart from solicitation, advertising, and “Madison Avenue” gimmicks (**2 Cor 8:3; 9:7**).

2 Cor 8:3; 9:7 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord. ⁷ . . . not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

7. Giving is always from one’s abundance, not the lack thereof (**2 Cor. 8:12**).

2 Cor 8:12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

8. Giving requires faith in God to re-supply the means to give in the future as God prospers (**2 Cor. 9:10-11; Phil 4:19**).

2 Cor 9:10-11 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Phil 4:18-19 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

9. Grace oriented giving is a well-pleasing sacrifice to God that reaps a bountiful spiritual harvest (**Phil 4:18 cf. 2 Cor. 9:10-11**).

2 Cor 9:10-11 “. . . increase the harvest of your righteousness; ¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.”

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