

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #55 – Sunday AM1 October 14, 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).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Ephesians 4:1-16 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit [*a unity produced by God the Holy Spirit*] in the bond of peace. ⁴*There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us **grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.***

To reach Spiritual Maturity and experience the “fullness of Christ,” being manifested in you by God the Holy Spirit who indwells you, as you walk dependently on Him

“Grace was given” so that the “hope of our calling” would be realized.

⁸Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, **AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.**”

Some gifts are only given to men.

¹¹ And He gave some *as apostles*, and some *as prophets*, and some *as evangelists*, and some *as pastors and teachers*,



- These gifts were given in order that the purpose of our calling might be reached - *Spiritual Maturity*.
- Evangelist and pastor-teacher are the only two gifts still functioning today.
 - > The evangelist preaches the Gospel.
 - > The pastor-teacher shepherds the sheep with the Word of God as it is taught.

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- For the equipping of the **saints** – **HAGIOS** – “*Saints*” by the work of Christ; those who have believed in Jesus Christ.
- **HAGIAZO** - “*to set apart; to dedicate*”

God made you a *Saint* the moment you believed in His Son.

He set you apart to be used by Him for His service

- Saints require some equipping – that is why He “*gave some as pastor-teachers.*”
- **Equipping** – **καταρτισμός** – **KATARTISMOS** – “*Equipment; equipping or preparation*”

POD: Christ gave the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher to equip believers through training and discipline.

That training and discipline *primarily* occurs as the Word of God is taught.

- For the work of service - the purpose or desired result of all equipping; functioning of your spiritual gift.

POD: As the believer is equipped by God through the pastor-teacher to function in his spiritual gift, and begins to function in a niche, the body is strengthened.

Your gift supplies a service to the body of Christ.

When your gift functions, fellow believers within the body benefit from your service.

Fellow believers may or may not actually see what you do!

- To the building up of the body of Christ – The process of constructing something or building something.



Body of Christ (analogous to building); a local church or ministry (a building within a building)

- In the building process, the pastor has to cooperate with his Boss - The Designer - The One who created the Blue Prints.
- God did this in eternity past.
- He designed the flock for the pastor to shepherd; He designed the ministry.

- The pastor-teacher is accountable to God as the shepherd of the flock.

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

The question is not whether you have reached maturity or not, but whether you are maturing or not!

POD: The believer cannot attain to the hope of his calling, once he's been called by God through the evangelist, apart from submitting to the authority of a pastor-teacher.

Romans 13:1-2 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

How much more important is God's realm of spiritual authority?

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Attaining spiritual maturity requires submitting to the leadership of a pastor.

Ephesians 5:21 “. . . be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

- “Be in subjection to”
- The command relates back to “keep on being filled with the Spirit;” therefore, God the Holy Spirit enables the believer to submit to authority in the local church when the believer is walking by the Spirit.
- “In the fear of Christ.” - - ***By means of reverence or respect for Christ***

POD: It is by means of reverence for your Savior's will that you are able to submit via the filling of the Spirit (**Eph. 5:18 cf. 21**).

Points of Doctrine -

1. It is God's directive will for the Christian to submit to authority in the local church (**Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:5; Heb. 13:7, 17**).

Who must you submit to? _____

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