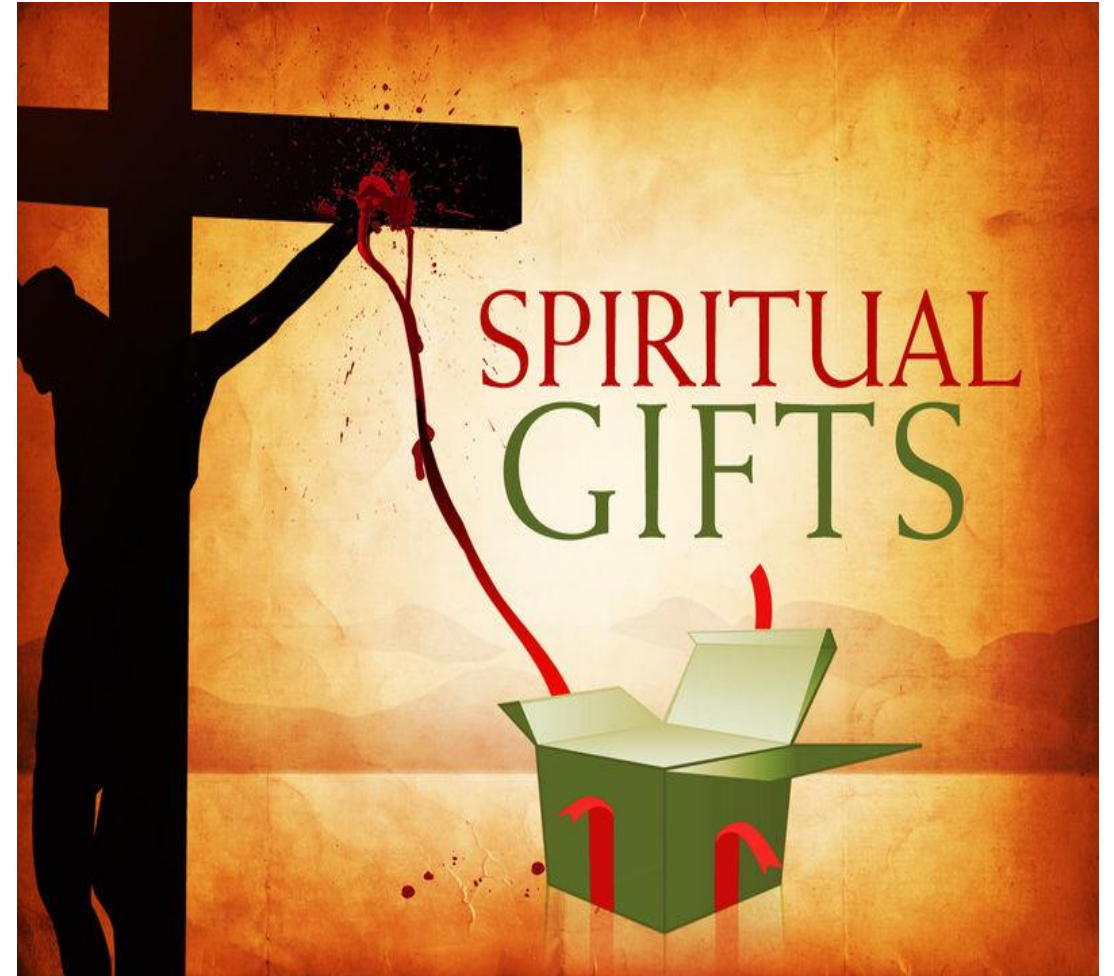


What every Christian Ought To Know.

#10 HOW TO DISCOVER HIS SPIRITUAL GIFT.

- Notice (Rom. 12:6-8) *“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 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.”*



AN INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Notice (1 Cor. 12:1) *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.”* (IGNORANT)
- A spiritual gift may be linked to a “natural” talent, but it goes beyond natural talents. A Christian is **“SUPERNATURAL.”** These gifts are not **EARNED**, nor are they **LEARNED**. They are the Supernatural **“GIFTS OF GRACE.”**
- Nothing has been more abused in our modern time, and nothing more misunderstood in Evangelicalism than this whole area of **“SPIRITUAL GIFTS.”** And it is critical that we understand it because it is absolutely vital to the life of the Church. There is nothing that is any more vital, apart from the divine energy of God Himself, than the ministry that the believers have by way of their spiritual gifts, or their endowments from God for ministry.

THE SPEAKING GIFTS-PROPHECY

- **Prophecy**: Notice (Rom. 12:6) "if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;"
- To often prophecy is misunderstood. It's basically the gift of **PREACHING**, of *proclaiming*. There are people who believe that it is a supernatural apostolic gift that has ceased. That is simply **NOT TRUE** because of its inclusion in **(Rom. 12)**, and **(1 Cor.)** where the sign gifts are listed.
- Now **PROPHECY** is a very important gift, In fact, the apostle Paul in writing to the Corinthians said the most about prophecy and tongues. The reason being if you'll remember, **TONGUES** was being **ABUSED** and **PROPHECY NEGLECTED**.
- But it's an essential gift. Do you remember **(1 Cor. 14: 1-5)** "**Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy.** **2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit, he speaks mysteries.**

- **3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.” Paul really puts the emphasis on the IMPORTANCE OF PROPHECY.**
- Now the **GREEK TERM “PROPHECY”** tells us exactly what it means. It is the term *prophteia*. The verb is *prophteu*. It simply means to **“SPEAK PUBLICLY, TO SPEAK BEFORE, LITERALLY.”** Before what? Before people, to get up and speak. That's all it means. There's Nothing mystical, or supernatural in that sense. It simply means to speak before people. It is the gift of public speaking.


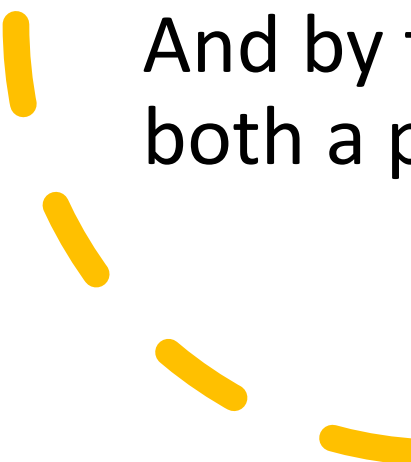
THE SPEAKING GIFTS-TEACHING

- So, what's the difference between **TEACHING** and **PREACHING**?

It's hard to recover all the distinctions in the *Greek* terms, but we know this, that the speaking publicly gift, the “**prophteia**” gift, the proclaiming gift, the gift of the herald, if you will, like **JOHN THE BAPTIST**, who was a prophet and heralded the coming of the Messiah, the proclaiming gift is distinct from the “**DIDACTIC**” gift. (Rom. 12:6; **prophteia**)(12:7; **didactic**)

- Here the word is **DIDASK** from which we get “**DIDACTIC.**” The implied meaning of this word is the “**formal, systematic training or teaching.**” It is used, for example, of training a choir over the weeks and the weeks until finally they have mastered what they have been trained to learn and they are ready to perform. The “**GIFT OF PREACHING**” is a one-time (**one sermon at a time**) proclamation, an announcement, a heralding of the biblical truth.

- The gift of **“TEACHING”** is the function of systematically training people, taking them from one point to another systematically. It can refer to a teacher in a seminary or a Bible college or a Bible fellowship teacher. It can refer to someone who disciples a person one-on-one, someone who carries them from point A to point B to point c. It is the **“ministry of leading someone along in the systematic understanding of the teaching of the Word of God.”**
- The early church met ***every day***. (Acts 2:42) says they were continually together in the apostles' **“DOCTRINE.”** There was a didactic exercise going on where the church came together to analyze and systematize the Word of God. And that's what we're called to do in (Matt. 28,) ***“go into all the world, and make disciples of all men, teaching them,*** (didactically, systematically instructing them in an increasing understanding of the Word of God,) ***teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”***

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- It is undeniable that **PAUL** had the gift of **“TEACHING.”** Paul was not only a teacher. But he could **PROCLAIM** as well. He could also systematically impart truth. Anyone who reads Romans, knows that Paul was a teacher. He is the **SYSTEMATIZER** of all systematizers. And that's what he says in (2 Tim. 1:11,) ***"I am appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher."*** He uses all **three** words to describe himself. And by the way, it's not totally uncommon for a person to be both a preacher and a teacher in God's design. Paul was that.
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- **JESUS CERTAINLY HAD IT.** You remember on the road to Emmaus, (Luke 24,) He (Jesus) opened the Scriptures and expounded. The word "**EXPOUNDED**" is? *Diermneu*, from which we get "**HERMENEUTICS,**" thorough interpretation. *Dia* adds an intensity. "**He thoroughly interpreted the Scriptures.**" That's the teaching gift, to fully interpret, to thoroughly interpret the Scriptures so that it's understandable, systematic feeding of the Word of God.
- Where a "**PASTOR**" must be evaluated is on the basis of whether or not he faithfully, systematically exposit to his people the Word of God. I'm not sure that all are doing that?
- **ERIC FIFE** once said, "If the study is a lounge, the pulpit is an impertinence." And if you don't have the gift of teaching, LEAVE IT ALONE! Notice (James. 3:1) "***Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.***" Greater condemnation, don't be in a hurry to be a teacher. You better know that God has "**CALLED**" you and "**GIFTED**" you for the task.

- **PROPHECY**-(Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10)

A person with this gift has the God given ability to **“PUBLICLY SPEAK FOR GOD.”** This involves both **“Foretelling,** and **Forth Telling,”** They declare the truth for the purposes of:

- **EDIFICATION**: to **build someone up.**

- **EXHORTATION**: to challenge someone to **fire them up.**

- **COMFORT**: to find the hurting and **hold them up.** This person is able to discern right from wrong.

- **OPPORTUNITIES**: Preaching, Community, National concern, Finance Comm., Search Committee.

- **TEACHING**-(Rom. 12:7)

Those with this gift know how to clarify truth, you like to study and discover Insights of why facts are true. You like to mine nuggets from the word of God and share them with the people of God.

- **OPPORTUNITIES**: Pastor, Bible fellowship teacher, V.B.S., Men’s/women’s ministry, Youth/Children’s ministry.

- **EVANGELISTS**-(Eph. 4:11)

Those with this gift can comfortably share their **testimony** and the **Gospel** with the hope of leading the sinner to salvation. In the early church this office had the same responsibility as the Pastor except they usually went to places where Christ had never been mentioned. They resembled a Missionary in the field.

- **OPPORTUNITIES**: Pastor, Preacher, Visitation, Outreach, and Missions.

- **EXHORTATION**-(Rom. 12:8)

This person has the ability to stimulate people in their faith. They lead others to love Jesus more. They have the ability to **ENCOURAGE**. Man, every church needs more encouragers. We need more like Barnabas.

- **OPPORTUNITIES**: Preacher, Counseling, Crises center, Music ministry, witnessing, Evangelism.

- **WISDOM**-(1 Cor. 12:8)

This doesn't just mean your intelligent. It's not even mere common sense. Wisdom is seeing life from God's point of view. It's being able to know the mind of Holy Spirit through the truth of God's Word, and properly apply it to any given situation.

OPPORTUNITIES: Pastor, Church leaders, Deacon, teacher, Counselors, women's shelter, crises center, nursery.

- **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**.-(1 Cor. 12:10)

This gift often goes hand and hand with "**WISDOM.**" This person has the ability to understand that not everything that is spiritual is of God. They understand spiritual warfare, and the devil comes to imitate, and destroy that which is holy.

OPPORTUNITIES: Pastor, teacher, Church leaders, Counseling, Crises center, Music ministry, witnessing, Evangelism, nursery.

THE SERVING GIFTS

- **SECOND GIFT IS THE GIFT OF SERVING.**
- Paul says in verse in (Rom. 12:7), *"if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching."* **MINISTRY**, or literally, *diakonia*, the gift of the deacon the serving gift. If you have the gift of serving, **THEN SERVE**.
- It's a practical service. It's the same as the gift of **HELPS** in (1 Cor. 12:28.) *"And God has appointed in the church, first APOSTLES, second PROPHETS, third TEACHERS, then MIRACLES, then gifts of HEALINGS, HELPS, ADMINISTRATIONS, various kinds of TONGUES."*
- It's the same word used in (Acts 20:35), *"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must HELP the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

- **“HELPS”** means. **“SUPPORT,”** It's a support gift, a gift of practical help, a gift of *servicing*. It could come, in a million ways, unique as each individual.
- In **(Acts 6:2)**, the apostles said, ***“It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to “serve tables.””*** Look, we need to give ourselves to serving the Word and praying, so let's get some people who can serve tables. **THE CHURCH IS DEPENDENT ON THE HELPERS.** There are myriad of support things that have to be done in the ministry. Absolutely no limit to it. **IF YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF A GIFT, THEN BE AT IT.**