

- I) V11-16 INTRO: And *He himself* gave some to be apostles, some prophets,  
some  
Paul has been writing the Ephesians concerning God's *grace gifts* to the  
church
- II) When last together we noted two basic things  
*FIRST*: That each believer has a spiritual gift  
*SECOND*: That Jesus obtained the right to give gifts by His death and  
resurrection
- III) As I mentioned, the gifts are intended for the benefit of all the body of Christ  
(1Co 12:7)
- IV) You may desire a certain gift, but it is God who determines which gifts to give  
you  
The gifts are distributed to each one individually, as God wills (1 Co  
12:11)  
Let me briefly share about spiritual gifts, giving a brief explanation
- V) In the NT, various books speak of the gifts of the Spirit  
1 Co 12:4-11, Ro 12:6-8 and 1 Pe 4 speak of Spiritual gifts and gives a  
list of the gifts
- VI) 1 Co 12:4-11 Gives a list of various gifts  
The word of wisdom: Insight that comes directly from God and ability to  
answer quickly  
The word of knowledge: The knowledge of facts beyond our normal way  
of finding out
- VII) *Supernatural* faith, healings, and the working of miracles  
This isn't saving faith, living faith, our walk of faith, or the faith to serve  
God  
It is Faith for the moment and can be part of a gift mix
- VIII) We can see this faith combining with healings and the working of miracles  
We see this in Ac 3, when Peter and John are at the temple in the hour  
of prayer  
They encountered a man who was born crippled, begging at the  
Beautiful Gate
- IX) Peter exercised faith, healing, and the working of miracles  
Ac 3:4-10 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look

at us.” So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

X) Peter exercised a gift mix: Supernatural faith, healing, and the working of miracles

XI) 1 Co 12:9 and Ro 12:6 speak of the gift of *Prophecy*

I) Prophecy in the OT primarily spoke of the revealing of future events, foretelling

In the NT it can speak of that, but also can refer to *forth-telling* God's intentions

II) Sometimes prophecy is revealed as proclaiming the gospel and exposing hearts

1 Co 14:24-25 If an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the *secrets of their hearts* are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming God is really among you!

III) 1 Co 12:10 Speaks of the gift of *discerning of spirits*

This is the ability to distinguish whether something is spiritually true or false

IV) All believers can have discernment through God's word and Spirit, developed over time

This Spiritual gift is one that gives you immediate awareness

V) Ac 8 Simon the Sorcerer tried to buy the power of the Spirit

Ac 8:23 I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity

VI) Tongues: Unlearned language, earthly or heavenly, the gives praise to God

Interpretation of tongues: Is not translation but gives the sense or meaning

V28 Helps The spiritual desire to be of help to those in need

Administration: The ability to organize and give information for more effective service

VII) Ro 12:6-8 Tells us that the gifts are exercised *in proportion to our faith*

Prophecy: We've seen this already

Ministry: Diakonian; table waiter; service in ministry

Teaching: To direct, admonish; to instruct

Exhortation: Encouragement; come alongside to comfort and implore

Giving (to share with generosity and liberality)

Leadership: To preside; to stand before (with diligence, enthusiasm, earnestness)

Mercy: Compassion; pity (with cheerfulness)

VIII) 1 Pe 4:10-11 Teaches us to minister gifts to one another as good stewards of His grace

God  
Speaks: With a knowledge that he gives out the divine utterances of

Ministers (as a deacon) With the abilities that God supplies

IX) I mentioned that we have already seen that each believer has at least one spiritual gift

I also mentioned that Jesus, by virtue of His death and resurrection, gives the gifts

X) Tonight, we will consider a *third thing* concerning *gifts* that God gives to the church

This is something that might not be recognized for *what it is*

Paul points out that ministers are gifts that God has given the church

I) This is what Paul is saying when he writes *He Himself gave some to be apostles,*

II) The thought that ministers are *grace gifts* to the church is foreign to many  
All too often pastors and leaders of the fellowship are looked at as anything but a gift!

III) Sometimes they may even be recognized as *the problem* with the church  
Unfortunately, sometimes this is true

IV) Some who occupy the office of pastor have forfeited the respect that is due the

office

This can be because they are unqualified

- V) This is why Paul would say that the overseer must be blameless (1 Ti 3:2)  
His way of life can make the gospel attractive, or undermine its work
- VI) Paul makes it clear that church leadership is a gift to the body of Christ  
It is to be valued and honored because of its eternal impact on believers
- VII) I was and remain very thankful for my Pastor Chuck Smith  
He was my spiritual father, and I loved and respected him though he did not demand it
- VIII) That was my biblical responsibility  
1 Th 5:12 Now we ask you, brothers, to *respect those who work hard among you*, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.  
1 Ti 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of *double honor*, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.  
Heb 13:17 *Obey* those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those *who must give account*. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
- IX) V11 And *He Himself* gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists  
**NOTICE:** The calling and placing into service originates with God and not man
- X) Spiritual leadership begins with the *gifting* of God, not the selection of man  
It is not something you call yourself to, but is something God calls you to
- XI) Paul gives various offices that made up the foundation of church leadership
- XII) FIRST: He speaks of *apostles* and *prophets*  
Some have asked if there are modern day apostles, and there aren't any
- XIII) Apostles normally are restricted to the original apostles, including Paul
- I) There were certain requirements that applied to the office of apostle  
They were selected by Jesus  
Jn 15:16 You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain

II) They were part of the first followers of Jesus who were witnesses of His resurrection

Ac 1:21-22 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

III) They performed miracles

2 Co 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Ro 15:18-19 I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient: in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ

IV) They wrote scripture

2 Pe 2:15-16 regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also *the rest of the Scriptures*, to their own destruction.

V) There is no biblical evidence that any of the original apostles were replaced upon death

VI) Apostles and prophets served to lay the foundations of the early church

They did this by receiving and declaring God's Word to the world  
Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and

prophets

Eph 3:4-5 you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets

VII) V11 SECOND: Prophets were initially used to communicate God's mind to the church

A prophet names Agabus is mentioned twice in the Book of Acts: 11:28, 21:10-11

He prophesied concerning a famine that would come as well as Paul's imprisonment

Neither of these groups were self-perpetuating, as God appointed both, and no longer seem to function in the *identical fashion* found in the first century church

- I) **THIRD: Evangelists (missionaries)**  
Only one is mentioned by name, Philip the evangelist (Ac 21:8)
- II) **We may not be called to the office, but we do the work of an evangelist (2 Ti 4:5)**  
All believers are not called to be evangelists, but all believers are to be witnesses!
- III) **FOURTH: Paul writes of the Pastor/teacher:**  
Pastor: Often translated *shepherd*, the one feeding and caring for God's sheep  
Teacher: Referring to *how* feeding takes place; through the teaching of the word of God
- IV) **He is gifted to feed God's people God's word, bringing them to full spiritual maturity**
- V) **V12 The pastor/teacher is given to the church for the equipping of the saints for the work**
- VI) **EQUIPPING: To restore to its original condition; to mend or make complete**  
It is a word that is used when referring to mending or repairing nets used for fishing  
Mk 1:19 When he had gone a little farther from there, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.
- VII) **V12 The pastor teacher restores through God's word and equips people for God's service**  
Evangelists bring people to Jesus; pastors equip them for the work of service to God  
By giving God's word, healing and restoration occurs and people can be used by God
- VIII) **V12 For the work of ministry**  
No one person can do all the ministry any more than one person makes a team
- IX) **For a church to be healthy, the entire church is equipped to serve the Lord**  
The Pastor's main concern should be the word of God and prayer
- X) **THE PASTOR: Must teach the entire word of God, equipping the saints**

**THE FRUIT: The Church will be healthy and service oriented**

- XI) V12 For the *edifying* of the body of Christ  
Edifying refers to developing fruitful maturing believers who serve the Lord
- XII) V13 Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God to a  
This is the purpose of God's plan for us: the unity of faith and knowledge of Jesus
- XIII) V13 To a perfect man to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ  
God's intention is for believers to become spiritually mature and developed in Jesus  
The knowledge of Jesus when received and applied results in spiritual growth
- I) God is forming us into His Son's image through internal transformation  
Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith
- II) As we live in Jesus, we are being transformed and reveal the image of God to people  
It is God's design that we would be conformed to the image of Jesus  
Ro 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to *the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (2 Co 3:18)
- III) Unity, experiential knowledge of Jesus, and a progressive spiritual maturity in Him  
These all reveal God's work in us, the church
- IV) Paul isn't speaking only of agreement, or basic unity, but the unity of *the faith*  
The *unity of the faith* speaks of the bond that exists between all who are born again
- V) QUOTE: The unity of the faith speaks of all believers sharing the *same faith in God* through Jesus, as well as sharing the same level of conviction to the *same revealed truth*
- VI) *The faith* is also used to speak of the content of doctrine that is recognized as truth  
It speaks of revealed truth that is passed on through correct teaching
- VII) It is the litmus test of whether someone is a genuine believer in Jesus

2 Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are *in the faith*; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

Col 2:6-7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in *the faith* as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

1 Pe 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in *the faith*, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

VIII) The truth that sets us free also unites us as one body in Christ

IX) The reason pastor/teachers are grace gifts to the church is very basic  
Pastor/teachers guard the sheep and feed them the truth of God's Word  
Jer 3:15 *I will give you* shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

X) These shepherds will give God's word, feeding them His wisdom and understanding

Ac 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the *word of His grace*, which is able to *build you up*, and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified

I) V14 That we should no longer be children, tossed *to and fro* and carried about with every

Teaching equips us to serve and makes us healthy protected from unhealthy doctrine

II) V14 The result will be that you are no longer tossed by error

If we are to have the unity of the faith, it will be built upon the truth of the word of God

Unity: We can be agreed on various things, even on things that are incorrect

III) There are those who like stories or entertainment: Rappelling from ceiling!

When something new is introduced, they eat it up quickly

Like a baby, they put anything into their mouth (Patrick and the snail)

IV) V14 False teachers introduce error and manipulate, giving error disguised as truth

This is intended to undermine the gospel and bring people into bondage

V) The antidote for this is reading and remaining in God's Word  
1 Pe 2:2-3 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

VI) V15 But *speaking the truth in love* may grow up in all things into Him who is the head

Instead of being tossed about by winds of doctrine, mature believers speak the truth

This speaks of preaching and teaching the truth, resisting the deceit of error

VII) By receiving God's Word through these gifts, we spiritually mature

As we grow, we love the truth, and speak it with boldness

1 Th 2:3-4 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

VIII) V16 From whom the whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies

ULTIMATELY: We all do our share and we all pull our own weight

The church and ministry ceases being a "they" and "their" and becomes an us and ours

The children become our children, the ministers become our ministers, the pastor becomes our pastor, and the church becomes our church