

Spiritual Gifts – Part Three

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹ To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰ To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹ But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹ But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

There are 19 spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, 13 of them are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.

In this passage we are told,

1 Corinthians 12:7 – “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal”

In other words, everyone in the church should profit in some way from our spiritual gift. I profit from the work of my intestines. I profit from the work of my teeth. I profit from the work of my glands. I profit from the work of the hairs in my nose and ears.

In some way, this local church should be profiting from your exercising your spiritual gift.

1 Corinthians 12:11 – “But all these (Spiritual gifts) worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

It is an honor to function well in the roles we are assigned. They are Spirit-given abilities for Christian service. There is not just one gift, but many. Because of their supernatural source, nature, and purpose, gifts are to be distinguished from natural talents.

1 Peter 4:10 – “As **every man hath received the gift**, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

To understand these gifts, I am going to approach this subject as Paul did when addressing the church at Ephesus.

“For other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” – 1 Corinthians 3:11

He wrote, in Ephesians 4:11-12

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

In other words, as God’s church was build upon the Lord Jesus Christ. And upon him the Apostles and Prophets laid the groundwork.

Acts 2:42 – “And they continued stedfastly in the **apostles’** doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ And fear came upon every

soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the **apostles.**”

Then there were evangelists, teachers and pastors to equip the believers followed by the saints doing the work of the ministry.

Apostleship:

Those given the ability to lay the foundation for the Church through the ministry of the Word.

Apostleship refers to an office that I believe died out when the apostles passed away or when the church was firmly planted.

Here is my reasoning: The Greek word “*apostolos*” means “one sent forth.” It is found 75 times in the New Testament in 19 of the 27 NT books.

It has a restricted use:

1. It is used of the 12 Apostles plus Matthias.

It is defined as those who accompanied Jesus from the baptism of John the – Acts 1:21,22

“Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.”

a. The Apostles laid the structural foundation of the church like opening the Gospel to the Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles.

- b. They had power to work miracles (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 8:18; 2 Cor. 12:12; Hebrews 2:4)
- c. They will one day sit on 12 thrones in judgment of the 12 tribes of Israel (Luke 22:29,30)
- d. Their names will be inscribed on the 12 foundations of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:14)

This specific type of apostle is not present in the church today. The qualifications of this type of apostle were:

(1) to have been a witness of the resurrected Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1),

(2) to have been explicitly chosen by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:15), and

(3) to have the ability to perform signs and wonders (Acts 2:43; 2 Corinthians 12:12).

The responsibility of the twelve apostles, laying the foundation of the church, would also argue for their uniqueness. Two thousand years later, we are not still working on the foundation.

Broader uses of the term:

Beyond the unique twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, there were also apostles in a generic sense.

1. Barnabus – Acts 14:4, 14

2. James – Gal. 1:19

3. Silas & Timothy – 1 Thess. 1:1; 2:6

4. Andronicus and Junia – Romans 16:7

5. Paul – Romans 1:1

So, there definitely seems to be room for the term *apostle* being used to refer to someone besides the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. Anyone who was “sent” could be called an apostle.

What exactly would be the role of an apostle outside that of the twelve apostles? That is not entirely clear. From the definition of the word, the closest thing today to an apostle, in the general sense, is a missionary. A missionary is a follower of Christ who is sent out with the specific mission of proclaiming the gospel. A missionary is an ambassador of Christ to people who have not heard the good news.

There are some today who are seeking to restore the position of apostle. This is a dangerous movement. Frequently, those claiming the office of apostle seek authority equal to, or at least rivaling, the authority of the original twelve apostles. There is absolutely no biblical evidence to support such an understanding of the role of apostle today. This would fit with the New Testament’s warning against false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13).

Prophecy:

The ability to proclaim or preach the Word of God. It is composed of two parts: forth telling and preaching.

Examples of forth telling in the OT

Ex. 4:14-16; 7:1 -- Aaron forth-telling for Moses.

(These men did not merely foretell the future but forth-told God's message, which concerned itself with the past, present and the future.)

Isaiah 6; Jeremiah 1:4-40; Exodus 3:1-9; 1 Samuel 3
– They received revelation from God by dreams, visions or verbal communication.

Exodus 7:8-13; 20-25; 1 Samuel 3:15-21 – They acted consciously, not in some trance.

Ezekiel 24:3-15; 15:1-8; Jer. 18:1-6; 19:1,2, 10, 11 – They often used a graphic object lesson to emphasize God's message.

Jonah 3:1-10; Jer. 18:1-6 – Their message was primarily reformative

Deut. 18:9-12, 20-22

Deut. 18:9 – “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, ¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. ¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

²⁰ But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. ²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? ²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Their character was godly, when they spoke they were 100% accurate (to be less than 100% accurate they were to be dismissed as a prophet and not listened too). They pointed God's people to the true God.

Prophets instructed, warned, exhorted, promised, rebuilt. The future was often part of their prophetic utterance. Their emphasis was historical, practical and was relevant to contemporary conditions.

New Testament examples of Prophets:

- a.** Acts 11:27,28 – Agabus predicts death through-out the known world via famine.
- b.** Acts 21:11 – Ababus warns Paul of persecution
- c.** Acts 13:1 – Antioch had certain prophets
- d.** Acts 15:32 – Judas and Silas being prophets exhorted the brethren
- e.** Acts 21:9 – Philip's daughters were prophetesses

- f. 1 Corinthians 19:3,4 – In Corinth prophecy seemed to be the delivery of an inspired message or revelation for the purpose of edifying.
- g. Eph. 2:20 – The church was built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. (Eph. 3:5; 4:11 clarifies Eph. 2:20 for us. Paul was not talking of O.T. prophets here in Eph. 2:20, but of his contemporaries).
- h. 1 Thess. 5:20 – Paul commands the church, “Despise not prophecies.”

God’s revelation has been finished and the Bible is our all-sufficient guide today. We each have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which illuminates and applies God’s Word, whereas in the O.T. the saints did not have this privilege.

Until the completion of the N.T. during the apostolic age, prophets gave necessary special revelation and reliable guidance. Since the completion of the Bible (in which divine revelation is once and for-all written) and the establishing of God’s church, the gift of prophecy as described in the Old and New Testaments seems to be absent in this church age.

GIFTS FOR THE PROTECTION AND TEACHING OF THE SAINTS

Word of Wisdom and Knowledge: The ability to know truth by the impression of the Holy Spirit? or the ability to study and understand truth and then apply God’s truth to life.

Discernment of Spirits: The ability to discern the spirits of truth and error. They have the capacity to determine whether a teacher, prophet, or a preacher, is speaking under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, or in his own human spirit. In the early church, this gift was imperative. There was no organized New Testament written as yet they had the Old Testament scrolls. But they need to discern right teaching. They had the Judaized, Gnostic, False Apostles and many more.

Pastoring: The ability to care for a man's spiritual needs through teaching to Word of God. The ability to nurture others in truth.

Teaching: The ability to analyze and interpret God's truth and communicate it clearly and systematically.

Evangelism: The ability to present Christ to people in such a way that they usually respond by faith.

GIFTS OF SERVICE

Have you ever watched a one-man band. He has the bass drum strapped to his back. A string instrument is attached to his should. A cable is attached to his foot so when he moves his foot the cable moves the drumstick that will hit the bass drum strapped on his back.

He has cymbals strapped to his knees so he can slang them together as he dances. He has a harmonica hung around his

neck, an accordion is hung between his hands, a horn or a trumpet is suspended near his lips and a washboard is strapped to his side. When everything is ready he comes out on stage singing, dancing, and playing all the various instruments at once. It is a comical sight. The music and dancing is fair but it cannot be compared to an orchestra.

The church is not a one-man band, but when few exercise their spiritual gifts it often looks like one. We are to be like a orchestra all working together to make beautiful music.

In Acts 6:1-4 the apostle announced their need for service gifts. They realized they could not do everything.

“And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. ² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. ³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

The apostles defined their prime gift as teaching the Word of God and Prayer. In this passage, they were to appointment who would manage and oversee the people coordinate jobs set up systems, execute procedures, so that the widows would be served and their needs would be met both spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

These men served. That is why they were called deacons meeting servants they were men who held an office within the church, a job, a specific purpose, but they possessed a specific gift. Among their roles included ruling, leading, organizing,

Helps: The ability to give assistance or aid in any way that it brings strength or encouragement.

Music: The ability to express ones relationship to God through music. Six different uses of this gift mentioned in Scripture:

- a. Instrumentalists (2 Chron. 34:12)
- b. Singers (1 Chron. 15:19)
- c. Composers (2 Chron. 29:30)
- d. Choir Directors (Nehemiah 12:46)
- e. Music Instructors (1 Chron. 15:22)
- f. Making of Instruments (2 Chron. 7:6; 29:26,27)
- g. For Edification – 1 Cor. 14:26
- h. For Sharing – Col. 3:16

Craftsmanship: The ability to work with one's hands for the benefit of others. (Exodus 31:3, 6-11).

Hospitality: The ability to willingly and cheerfully have and open-door policy for meals, housing and ministry needs. (Rom. 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9; Titus 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:2; 5:10; Hebrew 13:2).

Apostleship

Prophet
Teacher
Pastor
Evangelism
Word of Wisdom
Word of Knowledge
Discerning the Spirit
Helps
Hospitality

Next week we will look at tongue and Interpreting Tongues

Miracles, Healing, faith, Showing Mercy, exhortation, giving,
ruling