

Giving/Administration

Have you ever given any thought to giving being a spiritual gift? The act of giving out of what God has given you being something that the Holy Spirit empowers you to do. To give in such a way that it brings God glory and also moves the kingdom of God forward. Or have you ever thought of giving and it gives you anxiety and worry instead of joy and freedom. What about the gift of administration? That it can be used to bring God glory by bringing order and sense to what we are to be doing with our ministries in the church. Are you allowing God to use this gift in your life to bring understanding of the gospel through systems and operations?

Welcome to week 4 of our series Know Your Role. We are looking at the gifts that God has given all of us to use to advance the kingdom and today is no different. Today, we come together to reflect on the gifts of giving and administration, two powerful tools that God has given us to help us grow in our faith and to make a difference in this world.

Giving

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth

The gift of giving is a way for us to demonstrate our trust in God, to put our faith into action, and to show our love for others. When we give generously, we are not just sharing our resources, but we are also sharing a part of ourselves. We are saying that our time, our talents, and our treasures are not our own, but they belong to God and we are using them to serve him and to help others. We see this play out in Mark 12:41-44

#Gift of giving is based on willingness not wealth

#Gift of giving is based on sacrificial obedience

#Gift of giving is based on joy not resentment

The Widow's Offering

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

When we talk about giving we normally come to this scripture to give understanding of the importance of giving back to the Lord what he gave us. But let's be honest for a minute. For how many of us the very thought of giving your last dime to the church scares you. To see the kingdom work be done through the church. Because it takes money to run the day to day of the church. Not just to pay the bills and salaries but to run the ministries that we offer here at Vertical. For example, Vkidz and Fuze. These ministries take money to be able to accomplish. From buying curriculums, supplies, snacks, opportunities to show them the gospel in such ways that it excites them. To ensure that they understand that we love them and we can give them what they will need for them to hear about Jesus on their level. Another example is benevolence. When someone calls us and is in need of assistance, whether it is shelter, food, or help with financial needs we should always be able and ready to help them. **But it takes us giving a portion of what God has given us to be able to do just that. And of course I am referring to tithing. But see, This isn't a part of the gift of giving. This is part of being in the body of Christ. The lady in Mark was willing to give all she had back to God to show her love for Him. and we are asked to give back a portion to the kingdom of God. That is part of being a believer.**

Using the gift of giving is when you are led by the spirit to give above and beyond tithes. To see the needs of others and use what God has given you to spread the love of Jesus with others. And the beauty of this gift is that it isn't just tied to just giving and using money. In Romans 12:8 we see the other ways we can use the gift of giving, **8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[a] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

The three T's. Time, Talent and Treasure. When we give our time to others we usually have to go out of our way to do so. We as working adults usually have a schedule, a way of doing things. But when the spirit moves and asks us to use our time to bring God glory it usually isn't on our schedule to do so. So many times we blow it off. But having the gift of giving time, talent and treasure is such a powerful tool in sharing the gospel. Take serving on Sundays as an example. Is it easy to show up, sing songs, hear a message and go home. Sure it is. But if you have the gift of giving, giving your time, talent and treasure to love and encourage those who attend goes a long way. To be a part of a team where when we have a first time guest come in they are loved from beginning to end. Maybe it's through the giving of time and talent on our worship team. To bring people together and closer to the throne through the talent that you have. There are other ways that you can use this gift as well.

1. Donating to charitable causes: Those with the gift of giving can donate money to charities, non-profit organizations, and community groups to support their missions and help those in need.
2. Volunteering time: The gift of giving can also involve volunteering one's time and skills to help others, such as serving at a soup kitchen, tutoring, or mentoring.
3. Helping individuals in need: Individuals with the gift of giving can help those in need by providing food, shelter, or financial assistance, either on a one-time or ongoing basis.
4. Investing in others: The gift of giving can also involve investing in others, such as funding a student's education or supporting a small business.
5. Encouraging others to give: Those with the gift of giving can inspire and encourage others to give by sharing their own experiences and the impact that giving has had on their lives.
6. Creating a culture of generosity: Individuals with the gift of giving can also work to create a culture of generosity in their community or workplace, by organizing events and initiatives that promote giving and generosity.

You see when you give in the spirit it's not out of what you're good at but what God wants to use you to do. It won't be there to bring you recognition but to bring God glory. So if you have the gift of giving it isn't something you should look over, like all gifts from God it is important to the kingdom of God. Here are some examples of people in the bible who had the gift of giving

1. Barnabas: Barnabas, a companion of the apostle Paul, is described as a generous person who sold a field and gave the money to the apostles to support the early Christian community (Acts 4:36-37).
2. Tabitha: Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, was a disciple in Joppa known for her good works and acts of charity. After her death, the widows in the community showed Peter the clothing that Tabitha had made for them (Acts 9:36-42).
3. Zacchaeus: Zacchaeus was a tax collector who had become wealthy through his job. When he met Jesus, he gave half of his possessions to the poor and promised to repay anyone he had cheated four times the amount he had taken (Luke 19:1-10).
4. The Macedonian churches: In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul praises the generosity of the Macedonian churches, who gave beyond their means to support the impoverished believers in Jerusalem.

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks

#Gift of administration sees and addresses needs

#Gift of administration unifies

#Gift of administration brings action to vision

Now, One of the other gifts we see in Romans 12:8 is Administration. This gift is given as a way for us to use our talents and abilities to serve others and to help organizations run smoothly and effectively. Some translations call this leadership or government. This gift involves the ability to manage resources, to delegate tasks, and to make decisions that benefit the greater good. It requires wisdom, vision, and a servant's heart.

When these gifts are used together, they can have a powerful impact on the world around us. They can help us to grow in our faith, to serve others, and to bring about positive change. They can help us to build strong communities, to support those in need, and to spread the love of Christ to all those around us.

Luke 14:28-30

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **29** For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, **30** saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

But, When I hear administration, one of the first things I think of is filing paperwork, organizing documents and offices, and keeping track of expenses and/or income. While all of those things are typically the responsibility of an Administrator, it goes far beyond that. Administrators are individuals with a Divine Gift to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish a vision. They possess leadership skills to both call people to their cause but also to mobilize those people into action. The gift of administration is considered a “team gift” because these individuals thrive when called to organize those with other gifts to help the Church function efficiently.

In Acts 6:1-7 we see the beginning of administration in the church. In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3** Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4** and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." **5** This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. **6** They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Because there was a great need for the widows and others in need there were men chosen for the task of making sure that they were taken care of. These men would be responsible for taking care of those in need while the apostles focused on the ministry side of things. We see this today in certain denominations called deacons or elders. We at vertical have a team of pastors who meet with elders to ensure the proper function of the church. Spiritually and financially. These are some examples of what this gift looks like throughout the church and the impact it can make

1. Organizing events and activities: Individuals with the gift of administration can plan and coordinate events, activities, and projects, ensuring that they are executed efficiently and effectively.
2. Managing teams and groups: The gift of administration is useful in managing and leading teams, delegating tasks, and ensuring that everyone works together towards a common goal.
3. Budgeting and financial management: Those with the gift of administration can use their organizational and management skills to handle budgets, finances, and other resources effectively.
4. Human resources: The gift of administration can be valuable in managing people and resources within an organization, including recruitment, training, and performance management.
5. Strategic planning: Individuals with the gift of administration can help develop and implement strategic plans that help organizations achieve their goals and objectives.

6. Problem-solving: The gift of administration can also be used to solve problems, by identifying and analyzing issues, developing solutions, and implementing them effectively.

Administrators are often seen calling volunteers to action or recruiting individuals to join a cause. They are excellent leaders and organizers and as such are excellent delegators. They can identify the gifts of other people and place them in positions to thrive not only as an individual, but also to build up the Church. These types of administrators tend to be very relational. The Bible mentions several people who demonstrated the gift of administration or leadership:

1. Joseph: Joseph, the son of Jacob, demonstrated strong administrative skills as the prime minister of Egypt. He organized the collection and distribution of food during a severe famine and managed the country's resources effectively (Genesis 41-47).
2. Moses: Moses was a leader who demonstrated administrative skills when he organized the Israelites into tribes and appointed leaders over them. He also received guidance from God on how to govern the people and settle disputes (Exodus 18:13-26).
3. Nehemiah: Nehemiah was a governor who led the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. He organized the work, assigned tasks to different groups, and motivated the workers to complete the project despite opposition (Nehemiah 2-7).
4. King David: King David was a leader who demonstrated strong administrative skills as he organized and led his army, managed the kingdom's resources, and established a strong government structure (2 Samuel 8-10).
5. Apostle Paul: Although not explicitly described as having the gift of administration, Apostle Paul demonstrated strong leadership skills in organizing and overseeing churches across different regions. He established systems for leadership, appointed overseers, and provided guidance to church leaders (1 Corinthians 12:28, Titus 1:5).

Not all administrators are out in the open, a public face representing an institution or organization. Administrators also work behind the scenes, planning events or building up their leadership team. These types of administrators tend to be more project focused. It is important to have someone who is willing to keep everything in line, budgets and such.

Invitation

So, today, let us reflect on the gifts of giving and administration, and let us ask God to help us to use these gifts for his glory. Let us be faithful stewards of all that he has given us, and let us be willing to share our time, talents, and treasures with others. May we be blessed and may we be a blessing to all those around us.

As we close we can see that these gifts have their purpose in the kingdom of God and how they can impact the lives of others around us. But the greatest gift given was the gift of salvation. The gift of knowing Jesus through his death on the cross for our sin. He paid the debt of our sins so we may have a new life in Him.

When you hear the word “giving” in church, most people go straight to tithes and offerings. Again, two very important aspects of being generous, but it goes beyond that. One of the things I learned from Donnie when it came to being a good steward of the finances God has blessed me with, was not just being faithful with the 10% [tithe], but benign faithful with the rest [90% left over]. We aren't talking about our responsibility to tithe as the spiritual gift of giving or generosity goes beyond that, so let's talk about being generous with the 90% left.

Thinking of “contributing to the needs of others” that could be a multitude of things: supporting a missionary, helping someone in need with groceries, bills, or other material needs, or as seen in the story of Mark 12:41-44 with the giving of 2 coins, she gave her last towards the greater good of the body of Christ out of all she had left, rather than the surplus of the rich.

Romans 12:7 says “a spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”
These two gifts embody that statement as you can’t really administrate yourself, nor can you give generously to yourself.