

✍ We are continuing with the topic of Spiritual Gifts, and we started last time by looking at the service gifts or support gifts. These gifts are what I call structure gifts and are analogous to the cement, wood and sheetrock of a building. They provide the support and platform for the upfront or spoken gifts. Our main ministry is a spoken ministry, a teaching, preaching, instructing ministry, Matthew 28:19-20. Our biggest job is to reach people with the truth, all other ministry and gifts are for the purpose of supporting that singular ministry. Ezekiel had a very unusual vision that relates directly to the ministry of the Church, Ezekiel 37:1-14. Ultimately, until the Word of God resurrects them, all the other ministry is moot. We have looked at the gifts of faith, healings, miracles, discerning of spirits, this week we will continue to look at these service gifts. Note, a number of these gifts are listed in places other than 1st Corinthians 12.

1. Why is there an order of the gifts?

- ✓ The order here represents the progress of these gifts as God's kingdom through the church unfolded. First, the Apostles went out preached the gospel and established churches, then the prophets and teachers rose up as God gifted people to strengthen and ground the church in the Scriptures. Then other gifts were added by the Spirit to further solidify the Church.,

2. Gift of Apostleship.

- ✓ A supernatural enabling (that is what all the gifts are; supernatural enabling's) to plant churches in pioneer areas. This gift is seen most readily today in missionaries. This is a service gift that is unusually in conjunction with a speaking gift like teaching or evangelism. Don't mix up this gift, which is still being given to individuals in the Church, with the position or office of Apostle. The office or position of being an apostle was specific to the first century and specific to gender (they were all men). Jesus called 14 individuals, one betrayed Him, two others were called after His ascension, namely, Matthias and Paul—there's was a unique call and ministry which we benefit from because we have the writings of these men contained in the New Testament. The gift of apostle or any other of the other gifts are not unique to the first century and are not gender specific.
- ✓ We need to also make a distinction between any of the gifts and offices or positions within the church structure. There is office of apostle that was unique to the first century and the gift of apostle which is given however the Spirit chooses. There is the office of pastor which is gender specific and may or may not imply his giftedness and there is the gift of pastoring which is not gender specific and is a gift given to individuals regardless of sex or title.

3. Gift of Helps or Service, 1st Corinthians 12:28 and Romans 12:6.

- ✓ This is possibly the broadest gift in terms of function and application. This gift is what its name implies, "help" in any way, at any time, under any set of circumstances to support all the other gifts. This gift fills in the gaps, it is the mortar and grout that holds all the other gifts in place. Wherever there is a gap, a person with this gift will fill it.

4. Gift of Administration or Leadership, Romans 12:8.

- ✓ Supernatural ability to lead, organize, and direct the church towards its kingdom objectives. This gift organizes and streamlines the other gifts to function efficiently.

5. Gift of Mercy, Romans 12:8.

- ✓ Supernatural ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion on the physically, mentally and emotionally weak. They are drawn to people in need much in the same way that the Good Samaritan was drawn to and helped out the man over-taken by robbers.

6. Gift of Giving.

- ✓ Supernatural ability to share one's possessions for the Lord's work liberally and sacrificially. A gift not limited to the wealthy, the Widow who gave her mite was giving sacrificially.

7. Gift of Pastoring or Shepherding.

- ✓ Divine enabling to care for a flock of God's people. This gift is employed in needs as big as an entire church congregation or small as a Sunday School class. The people are gifted to guide, feed, and protect a flock of God's people.
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