

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Silent Gifts

Text:

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps**, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone **ministers**, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 – some have speaking gifts, others have silent gifts. 2 tonight, 2 next time.

I. THE GIFT OF SERVICE, HELPS, OR MINISTERING

1 Cor. 12:28, Rom. 12:7

A. What it is.

1. **First deacons exercised gift of helps. (Acts 6:1-7)**
2. **Definition – The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by rendering practical help to people in both physical and spiritual matters.**
3. Why given?
Spirit given capacity to serve the church in any supporting role so that those with the speaking gifts have more time for the ministry of the Word. It was not that apostles were “above” waiting tables, but ministering the Word was what God gave them to do.
4. Results – Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

B. Biblical Examples

1. John Mark

Acts 13:5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had **John** as *their* assistant.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get **Mark** and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

2. Paul's team

Acts 20:4 And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

3. Stephanas

1 Corinthians 16:15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—

One translation is “**Addicted to helping the saints**”

C. Current Examples

1. VBS helper
2. Life change Group helper
3. Around church – office records, bookkeeping, library, sound, maintenance, repair of church, picking up supplies, etc. (Timothy getting Paul's books and cloak)
4. In Missions
Pastors and staff members just love to find people with the gift of service!

D. Characteristics of a person with the gift of service:

1. Is burdened with the practical needs of people and responds quickly to meet them.
2. Enjoys doing manual projects that meet practical needs.
3. Prefers to be a follower and likes to have a good leader to support.
4. Is ambitious, involved in many jobs; has difficulty saying “no.”
5. Is loyal, sincere, tolerant, and devoted.
6. Is usually easy-going, likeable, congenial, inoffensive.
7. Does not draw attention to self, but desires sincere appreciation.
8. Prefers short range goals to long range projects which cause frustration.

II. THE GIFT OF GIVING

A man was walking into the edge of the river to be baptized when he turned around to go back out saying, "Wait, I forgot to give my wallet to my wife." The pastor said, "Leave it in, I have too many church members now with unbaptized pocket books."

Someone said the most sensitive nerve in the human body is the one that leads to the pocket book.

- A. The command to give – tithe and up, proportionately – don't need gift for this
- B. The gift of giving

Romans 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Literally, give with simplicity (Rom. 12:8) Without pretense. With singleness of motive.
2. Freely
3. Not grudgingly (2 Cor. 9:7)

2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

4. As a help

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving one's material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.

C. Biblical Examples

1. **Barnabus and others**
2. **Churches of Macedonia – gave out of their own poverty. 2 Cor. 8:1-2**
3. Gift is not limited to the rich

D. Modern Examples

R. G. LeTourneau – Most American Christians have heard of R. G. LeTourneau, designer and manufacturer of heavy earth-moving equipment. His machinery transformed 5,000 acres of marshland into New York's Idlewild (now Kennedy) Airport, tore open the wilderness for the Alaskan Highway, made airstrips for the landing of the first Allied fighter planes on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, cleared the debris from bombed-out European cities after World War II.

In the early years of his business, LeTourneau went into partnership with God. By this he did not lower grace to the level of a bargain. Rather he said, "Because I believe that God wants businessmen as well as preachers to be His servants, I believe that a factory can be dedicated to His service as well as a church." In 1935 he irrevocably assigned over 90% of the company's profits to the LeTourneau Foundation, described as a "not-for-profit corporation whose income and capital can be used only for the cause of Christ" (*Moving Heaven and Earth*, Donald Ackland, Iversen-Ford Associates, N.Y., N.Y.).

E. Characteristics of a person with the gift of giving:

- 1. Is sensitive to financial and material needs, especially those others might overlook.**
- 2. Wants gift to be of high quality and to know it is used properly.**
- 3. Prefers to give quietly and without the pressure of appeals.**
- 4. Usually is not the first to give, but will wait for a project to prove itself.**
- 5. Makes quick financial decisions, but will often depend on spouse's counsel to confirm amount of gift.**
- 6. Often has the capacity to make money, as well as give generously, but not always.**
- 7. Usually is quiet, lighthearted, well-organized, and self-disciplined.**
- 8. Likes for gift to motivate others to give.**

Conclusion: Our job is to get people to Jesus. Some by speaking gifts, telling the gospel. Some by helping gifts. Some by great giving. Lost friend, we want to help you come to Jesus.