

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

More Silent Gifts

Introduction: These silent gifts probably observed more in this Sunday PM group.

I. THE GIFT OF GOVERNMENT OR ADMINISTRATION

1 Cor. 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.

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by organizing, promoting, and leading the various ministries of the church.

A. This is the gift of leadership.

1. Counter example – Diotrephes – 3 John 9-10 ⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. ¹⁰ Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church.
 - a. Loved to be first
 - b. Arrogant
 - c. Asserted authority without yielding to authority

B. The gift of leadership is a service gift.

1. **Gift not given to elevate person or build pride.** Priesthood of believers. 1 Peter 2:5,9
2. Gift not given as sign of “quality.” **Leaders are not selected because they are better.** Paul – chief of sinners, persecuter of church
3. **Leaders are first and foremost servants.**
 - a. Jesus – Mt. 20:25-28 ²⁵ But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - b. Titles for major offices of church all imply service
 - 1) **Pastor – shepherd**
 - 2) **Minister – servant**
 - 3) **Deacon – one who serves**

If a man or woman exercises gift of leadership, he must do so as a servant. He does it not to enjoy having power and authority but in order to help. There is no self gratification motive.

C. Gift of leadership involves responsibility over something.

1. Deacons – responsibility over food distribution

2. Elders – responsibility over their churches

If widows didn't get food, apostles held deacons responsible. If church didn't do well, Paul held elders responsible.

Organization Head – you are a leader. You are responsible.

Life Change Group Leader – you are a leader. You are responsible.

Ministry Team Leader – you are a leader. You are responsible.

Not because you are better, not because you do it alone. But because God made you a leader and gives you responsibility.

D. Gift of leadership involves decision making.

1. How to do it.

a. Not by bossing

b. By tension of leadership. (string to box) 2 things increase tension. Leader pulls to fast. Somebody drags feet.

c. By example.

Showing someone how to do something is always more effective than just telling them

I could tell you, "Take any integer and multiply it by its multiplicative inverse to show that the product is the multiplicative identity." How many of you could do that.

Here, instead of just telling you, let me put it in power point.

Take any integer and multiply it by its multiplicative inverse to show that the product is the multiplicative identity.

Now, how many can do that?

So let me show you an example: $3 \times 1/3 = 1$.

Here is another example: $4 \times 1/4 = 1$.

Now, how many of you could do that with the number 5?

E. Characteristics of a person with the gift of leadership or administration

1. **Is goal oriented, dreams big dreams, moves quickly from a completed task to a new one.**

2. **Is serious minded, highly motivated, often a perfectionist; wants to win, sometimes overly competitive.**

3. **Can see the overall picture and classify long-range goals; does not like the trivial.**

4. **Organizes the project for which he is responsible.**

5. **Is a good motivator, dominant in relationships; often hides his emotions.**

6. **Delegates wherever possible, but knows when not to delegate.**

7. **Makes quick decisions; concerned for welfare of total project.**

8. **Does not procrastinate, but works best under pressure; sometimes becoming a workaholic.**

II. THE GIFT OF MERCY

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

Illustration of the hospital visitor with Dr. Barnhouse p.

Definition: The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by identifying with, comforting, and ministering to those who are in distress.

- A. **The Gift of mercy involves feeling pity, having compassion.** Not brief stirring of emotions. Deep down compassion, supernatural in origin, divine love. Being drawn to one who is suffering to such an extent, you do something about it!
- B. **Involves action**
1. James 2:15-16 ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?
 2. Jesus – "saw crowds, was moved with compassion."

Same word in Romans for mercy was used in gospels as blind men cried out "Have mercy on me." They didn't want sympathy, they wanted action.

C. Done cheerfully (Rom. 12:8)

D. A stepping stone to evangelism

1. During the Italian occupation of Ethiopia many years ago, those who were imprisoned were provided no food. Friends or relatives had to bring them food or they did not eat. The Christian prisoners were so well fed by their brothers and sisters in the Lord that they had food to share, and they did. This caused many to inquire and ultimately come to Christ.
2. The same is true of our Jerusalem mercy ministries.
3. The same is true for the Haiti mission as well.

E. Characteristics of a person with the gift of mercy

1. Is sympathetic and sensitive especially to the poor, aged, ill, and underprivileged.
2. Is good-natured, loving, warm, outgoing
3. Is responsive, patient, tolerant.
4. Is self-sacrificing.
5. Is usually more subjective than objective, making decisions according to feelings; impulsive.
6. Attracts people who are hurting or rejoicing.
7. Good at remembering names and faces.
8. Usually soft-spoken and low keyed; but expressive of personal feelings.

Conclusion: Thank you God for leaders and compassionate people with the wonderful gift of mercy.