



TOPIC: RELEASING THE GIFTS PART 2

Quotes:

“For the church to grow, the pastor must give up the ministry and the people must give up the leadership.” Rick Warren

“Rare is the church today that advocates that the professional pastor or staff should do all the ministry” Peter C. Wagner

TEXT 1: ROMANS 1:11

*I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— **12**that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*

TEXT 2: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

By Networking the Right People... In the Right Places... For the Right Reasons

Believers flourish in their service to Christ when they are serving in the area of their giftedness and in conjunction with their God-given uniqueness.

¹ All definitions taken from Peter C. Wagner's book on Spiritual Gifts, the notes on the gifts researched by Rev'd Julio R Mekki, MTh, MIOD

Our prayer is that we will have through this training, fresh servants entering the work force of the church every term and every year, confident of their giftedness and eager to invest them in the service for God's glory.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

A Spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit enabling one to minister to the needs of Christ's body, the church (1 Cor.12:7-11, 14:3,12,17)

THE SPECIAL ABILITY THAT GOD GIVES TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

A GIFT OF GRACE.

Definition of Spiritual Gifts:

A Spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the Church.

PURPOSE:

Given to equip the Church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns.

In 1 Cor.1:7 Paul tells the Corinthians, "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" And here he connects the possession of spiritual gifts and their situation in the history of

redemption (waiting for Christ's return), the suggestion being that gifts are given to the Church for a period between Christ's **ascension** and his **return**.

Gifts are tools for Ministry not a sign of maturity so all believers are given them even immature ones like the Corinthians. Giving a foretaste of what is to come and thereby enriching believers.

Gifts are given as tools of Ministry and they are not necessarily related to Christian Maturity. Every believer both the mature and the immature has received spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:7, 11; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor.1:7)

We look at Spiritual gifts against the Fruit of the Spirit, because gifts have to be understood in their proper context. That is why the Apostle Paul interrupts his discussion of spiritual gifts with chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians, his intention is to put the entire discussion in its proper perspective.

It is not enough simply to "seek the greater gifts" (12:31a). Paul makes it clear that one must "seek after love" 1 Cor.13, 1 Cor.14:1, Galatians 5:22ff, Eph.5:18) thus pairing proper goals with proper motives.

Without love the gifts are without value (13:1-3). Paul tells us that love is superior to all gifts. So it is important to act in love than have all the gifts.

The superiority of love is further demonstrated by this fact, that love endures forever and all gifts are but temporary.

Our present knowledge and prophesying are partial and imperfect (v.9), but someday something perfect will come to replace them (v.10).

Read vv.11-12, the analogy of a child and the indirect and imperfect will be replaced by the direct and perfect.

In his continued argument Paul connects the function of prophecy with the time of its cessation. Prophecy is the greater gift but it only fills a certain need now, but does so only imperfectly, but when the “perfect” comes prophecy will cease and will become obsolete or useless.

All gifts will pass away but love will never pass away, there was love before the foundation of the world, and in creation God showed his love and power (Living beings) and throughout the OT God constantly showed his unfailing love to a rebellious nation, Israel and other nations,

In Christ God demonstrated his love toward us, and because God is love. In heaven his love will permeate.

DIFFERENT VIEWS AND WHERE WE STAND!

Cessationist debate. (Did some gifts cease)

1. **Reformed & Fundamentalists Evangelicals** say no more need for the gifts
2. **Middle of the road Evangelicals** are undecided and say one cannot conclude either way from looking at Scripture.

3. **Charismatics and Pentecostal** say yes all gifts are applicable but the danger is they tend not to take careful study of scripture to deliver balanced teaching

The answer to this question is in 1 Cor.1:7, that the gift are needed from the period between the Ascension and the Return of Christ.

Where in Scripture Do we find them??

1 Cor.12:28

- first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then gifts of **healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.**

1 Cor.12:8-10

- word of **WISDOM** through the Spirit, word of **KNOWLEDGE** through the same Spirit, **FAITH** by the same Spirit, **GIFTS OF HEALINGS** by the same Spirit, **WORKING OF MIRACLES**, to another **PROPHECY**, to another **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**, to another **DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES**, to another the **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES.**

Ephesians 4:11

- **APOSTLES, some PROPHETS, some EVANGELISTS, AND SOME PASTORS –TEACHERS**

Romans 12:6-8

...if **PROPHECY**, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; or **MINISTRY**, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who **TEACHES**, in **TEACHING**; he who **EXHORTS**, in **EXHORTATION**; he who **GIVES**, with liberality; he who **LEADS**, with diligence; he who shows **MERCY**, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor.7:7

For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

Marriage

Celibacy

1 Peter 4:11

If anyone speaks (**Covering several gifts**), *let him speak* as the oracles of God.

If anyone ministers (**Covering several gifts**), *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.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

SIGN GIFTS (SESSION 2)

4. **Ekballism**: DELIVERANCE

"...to cast out demons and evil spirits" in the name of Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, this gift is known as *exorcism*, means to extract by an oath. In spiritual terms this infers the incantations (Invocations and Charm) and spells used by pagans to extract the demonic.

Scripturally, this term is only used in relation to the demonic to describe the sons of Sceva's work (Acts 19:13).

Wherever Jesus, an apostle, or any other believer casts out a demon,

The greek term is *ekballo*, which means to eject, pluck out, or send away.

This term is command-driven, and not dependent upon a formula.

In Christian life, the term **ekballism** demonstrates the power we have in Jesus, and minimizes the need for a formula to accomplish Christ's work.

Ekballism is a term to separate the power of Christ from the confusion of spiritism around the world.

Jesus gave His apostles the authority to cast out demons (Mark 3:14, 15; 6:13), and the gift was used during the earliest days of the church (Acts 15:16; 16:16-18).

Although western society often excuses spiritual powers with rational explanations, there is no reason to believe that evil spirits are no longer at work in our world.

However, those with this gift should be discerning in their use of it, and not develop an excessive preoccupation with demons and evil spirits.

The Christian focus should be on the victory won in Jesus Christ, and

the salvation and abundant life He offers, not the ever-present forces of evil in this world.

Scriptures: Matthew 12:22-32; Luke 10:12-20; Acts 8:5-8; 16:16-18; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 6:10-12.

9. HEALING:

... to serve as human intermediaries through whom God cures illness and restores health apart from the use of natural means.

Many attribute the occurrence of supernatural healing to a certain level of faith. Those who have this gift must use it knowing that the healing only occurs within the limits of God's will, and therefore miraculous healing will not always occur.

Those with this gift must also recognize that God does often choose to use medical science to bring about healing in a person, therefore doctors and medicine are not obsolete.

Miraculous healing will only occur if it will bring the greatest glory to God and effectively grow His church. *Scripture: Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16; 9:32-35; 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28.*

Note on *Healing* and *Miracles*: The gifts of *healing* and *miracles* are often combined, since they both involve the occurrence of events beyond natural means.

However, one is focused on the *healing* of the human body, while the other is focused on other *miraculous* events that alter the ordinary course of nature. These may in fact be two separate manifestations of the same gift. **See Note on Extraordinary Gifts (listed with *Miracles*).**

23. TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:

- (a) to speak to God in a language that they have never learned and/or
- (b) to receive and communicate a message of God to his people through a divinely anointed utterance in a language they never learned."
- (c) "The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues."

Tongues must be recognized as not necessarily being *the* sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit or even as evidence of *the* filling of the Holy Spirit.

Tongues, like any other spiritual gift, is given by God to whomever He chooses to be used to His glory and the edification of the Church. 1 Corinthians 13:1 suggests that there are two forms of the gift of tongues: tongues of men and tongues of angels.

This would mean that the speaker could be speaking in an earthly language, or in a language beyond normal human understanding.

Scriptures: Mark 16:17; Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:10,28; 13:1; 14:13-19, 26-28, 39.

Note on *Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues:* When used in a group setting, an interpretation must take place, or else the one speaking the tongue should remain silent. If a tongue is spoken without an interpretation, the speaker is edified. If the tongue is interpreted, it is for the edification of the body. **See Note on Extraordinary Gifts (listed with *Miracles*).**

17. MIRACLES:

... to serve as human intermediaries through whom God performs powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

This gift is manifested through the supernatural intervention by God into specific circumstances in order to change the perceived natural outcome.

Those with this gift must recognize that God only causes miracles to happen in order to bring the greatest glory to himself.

Scriptures: Acts 9:36-42; 19:11-20; 20:7-12; Romans 15:17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; 12:10, 28; 2 Corinthians 12:12.