



## TOPIC: RELEASING THE GIFTS PART 3

### 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.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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

## **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.

## LEADERSHIP GIFTS

### 15. LEADERSHIP:

“... to set goals in accordance with God’s purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they **voluntarily** and **harmoniously** work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.”

People with this gift are often focused on the greater goal of the group and are not overly concerned with the details.

Leaders delegate tasks and details to others to accomplish the greater goal.

Leaders are visionaries. Leaders have followers- a visionary without followers is not a leader.

*Scriptures: Luke 9:51; Acts 6:1-7; 15:7-11; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17.*

#### 1. **Administration:**

"...to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals."

This gift of leadership is characterized by people who lead the body by steering others to remain on task.

Administrators are generally concerned with the details of how to accomplish tasks, and tend to be masters at delegating specific tasks to other people according to their gifts and talents.

*Scriptures: Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Titus 1:5.*

#### 2. **Apostle:**

“...have that special ability that enables them to assume and exercise helpful leadership over a number of churches in spiritual matters which is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches.”

The Bible calls many others, beyond the Twelve and Paul, apostles: James (Gal 1:19), Barnabas (Acts 14:4, 14), Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25), Silas and Timothy (1 Thes 1:1, 2:6), Andronicas and Junia (Rom 16:7), and others (1 Cor 15:5, 7; 2 Cor 8:23; 11:13).

This gift is for the strengthening of churches and the establishment of new churches. This gift should be looked for in regional directors, church planters, and denominational leaders.

*Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 2:20; 4:11.*

## **18. MISSIONARY:**

“...to minister whatever other spiritual gifts thy have in a culture other than their own.

Those with this gift find it easy or exciting to adjust to a different culture or community.

Missionaries find great joy working with minorities, people of other countries, or those with other distinct cultural differences.

Those with this gift have a stronger-than-average desire to be a part of the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world.

*Scriptures: Acts 8:4; 13:1-4; 22:21; Romans 10:15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.*

**Note:** Many spiritual gifts inventories combine the gift of *apostle* with the gift of *missionary* because the Greek word is the same, meaning "sent one" (literally, one sent with authority, or as an ambassador or representative).

These gifts have been separated here with the distinction that the *missionary* gift is focused on cross-cultural work.

The *apostle* gift is focused on overseeing the expansion of the Church in a given area, regardless of culture.

## **21. SHEPHERD:**

"... to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the welfare of a group of believers."

This gift is often called "pastor," however, that name has a connotation of a specific position in the church.

In actuality, when pastors have this gift, their ability to continue sustained growth in their churches is greatly diminished, as they tend to require a certain level of interaction with every member of their congregation.

Those with the gift of shepherd have a great need for long-term relationships.

Shepherds will sacrificially give themselves to other people in such a way that they are built-up in their faith.

Shepherds take personal responsibility for the successes and failures of those in the group that they invest themselves in.

*Scriptures: John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-4.*

## **GIFT OF LEADING WORSHIP**

The gift of leading worship is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to accurately discern the heart of God for a particular public worship service.

They draw others into an intimate experience of God during the worship time and to allow the Holy Spirit to change directions and emphases as the service progresses.