



## TOPIC: RELEASING THE GIFTS PART 4

### 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.

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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

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.

**10. Helps:**

The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. This gift is a practical gift. People with this gift often enjoy doing routine tasks in order to free others to do the ministry God has called them to do. People with this gift are often not looking for recognition for the work they do.

*Scriptures: Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:2-3; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Timothy 1:16-18.*

**Note:** The gifts of *Helps*, *Mercy*, and *Service* are often confused. *Helps* focuses on Christian works and freeing others to accomplish their God-given ministries. *Mercy* focuses on people in distress and reflects God's love and compassion. *Service* focuses on accomplishing little tasks that may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

### **11. Hospitality:**

"The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging." This gift is a practical gift. Those with this gift have an acute awareness of visitors and have a desire to make all people feel welcome. People with this gift enjoy visitors in their home, and are usually not bothered if someone stops by and their home is not spotless. Those with this gift are a key to helping new people become a part of the group.

*Scriptures: Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:9-13; 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9.*

### **16. Mercy:**

"The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (both Christian and non-Christian) who suffer from distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering." This gift is a practical gift. Those with this gift find themselves visiting and assisting those in need, and often feel the pain of the person they are helping within themselves. People with this gift find it extremely difficult not to help those who seem less fortunate than themselves. Those with this gift generally enjoy helping those with physical or mental problems and do well in ministries involving visiting hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and shut-ins.

*Scriptures: Matthew 20:29-34; 25:24-40; Mark 9:41; Luke 10:33-35; Acts 11:28-30; 16:33-34; Romans 12:8; Jude 22-23.*

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may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

#### **24. Voluntary Poverty:**

"The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given society in order to serve God more effectively." This gift is a practical gift. Those with the spiritual gift of voluntary poverty will often choose to live among people who are considered poverty-stricken in a given area, and live at their level, although they have the means to live at a higher standard. The primary motivation for this choice is to minister more effectively to the people through identification.

*Scriptures: Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-27; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:9.*

**Note:** This gift is often associated with the gift of *giving*, however, notice that the motivation for this gift is for effective ministry through identification with a group of less-fortunate people, where those with the gift of *giving* are motivated by what their money can do towards God's work.

Celibacy

Craftsmanship