

THE GIFTS OF CHRIST Part 2 Ephesians 4:7-13

Last week :

We talked about the individual gifts of Christ that each Christian has at least one spiritual gift.

***Definition of Spiritual Gift :**

Supernatural skills or abilities that Christ gives us which enables us to perform in the Body of Christ with effectiveness and ease. It makes the Body healthy, whole and gives the Body great joy. - Charles Swindoll

Today : What we're going to talk about are the gifts that Christ gave – the different spiritual gifts.

Story :

"There is this one man who wanted to give to the church. One day, he called the church office and said, 'Hi, can I please talk to the one who preached last Sunday? He's the one who looks like he got left behind in the kitchen—the one with the huge belly whose polo shirt looks like it's about to rip from being so fat.'

The one who answered the phone said, 'Your description is a bit much, sir. He is our pastor; please show a little respect... you should call him "Pastor" or "Reverend."' Wait a minute, why were you calling anyway?'

The man answered back, 'I heard that the church was raising money for the building fund; I wanted to contribute \$30,000.' The woman who answered the phone quickly replied, 'Oh, is that so? Let me just go get Fatty.'"

***Read : Ephesians 4:7-13**

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.⁸This is why it says:

*"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train*

and gave gifts to men."⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Pray

*What we started to discuss

- I. THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
- II. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
- III. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

***What are the spiritual gifts that Christ gave to His church:**

Remember : To find the gifts remember the number 12 (Romans 12 and 1 Cor 12)

Romans 12: ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; ⁸if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is **showing mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.*

1 Corinthians 12 : ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of **wisdom, to another the message of **knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**.*

***Question :** Why did Paul mention different kinds of gifts in three letters that he wrote?

Answer : It depended on the need or situation of the church

***The Spiritual Gifts in Romans are what I say,**

- **Maintenance Gifts**

Explain : It is to maintain the proper functioning of the Body.

Illustration : "Why do you exercise? Or eat healthy food? It is not to *attain* good health... it is to *maintain* your good health. The reason our health deteriorates is because we don't exercise or eat the proper food.

Icebreaker: That's why... some of you here are already taking what do you call it... 'maintenance meds'... admit it!"

***The context** of Romans 12 begins in verse 1

Romans 12 : ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

In short, Paul is saying, here's the way to keep the Body of Christ healthy, if we exercise the gifts and eat the right teaching which is the Word of God.

***The Spiritual Gifts in 1 Corinthians are what I say,**

- **Manifestation Gifts**

Explain : Manifestation gifts means it's showing to the world that God is present in His church. In short, God is using this "spectacular" gifts to show to the world that the message of the church is the true message because of these evidences.

Context : Remember, the Corinthian church is an immature church – there are divisions and they are not acting out of love and apparently, some members have the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 14) and are proud of it. "That's why Paul is saying, those gifts aren't the only things that manifest the presence of God..."⁷*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

***The Spiritual Gifts in Ephesians 4 are:**

- **Molding Gifts**

***Look at the verse again :**

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

***THE MAINTENANCE GIFTS IN ROMANS 12:6**

*Allow me to categorize it so it's easier to remember :

- The Serving Gifts
- The Speaking Gifts

***I. THE SERVING GIFTS**

- ***Gift of Serving**

***Read Romans 12:7**

Etymology : Romans 12:7 "diakonos" waiter

Note : The modern church today made it a position or title in church. 'Hey, look at so-and-one; they're a deacon now... before they were just a member, now they're a deacon, next they'll be a pastor, then a bishop, etc., etc.' No... no... no..."

Note : I love this gift because this gift comes directly from the heart of our Lord Jesus.

***1. It is the greatest gift.**

Proof?

**Mark 9: ³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.*

*³⁵Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the **servant of all.**" (diakonos)*

Imagine the surprise of the disciples when our Lord Jesus Christ said that.

Illustration : (this is a reverse one) Me and my schoolmate were eating at a restaurant and saw another schoolmate there. He really didn't want that job. So in the middle of the service, he quit his job and joined us in the table. Imagine the chagrin of his fellow waiters that they will now wait on him. My classmate then joked when his soup was served, "why does my soup taste funny?" LOL

***2. It is the greatest because it is the proof of love if done with the right motives**

*¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.** ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries (wisdom) and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.** ³If I give all I possess to the poor (contribution and mercy) and surrender my body to the flames (faith), **but have not love, I gain nothing.***

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away....

*¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. **But the greatest of these is love.***

Explain and then read

***The Washing of the Disciple's Feet**

*John 13: ¹It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he now showed them the full extent of his love.***

²The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Note : 1. Washing of the feet at that time was reserved for the lowliest of servants.

2. He even washed Judas' feet

***3. Every Christian has this gift of serving**

***Look at John 13 again...**

... ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

IMPORTANT : Christ will not ask you to do something without giving you the “gift” to do it. And He’s asking us to wash one another’s feet – to be a servant.

**John 15:5apart from me you can do nothing.*

**Colossians 1: ²⁹To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

***4. It is the foundation of all the other gifts**

Why? Preaching without the heart of a servant is nothing...leading without the heart of a servant is nothing...contributing without the heart of a servant is nothing...wisdom, knowledge faith without the heart of a servant is nothing...

***Look again :**

*John 13: 1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he now showed them the full extent of his love.***

In short, Jesus showed the full extent of his love by serving.

***Then read**

*1 Corinthians 13: ¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries (wisdom) and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor (contribution and mercy) and surrender my body to the flames (faith), **but have not love, I gain nothing.*******

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away....

That's why : when people ask me if he wants a leadership role or he wants to teach, the first thing I look at a person is not "does he have the gift of leadership or teaching?" No. The first thing I look at. Does he have a heart of a servant?

Why again :

*John 13: ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you **will be blessed** if you do them.*

VERY IMPORTANT: , we will be blessed if we do God's work out of love...out of a heart of a servant.

Important : If it's not with a servant's heart, we might be impressed but are we blessed?

BUT...BIG BUT...

Although, every true Christian has this gift...

***Look at this again :**

Ephesians 4: ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Ephesians 4: ⁷But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (KJV)

In short, even if every true Christian has this gift of serving, some have been given *according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

ILLUSTRATION : "WATER FOR EVERYONE BUT NOT IN THE SAME AMOUNTS. If we were all given water, some were given more... BECAUSE IT DEPENDS ON HOW THE LORD WILL USE US."

EXAMPLE : "How to cook rice?... 3 cups of rice... 3 cups of water.
How to cook rice porridge (*lugaw*)? ... 3 cups of rice... 6 cups of water."

And this will apply to the other gifts...if you are given a gift, his measure will be different from your measure...it depends on how God will use the gifts He has given us.

Example : My gift of teaching is a different from another person's gift of teaching...IT DEPENDS UPON THE LORD ON HOW HE'S GOING TO USE IT.

Proof : Jonathan Edward's preaching is different from Charles Spurgeon. Chuck Swindoll's preaching is different from John McArthur's preaching...

*1 Corinthians 3: ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants,** through whom you came to believe—**as the Lord has assigned to each his task.** ⁶I*

planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ²So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow

- ***Gift of Encouraging**

***Read Romans 12:7**

Etymology : “parakaleo” to call alongside, comfort, console

KJV - exhortation – the modern church placed it in a box again meaning it’s the time for exhortation – for giving

But the real application :

- A brother who got tired of going to church the one with the gift of encouraging “calls” to the person to come “alongside” with him/her and worship God.
- A person undergoing sickness, a person who failed an exam, a person who lost a loved one, a person who was left by a husband or wife, a person who lost a job, the one with the gift of encouraging goes to “parakaleo” that person. And sometimes, it doesn’t need words. Just a pat on the back, just a hug, just to sit beside that person is an encouragement already.
- A person trying to achieve something the person with the gift of encouraging comes alongside to “parakaleo”.

Illustration : The little boy who slipped in the stage of a Paderewski concert before it begun and played Chopsticks on the piano. The people shouted for the boy to get out but Paderewski saw this and quietly sat beside the boy and he played “alongside” the boy and accompanied a beautiful melody and said to the boy, “Don’t quit...keep on playing”.

- ***Gift of Contributing**

***Read Romans 12:7**

Etymology : metadidomi - to impart, to share, give

King James version – giveth (let him do it) with simplicity

Etymology : simplicity, generously, “haplotes” open heart, sincerity

IMPORTANT : I call this the gift of the “open hand”. Remember, it’s not just about money, he is willing to share anything that is needed.

Illustration : The mom of Chicay has this gift and she was the who explained to me that concept of the open hand. When our hands are closed and is holding something, God sees it and says, “He’s still holding something, I still can’t pour something on that hand.” But when he sees an open hand, He says, “Oops the hands of my child are now empty and is ready to receive again, let’s give him the blessing again.”

Elijah's story : 1 Kings 17:7-16 Widow at Zarepath – Elijah needed bread because he was hungry...handful of flour and a little oil. Cooked it and fed Elijah and the flour and oil did not run dry

- ***Gift of Leadership**

***Read Romans 12:7**

Also called : administration or ruling

Etymology : proistemi – meaning to set in place “pro” before - “histemi”

Histemi “ weighing money” or “to make stand” or “uphold or sustain” or “to establish”

*Remember :

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Explain : "Some are administering the money, others are organizing, etc., so this gift is not reserved for those who 'lead' the church."

What the gift of leadership IS NOT:

¹Peter 5:²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³**not lording** it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Note : The modern church again made the title overseer with a capital O, far from God's design

Etymology : episkopeo – the same word as bishop – any elder of the church or pastor is a episkopeo

What is IT IS:

They are the ones who set things in place. "They are the one who gets things in order, whether it's the finances, schedules, or the affairs of the church; they protect the church from attacks, and so on."

In short again, **IT IS A SERVING GIFT...** *but eager to serve*

- ***Gift of Mercy**

***Read Romans 12:8**

Etymology : eeleo –showing kindness to those who are miserable or afflicted and they do it with a desire or readiness to help.

Note : These are the ones that when they hear someone who is sick or in danger or lonely would really want to help. On a small scale, they are the ones who accompany the sick or visit the sick, the widow, the orphan, the lonely, the afflicted...they would go out of their way to help

Note : The evidence of this gift will be shown in the “sustainability” on how they help and they are cheerful when they do it.... *“let him do it cheerfully.”*

***II. THE SPEAKING GIFTS**

- ***Gift of Prophecy**

- ***Read Romans 12:6**

Etymology : propheteia - revealing the mind of God

Remember : the context - the New Testament wasn't made yet. In short, the whole Bible wasn't revealed yet. So there are “prophets” that God has given the gift of prophesying to reveal the mind of God regarding something.

That's why you will understand now why understand :

1 Thessalonians 5:20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt.

Why? Because it is the revealing of the mind of God...kung ano ang nasa isip ni Lord pinapaalam Niya through this person..

Now : All that what God wanted to reveal He has already revealed through the Bible, this gift is now manifested through the preaching of God's Word!!!

REMEMBER THE BASIS IS GOD'S WORD!!!!

That's why :

.... If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

Etymology : analogea “ana” in the midst, motion from a lower place to a higher “logos” God's revelation

In short: Only say what God wants to say – walang dagdag-bawas

That's the reason : 90% of the preaching done here is expository...I'm just revealing “exposing” God's mind to you through His Word...THE BIBLE.

- ***Gift of Teaching**

- ***Read Romans 12:7**

Etymology : didaskos – (didactic) moral instruction; to instruct

How are we to teach :

**2 Timothy 2: ¹⁵Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)*

Illustration : "Yesterday, we went to a place and we needed to go home but we were unfamiliar... so he gave step-by-step instructions so we could get to the highway... left here, left again and then... **rightly dividing the word of truth...** the word is rightly dividing... I understood it... that's why I didn't get lost."

This means this gift correctly interprets the Word of God and rightly guides the church and making it easier for them to understand or digest.

CONCLUSION :

Last Friday in the Bible study : Everyone brought gulay.

Again, these are maintenance gifts.

- When God created His church, He made it holy and pure by the blood of Jesus Christ
- We are to maintain the health of the church.

How? By exercising and eating the right food.

Remember : We do not exercise and eat the right foods to become healthy but to maintain health

*To have a healthy church

- We exercise the serving gifts
- We eat the right food given through the speaking gifts

S.G.D.

There is the gift of **wisdom**. That is the ability to understand how truth applies to specific situations, how to put truth to work. There is the gift of **knowledge**. That is the ability to categorize truth, break it up into manageable portions and thus to understand it better. There is the gift of **faith**. That is what some call today the gift of vision. It is an idea that grips a man, that some needed goal can be accomplished. He sees it while others do not, and he goes right ahead and does it.

This week, in Washington, I talked with W. Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Translators. What an outstanding example he is of a man with the gift of faith, the gift of vision for reaching the world through translating the Scriptures into the language of the isolated tribes of earth. What a great thing God has done through him with that.

Then there are gifts of **healing**, including physical, mental, or emotional healing. There are gifts of **miracles**, and the gift of **prophecy**, which is something quite different than we usually think. There is the gift of **discernment**, the ability to see whether a person is a phony or not; the gift of **tongues**, the power to speak in other languages; and the gift of **interpretation of tongues**. There is the gift of **helps**, a magnificent gift without which the church would be nothing. (It is called in Romans 12 "the gift of **service**.) Then there is the gift of **administration**, those who have a gift given by God to organize and administrate in spiritual matters. This is "the gift of **ruling**" in Romans 12. There is the gift of **exhortation**, the ability to get people moving, to say things in a way that will motivate people, exhort them. Did you know there is a gift of **contributions**? Every believer is to contribute but there are some who have a special gift for this, the gift of making money. **mercy**

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

How important is a gift?

- Where it came from?
- How it was purchased?
- What is its purpose?

- The One who gave it.
- How God purchased it for us
- The power behind it

THE IMPLICATION OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

Tie it all up

Ephesians 4:11 – doesn't mean that these gifts are more important than the others...you have to put this into context...it is talking about the unity of the body of Christ which shows itself in verses 12-13

