

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

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

***Review**

- 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

- a.) We started identifying the individual gifts
- b.) A true Christian has at least one gift.
- c.) Then we started to read the Biblical passages where the gifts are : 12 and 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 **serving**, 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.

***Review Question again :** Why did Paul mention different gifts in three different passages?

***It depends on the context...**

- **Romans 12 - Maintenance Gifts**
- **1 Corinthians 12 - Manifestation Gifts**
- **Ephesians 4 – Molding Gifts**

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 if it is serving, then serve;***

Etymology : ministry (KJV) “**diakonia**” - deacon - **waiter**

Review: The words “minister” and “deacon” mean waiter. The modern church has made it sound like a position that is higher than an “ordinary” member.

Proposal: We often hear people say, “Hey, look at Brother so-and-so... he’s a deacon of the church now.”

What if: A pastor calls a member and says, “I’m going to give you a position here in the church.”

“Oh, really? What is it?”

The pastor replies, “I’m going to make you a waiter of the church.”

Would we still hear people say, “Hey, did you know Brother so-and-so is now a waiter/servant for the church?”

Note : It may not sound sophisticated and others will find it demeaning, but in the eyes of the Lord,

****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)

- ***Gift of Encouraging**

***Read Romans 12:8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;**

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

Lesson: This is what Chuck Swindoll said that if he would want a gift...he would want this gift of encouraging.

Here’s what I see: I believe those who are part of the music/worship team possesses this gift.

Important: The criteria must not only be does he know how to sing but also you see this gift of encouragement

Sample: They are passionate for the Lord...

Proof: How many times have you been encouraged by a Christian song being sung on CD or on radio? Was it because they were good singers or the lyrics were good or the melody was nice but simply because God has given them that gift of encouragement.

- ***Gift of Contributing**

***Read Romans 12:8 if it is giving, then give generously;**

Etymology: metadidomi - to impart, to share, give

“meta” beyond “didomi” - giving - beyond giving “super giving”

How do you know you have one? They find it a joy to give and give

Someone asked me about tithes: Is it before or after tax? Is it net or gross? Love doesn’t calculate

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.”

NOW TO CONTINUE

- ***Gift of Leadership**

What the gift of leadership IS NOT:

1 Peter 5:2 Be 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; **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

Epi - top, before skopos - “telescope” “microscope” - observer, watchman
- one who sees everything is in order.

He is not Lord, kurios or despotes

Lording – etymology “kata- kurios” to bring into subjection

Look : There was a time in the Philippines in the late 90s that “leadership seminars” were the craze and the Christian community got into the bandwagon offering seminars, “How to lead your church?” and etc. A lot Christians attended those seminars.

What if someone offers a “Servanthood Seminar”? Do you think many will attend?

Note : Leader/s were only mentioned 6x only in the Bible

In Oswald Sander's book : Spiritual Leadership the “Master's Master Principle” when it comes to leadership is “servanthood”

Biblical : God doesn't call “Moses, my leader”, “Moses, my servant”

What IT IS:

Etymology : ruling (KJV) proistemi – meaning to set in place “pro” before - “histemi”

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

Explain : others are the one administering the money, the other one is organizing and etc.,

They are the ones who set things in place. Others make sure the finance are in order or others schedules affairs of the church, protects the church from attacks and etc etc.

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

Romans 12:8 ... if it is leadership, let him **govern diligently;*

Etymology : diligently “spoude” interest one's self most earnestly – it's a giving of one's self

- ***Gift of Mercy**

Etymology : eeleo –showing kindness to those who miserable are afflicted 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

*Romans 12: 8... if it is showing mercy, **let him do it cheerfully***

Etymology : cheerfully “hilarotes ” from hilaros – where we get our word “hilarious”

In short : If we are going to serve those who are sick, afflicted, lonely, we should do it with joy.

***II. THE SPEAKING GIFTS**

- ***Gift of Prophecy**

*Romans 12:6 **your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;***

Note : We think that the gift of prophecy is just foretelling the future. Or it is something mystical...

Etymology : propheteia - coming from “pro” before “ phemi” - to make known one's thought

In the Christian context : to make known the thoughts of God.

That's why : there are false prophets mentioned in the Bible - when we study the manifestation gifts...we will touch on the counterfeit gifts of the enemy

Important : the context during Paul's time when Christ was just establishing His church - 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.

Now : All that what God wanted to reveal He has already revealed through the Bible,

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 – nothing more, nothing less.

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.

Now : back to Etymology “pro” before “phemi” so it means “declaring before people one’s thought”

In short : to speak publicly

In short again : To make it simple : The gift of prophecy is the gift of speaking in front of others

Christian context : speaking before men the thoughts of God which is already found in the Bible.

So today : since everything God has revealed can already be found in the Bible...the gift of prophesying can also be called the gift of preaching

Two Proofs :

1.Etymology : preach “keryssa” herald, so to declare again

***2. Romans 10 :** ¹³for, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* ¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they **hear without someone preaching to them?** ¹⁵And how can they preach **unless they are sent?** As it is written, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

In the Bible : The prophets speak publicly because they are sent by God. In Paul’s time and up to this time, the preachers speak publicly because they are sent by God.

- ***Gift of Teaching**

***Read Romans 12:7 if it is teaching, then teach;**

Etymology : didaskos – (didactic) instruction; to instruct

Illustration : Last Saturday, we went to a place and we needed to go home but we’re unfamiliar...so our host did a step-by-step instruction on how we can go to the highway, giving careful instruction, “left here, left again....” and then...rightly dividing the word of truth...the word is rightly dividing...which means, I understand so I don’t get lost.

In short : Systematic, step-by-step...the job is to make the Christian mature.

That is how this gift is practiced.

**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)*

**Hebrews 5: ¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food*

**The Message Paraphrase:*

Hebrews 5: ⁻¹⁴I have a lot more to say about this, but it is hard to get it across to you since you've picked up this bad habit of not listening. By this time you ought to be teachers yourselves, yet here I find you need someone to sit down with you and go over the basics on God again, starting from square one—baby's milk, when you should have been on solid food long ago! Milk is for beginners, inexperienced in God's ways; solid food is for the mature, who have some practice in telling right from wrong.

CONCLUSION :

Personally : I am blessed to be in this church. Because as observers say nowadays, the church has become a “spectator” sport...like watching a game of basketball....ten people who are over-exercised and thousands watching them who need exercise.

But not this church...as Amie shared last Friday, everyone is exercising their gifts here. Whether it's the serving gifts or the speaking gifts.

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.