

GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
ARUSHA - TANZANIA

SUBJECT: SPIRITUAL GIFTS

LESSON 3: OTHER MINISTRY GIFTS

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3.0 - Other Ministry Gifts

There about seven other ministry gifts listed in the Bible apart from the five mentioned earlier in Lesson 2. They are described and explained as follows:

3.1 - Gift of Ministering (Romans 12:7)

The gift of ministering generally has to do with serving the needs of others.

This can also have a broad application in the sense that it covers the use of all other spiritual gifts (Matthew 20:25-28).

Specifically, this gift will be considered as it relates to serving the material needs of others (2Corinthians 9:1; 8:3-4; Acts 9:36-41).

This gift also illustrates the work and office of a deacon.

An illustration of someone with this gift is Dorcas (Acts 9:36-41)

- She used her talents of serving to minister to the needs of the poor and needy.

One with a natural talent of singing can translate this talent into a gift of ministering if the person is filled with the Holy Spirit.

One of the most effective ways of winning people to Christ is, first, through ministering to their needs.

Jesus Christ is a good example of one with this gift, for example, the feeding of the 5000 people, the healing of the blind, etc. As a result of their being ministered to, they were able to believe the message of Christ (John 9:35-36).

3.2 - Gift of Teaching (Romans 12:7)

The difference between the Pastor-Teacher and the gift of teaching is that the Pastor-Teacher gift is related to a leadership ministry, whereas, the gift of teaching is not limited to certain church leaders.

Teaching means a) Instructing b) imparting knowledge c) being an example and d) Training.

The gift of teaching therefore is the supernatural ability to explain and apply the truths received from God for the church.

A Pastor-Teacher also has this gift of teaching.

The gift of teaching provides the ability to make divine truth clear to believers.

Knowledge is the foundation for faith. Therefore, those who impart knowledge by teaching are making faith possible.

The knowledge, which the teacher is to give must come mainly from the word of God. The teacher gives meaning to the word of God.

The gift of teaching can be in operation when a parent teaches the word of God to the children.

It can be in operation when a Sunday School teacher or a Bible School teacher is teaching a class.

It can also be in operation when any believer teaches a friend or group of friends.

3.3 - Gift of Exhortation (Romans 12:8)

The word 'exhortation' means encouragement.

In a broader sense, it means to entreat, comfort, or instruct (Acts 4:36; Hebrews 10:25).

Every believer can have this gift. Those with the five-fold ministry gifts possess this gift also.

The purpose of this gift is

(a) To call believers to a closer walk with God, or to call them to some purpose of God.

(b) To call believers to action which will help themselves and others in their walk with God.

The use of this gift can be seen in the following passages:

Believers are called

- (a) To be faithful and true to the Lord - Acts 11:23
- (b) To continue in the faith - Acts 14:22
- (c) To perform a certain task - 2Corinthians 9:5
- (d) To abound more and more in pleasing the Lord - 1Thessalonians 4:1
- (e) To warn the unruly, to comfort the feebleminded, to support the weak, to be patient toward all men, not to render evil for evil, to follow that which is good - 1Thessalonians 5:14-15
- (f) To work and eat their own bread - 2Thessalonians 3:12
- (g) To make supplication, prayer, and intercession for all men - 1Timothy 2:1
- (h) To be sober minded - Titus 2:6
- (I) To contend for the faith - Jude 3

Anyone that is able to appeal to believers in all the above, possesses the gift of exhortation.

We are to exhort one another daily - Hebrews 3:13

3.4 - Gift of Giving (Romans 12:8; 2Corinthians 8 & 9)

The gift of giving relates to our money, but also relates to such things as our time, strength and talents.

This is a gift of God, which enables a believer to freely and generously give of what he has to meet the needs of other people and of God's work.

This gift comes from uniting man's ability with God's ability. Man's ability is limited but God's ability is unlimited. This gift is developed when man's little ability and God's great ability come together.

More examples of how this gift is and should be expressed can be found in 2Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 and also 1Kings 17:8-16.

In 1Kings 17, a widow was able to give the last of what she had even in time of famine, and God blessed her for her act of faith.

The foundation for the gift of giving is laid when we give.

To receive this gift, we must learn to give and be obedient when called upon to do so.

When the gift of giving functions as God desires, our giving is not governed only by our ability to give but by God's ability.

The gift is to be exercised without outward show or pride, and with liberality (2Corinthians 1:12; 8:2-3; 9:11, 13)

To be able to exercise this gift as God desires, one must first give himself wholly to God (2Corinthians 8:5).

The purpose of the gift is

- (a) To meet the needs of the Body of Christ
- (b) To enable the Body to carry out its mission

3.5 - Gift of Ruling (Romans 12:8)

Gift of Ruling can also refer to gift of governments or leadership or administration.

It is a gift given to certain members of the Body for the purpose of being able 'to stand in front' or 'stand before' or presiding over the Body as in leadership.

It is given to direct the Body, superintending and developing the Body of Christ.

It is a gift with a special ability to organise, to manage, and to lead.

Government within the Body of Christ is necessary. If there is no-one to lead or to direct, there is no government.

Without government and the gift of ruling, the Body of Christ is feeble and unable to perform its task.

The purpose of this gift therefore is to give unity and strength to the Body, so that it can fulfil its purpose in the world.

This gift is to be exercised with diligence (Romans 12:8)

3.6 - Gift of Showing Mercy (Romans 12:8)

Mercy means compassion or to feel with or for another.

It also means to sympathise.

The gift of showing mercy therefore is the gift of showing others that you feel both with them and for them.

It is to relate to others with empathy, respect, and honesty.

This gift is needed because there will be times when people would be sad, lonely and sorrowful. They will have a great need for someone to stand beside them and have compassion for them.

Jesus Christ is a good example of someone with this gift (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; Mark 1:41; 8:2; Luke 7:13)

Jesus felt deeply with people and for people.

He not only had compassion on them but did what he could to help them by ministering to their needs in practical ways (James 2:15-16).

Barnabas is another good example of one with this gift (Acts 9:27; 11:25-26; 15:37-39).

This gift is to be exercised with kindness and cheerfulness, and not as a matter of duty (Romans 12:8).

3.7 - Gift of Helps (1Corinthians 12:28)

Help means 'relief or assistance'.

The gift of helps is that gift which a believer is enabled by the Holy Spirit to relieve or assist another by helpful deeds.

Any member can have the gift of helps but some are especially gifted to be helpers.

They exercise this gift by serving the Body.

They are sometimes referred to as deacon or deaconesses - (Romans 16:1; 1Timothy 3:13).

There are few examples of people who exercised this gift in the Bible and these can be found in Acts 18:27; Romans 16:9 and Philippians 4:3.

Assistance or relief can be provided through visitations, prayers, domestic help, etc.

The function of the gift of helps is to give believers the ability to help the leaders and the church in general with their work.

The purpose for the gift is to help get the actual work done to extend God's kingdom.

One may have a special ability to pray, but he will not do the church any good until he exercises his gift of helps by praying.