

One of the hallmarks of modern societies is that most people are out to succeed. But there's a rare category of individuals who are out to help others succeed – those with the spiritual gift of helps. They exemplify the principles that all servants of Christ should practice. The gift of helps is mentioned specifically in Rom 12:7 (called "ministry"), I Cor 12:28 ("helps"), and I Pet 4:11 ("ministry"). Here is how author Peter Wagner describes the gift of helps: "The gift of helps is the special ability that God gives to some 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 the person helped to increase the effectiveness of his or her spiritual gifts."

- I. Biblical portraits of the gift of helps
  - A. In the life of Onesiphorus – II Tim 1:16 and 4:19
    - The description of his service to the apostle Paul makes it easy to see why he had the gift – II Tim 1:16-18
  - B. In the Life of Timothy – Phil 2:20
    - Paul says that Timothy is the only "likeminded" person he has who can go to Philippi in his place. Paul was saying that if they had Timothy, they had Paul.
      1. Four aspects of Timothy's life that reveals his gifting:
        - a. His COMPASSION for others – vs 20
        - b. His CONSECRATION to the Lord – Acts 16:2
        - c. His COMMITMENT to the gospel – Phil 2:22
        - d. His CONCERN for Paul – II Tim 4:13
- II. Biblical principles for the gift of Helps
  - A. Servants DESIRE to bring glory to God
    - A servant will serve without credit or self-promotion
    - John the Baptist – "He must increase, but I must decrease" – John 3:30
  - B. Servants DISCOVER that the way up is the way down
    - Jesus taught that whoever wants to be great must first become a servant – Matt 20:26-28
  - C. Servants DEVELOP strength through weakness
    - Paul wrote: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." – II Cor 12:10
    - People who have the gift or heart of a servant know the limitations of their own ability
  - D. Servants DERIVE their joy from the development of others
    - Paul often expressed the joy he felt at the spiritual progress of others – Phil 4:1, I Thess 2:19
    - As a servant-apostle of Christ, he enjoyed nothing more than seeing new Christians grow to maturity in Jesus.

Read: Phil 2:1-11

Ques:

1. What is Paul's overall exhortation to the Philippians in vs 1-4?
2. In order to be like Christ, what must we have? (vs 5)
3. What two acts, consistent with being a servant did Christ perform when He came to earth? (vs 8)

Happy Studying