

SPIRITUAL GIFTS – PART THREE

The Ministerial Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1 – *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...*

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all ”

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Present Your Body

Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1. The fivefold ministry are to equip and prepare God’s children to do the work of ministry , that is, to serve God and do His work. Every believer is supposed to be a minister, and no one must be idle in the Church. Every believer, therefore, must not only be equipped to serve God, as well as find their place for service.
2. Apostle Paul admonishes us, to serve God by offering ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice. It is a sacrifice that must be **holy** and **acceptable** to God. Our service to God cannot be shoddy, it must be acceptable to Him. It must not be by the standards, ways and methods of the world
 - Everybody wants to be a leader, and those who do not want to be leaders feel that leaders must be responsible for everything, so they do nothing. However, in God’s House, not everyone is called to leadership, (in fact fewer are called), but everyone is called to service.

The body has different has different parts, which are all necessary for it to function properly. The foot cannot be the head, but the foot must be the foot, in order for the body to be whole, healthy and functioning properly.

About The Ministerial Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Romans 12:3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to

us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, 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.

These scriptures show us that there are other spiritual gifts, apart from the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fivefold Ministry, which all believers must find their place in.

Unfortunately, in western society, people approach the church with the same kind of consumer mentality they take to the shopping mall — “you better deliver the goods, be nice and user-friendly, or I’ll simply take my business elsewhere.”

1. The concept of servanthood and faithfulness, sacrifice and dependability seems to be a thing of the past, or at least something that doesn’t apply to church anymore. This is why Paul stated in **Romans 12:2**:

“...And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The concepts of sacrifice and servanthood seem foreign to the world we live in, therefore, we must abandon the worldly mindset in order to serve Christ faithfully

2. There is also the need to remember that these gifts are a matter of **individual stewardship**

2 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Romans 12:5-6

so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them

3. We are also called to serve one another in love. It is through the operation of these ministerial gifts that we are able to not only serve God, but also, serve one another..

The Ministerial Gifts

1. Helps

The ‘helps ministry is listed right after the gifts of healings.

The Greek word translated "helps" means "to lay hold of, so as to support." In other words, a minister of helps is someone who commits himself to another ministry in order to support and assist.

Helps Ministry includes:

- Deacons and Deaconesses are included in the helps ministry
- Praise and worship team. Instrumentalists, etc
- Hospitality, including hosting the service, home visits, etc
- Stewards
- Prayer, intercession and warfare
- Evangelism

The job of the helps minister is to free the hands of the leaders to do the work that God has called them to do. The fivefold ministry often have a lot on their hands, waiting on the Lord, which is their first calling, as well as handling a multitude of tasks, assignments and issues.

The helps ministers are needed to share and carry the burden, to free the leadership so they can focus on their God-given assignment.

Acts 6:2-4

"It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

- This is a sacrificial work.
- The helps minister represents the leadership in serving and maintaining contact with the members of the church, as well as outsiders who come in.
- The leaders cannot do everything and requires them to fulfil their assigned roles and tasks faithfully, diligently, wisely and excellently, in order for the Church to grow and fulfil its purpose.
- They must realise that their service is unto God and not unto man and it must be done in a manner pleasing to God.

2. Administrations

Administration is defined as the activities that relate to running a company, school, or other organization. Very important for the smooth running of the Church.

- Administration (including secretarial, etc)
- Finance and fundraising (Judas kept the purse for Jesus' ministry)
- Media and IT
- Planning and organisation (including events planning, publicity and advertising)
- Resource mobilisation

3. Giving

2 Corinthians 9:8-15

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way,

he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. 11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

People with this gift or who are called to this ministry:

- Have a generosity of heart towards God's work and God's people – *Psalm 112:9*
- They acknowledge that what they have belongs to the Lord
- Are quick to respond in giving towards the needs of others.
- Never expect a return or reward from man for their giving
- Excel in the grace of giving

2 Corinthians 8:7

But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

4. Teaching and Exhortation

- Discipleship
- Counselling
- Leading bible study and small groups

5. Leadership

- Fivefold ministry
 - Board of Directors or trustees
 - Deacons and Deaconesses
- These are responsible for the governance and leadership of the church – decision-making, defining the vision, mission and goals of the church.
 - Bringing clear direction and leadership, and maintaining biblical standards on all levels
 - They are responsible for planning, organizing, delegating, overseeing and evaluating the entire ministry of the church, according to biblical principles and goals.

1 Timothy 5:17

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

- It is unfortunate that this in this society, not much honour is given to those in leadership. We often downgrade them and rather expect them to do more for us than we do for them.

6. Mercy

Active, Christ-like, compassionate service toward the needy. This service flows from the love that has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

- Encouragement
- Ministry to the poor, widows and orphans, etc

Acts 4:36

"And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

Acts 9:36

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

Qualities and Characteristics

All believers must possess or endeavour to develop the following characteristics, for their service to be acceptable to God:

1. Of good reputation – display Christian character to all. In order not to bring dishonour to Christ and the Church.
2. Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. Cannot afford to work in the flesh
3. Wisdom
4. A spirit of excellence
5. Faithfulness

Luke 16:10-12

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches? "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, how will you give you what is your own?"

- Faithfulness is a real challenge!!!
- You have to be faithful in little things or you won't be given bigger things; you have to be faithful in mundane things, the more physical aspects of the ministry, or you won't be trusted with true spiritual riches; and you have to be faithful under another man's ministry before God will give you your own.

Finally....

2 Timothy 2:20-21

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. ²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.