

STIR UP THE GIFT

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Sunday Sermon

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INTRODUCTION:

There are many things that can be pointed to as problematic in the Church at large today. God has given clear directive in His word for what He desires for the Church and we often miss the mark. This failure is manifested in many ways.

One of the issues in many Churches is the lack of utilization of the gift the individual Believers have been given. The lack can come from a lack of teaching, a lack of knowledge and from the impeding of our spiritual enemies.

Each Believer has been given a spiritual gift by which God can gain glory. When each Believer is utilizing his/her gifting by the leading of the Holy Spirit, the local Church is able to function in the proper way and testify to the outside world. Failure to utilize the gifts results in lack of proper function of the Body. It is incumbent on each Believer to learn their spiritual gift and how it operates within the local representation of the Body of Christ

I. FACTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. Every Believer Has One

1. Christ Distributed Ascension – Eph. 4:8
2. Believers Given One Gift – 1 Pet. 4:10
3. Gift Given with Calling
 - a) Calling References Salvation – Rom. 8:28
 - b) Calling Enables Gifting – Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1
4. Gifts Differ in Type and Function – Rom. 12:6
5. Gift Powered by the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:4, 9

B. The Gifts

1. Presently Obsolete
 - a) Prior Gifts
 - (1) Apostle
 - (2) Prophecy
 - (3) Tongues
 - (4) Word of Knowledge
 - (5) Word of Wisdom
 - (6) Healing
 - (7) Miracles
 - b) Purpose of Gifts
 - (1) To Validate the Message of God in Absence of Scripture
 - (2) To Show Forth God's Will in Absence of Scripture
 - (3) To Transition from Reliance on Things Seen to Spiritual

2. Presently Operational

- a) Pastor Teacher – One gifted above that which is normal to Saints to lead other Believers to spiritual nourishment. This means they are able to provide what is spiritually necessary for other Saints growth through the word of God (Eph. 4:11). In providing nourishment they preach the Word of God and live out the Word of God before the flock.
 - (1) Should Be Mature – 1 Pet. 5:2
 - (2) Office Bishop for Pastor Teacher – 1 Tim. 3:1 and Tit. 1:7; 2 Tim. 4:22; Tit. 3:15, Ac. 20:28
 - (3) Uses of Gift (Pastors, Assistants, Teachers)
- b) Teacher – One gifted above that which is normal to properly teach Old Testament doctrine in it's proper context to the new.
 - (1) The Occurrences of Gift – 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:3
 - (2) The Uses of Gift (Sunday School, Bible Schools, Pulpit Supply)
- c) Administration – One gifted above that which is normal to lead the affairs of the Church. 1 Cor. 12:28
- d) Organization – One gifted above that which is normal in the organizing of church functions. Rom. 12:8
- e) Exhortation – One gifted above that which is normal to encourage and/ or console a Believer(s) to accomplish God's purpose in a situation or function.
- f) Faith – One gifted above that which is normal to have faith in a circumstance that helps to remove barriers a Believer(s) may face.
- g) Helps – One gifted above that which is normal to know what small tasks need to be completed within the church and to have the desire to carry them out. 1 Cor. 12:28
- h) Ministry – One gifted above that which is normal to assist other Saints in order to provide freedom in the use of gifts. Rom. 12:7
- i) Giving – One gifted above that which is normal to provide for the needs of other Saints through the leading of the Spirit and provision of God.
- j) Mercy – One gifted above that which is normal to empathize with other Saints suffering because of sin.
- k) Evangelism – One gifted above that which is normal to give through the leading of the Holy Spirit to provide the gospel to the elect.

II. IMPEDIMENTS TO THE USE OF GIFT

A. Lack of Knowledge

- 1. Believers Fail to Know Gifting
- 2. Believers Uneducated on Gifts
 - a) Taught Incorrectly concerning Number
 - b) Taught Incorrectly concerning Operation
 - c) Taught Incorrectly concerning Purpose and Function

B. Lack of Spirituality

- 1. Believers Fail to Walk by Spirit – Gal. 5:16
- 2. Believers Fail to Submit Bodies – Rom. 12:1, 2

- C. Lack of Discernment concerning Spiritual Enemies
 - 1. The Sin Nature
 - a) Can War against the Spirit – Gal. 5:17
 - b) Can Lead Believer to Religious Works – Gal. 5:20
 - 2. The World System
 - a) Can Distract Believer with Cares – 1 Jn. 2:15
 - b) Things in Life Impede Believer – 1 Cor. 7:31
 - 3. Satan
 - a) Can Cause Believer Fear – 2 Tim. 1:6
 - b) Can Utilize Other Enemies

III. WHY TO USE SPIRITUAL GIFT

- A. Helps to Stabilize Other Saints – Rom. 1:11
 - 1. Paul desired to be with the Roman Saints to impart his gift
 - 2. Paul desired to fill what was lacking for the Roman Saints
 - 3. The Spiritual Believer is able to fill necessary gifts for the local body of Saints
- B. Sign of a Fully Functioning Church – 1 Cor. 1:7
 - 1. Paul instructed the Saints at Corinth so they wouldn't be lacking in gifting
 - 2. The learning of the Believer should lead to the proper use of gifts
- C. Sign of One Yielded to the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:4
 - 1. The Spirit operates in the use of gifting
 - 2. The Believer must be spiritual to use gift in proper manner
- D. Can Fall into Spiritual Neglect – 1 Tim. 4:14
 - 1. Paul encourage Timothy to utilize the gift given to him
 - 2. The Believer's failure to use gift can result in spiritual neglect
- E. Given to Aid the Brethren – 1 Pet. 4:10
 - 1. Peter encourages the use of the Believer's spiritual gift in the manner of a steward
 - 2. The Believer has the ability to properly utilize what God has entrusted him with gift

CONCLUSION: