



Lesson Thirteen

“Discovering My Spiritual Gifts - Four”

Objective: *To discover our own spiritual gifts and provide a Scriptural understanding of these gifts and ministries set in the Body of Christ in order to have a productive and effective church.*

Q. _____

Rom 12:6-8 NKJV *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.*

Greek word translated from is **paraklesis** which means to implore, comfort, invite. It has the same root word meaning as the word for the **Holy Spirit – parakletos** which means **helper**. So the Holy Spirit is the Helper but the Exhortation is the Help of comforting, encouraging, correcting, warning and teaching.

Exhort: *to try to influence someone by words or advice; to strongly urge someone to do something.*

The gift of exhortation is the special ability to counsel or challenge others toward a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. Often the gift of exhortation is utilized to motivate the church in general or a believer in particular, **to make God honoring choices**. If sensitivity and tact is not properly developed, the person gifted with exhortation many not immediately be appreciated. An exhorter also challenges God’s people to remain faithful during challenging times.

People who possess the gift of exhortation will not avoid conflict. It is not that they love conflict. In fact everything inside them may hate conflict but **where there is no confrontation there can be no correction or resolution**.

Because the gift of exhortation can cause a person to feel that the exhorter is judgmental, critical or harsh, exhorters should make every effort to ensure **that “how” they communicate does not get in the way of “what” they are called to communicate** on God’s behalf.

1. Exhortation must be wrapped in _____.

Eph 4:14-16 NKJV *We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning*

*craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —*

2. The _____ of exhortation is to _____ people spiritually.

Col 1:28-29 TLB *So everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who will listen, **warning them and teaching them** as well as we know how. **We want to be able to present each one to God, perfect because of what Christ has done for each of them.** 29 This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me.*

3. Exhortation is needed to keep believers _____ with God.

2 Tim 4:2-4 NKJV *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.** 3 For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

4. We should receive exhortation, rebuke and correction because we are _____ our Father.

Heb 12:5-11 NKJV *And you have forgotten the **exhortation** which speaks to you as to sons: "**My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;** 6 **For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.**" 7 **If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?** 8 **But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.** 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. **11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.*

Exhortation is used in church by Pastors, elders and those who have proven themselves to be faithful. God can use anyone yielded to Him to exhort others (in love) who are going off track. A person who exhorts must have a good self image and be solidly anchored in the truth themselves.

R. _____

Rom 12:6-8 NKJV *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... **he who teaches, in teaching...**The gift of teaching is the distinctive ability to lay out a logical, systematic approach to Biblical study in preparation for clearly communicating practical truth to the body of Christ.*

Teach: *to cause to know something; to guide the studies of; to impart knowledge; to instruct by precept, example or experience; to provide instruction regularly*

Teachers in the body of Christ have a passion to impart the truth of the Word of God to others with practical application strategies and see them grow and mature in Christ.

1. The gift of teaching includes a great concern for _____ sequence.

Teachers seek to present material in a way that is easy for others to follow. They lay out their material so it all points toward specific themes, which taken together convey the main point.

Ecc1 12:9-12 NKJV *And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. 10 The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright — words of truth. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. 12 And further, my son, be admonished (earnestly advised and warned) by these.*

2. Teachers feel a conviction towards _____ of the Word.

Luke 20:21 MSG *So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you're honest and straightforward when you teach, that you don't pander to anyone but teach the way of God accurately.*

The teacher desires that all of the information they present is accurate, valid and verifiable. They cannot stand for any deviation of truth or inaccurate presentation. Because they are teachers they have a great desire for knowledge and are curious by nature.

3. Teachers love to _____ and _____ details of findings.

The gift of teaching includes a great interest in knowing as much as possible about a subject being studied. They never tire of delving into chosen areas of study.

Those who operate under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and who recognize that they are gifted as teachers will not find teaching to be a burden – rather, these behaviors will be the natural way they respond to any opportunity to teach others. They have a tendency to avoid illustrations from non-Biblical sources – however Jesus did teach using parables.

Mark 4:2 NKJV *Then He taught them many things by parables...*

You could use the gift of teaching in our church in children's ministry, teaching classes, or leading specialty small groups.

S. _____ / _____

Pastors are called shepherds because their calling and gifting are much like those who care for sheep.

In the Biblical context, shepherds had several different responsibilities to their sheep **and ultimately, to the owner of the sheep**. They kept a lookout for predators and **protected the sheep from attackers**. They **cared for wounded and sick** sheep, nursing them back to health. They rescued them if they became lost or trapped. They **spent enormous amounts of time** with them **guiding them to the places of nourishment and rest**. The result was a trust and relationship that kept the sheep following the shepherd. The **sheep were attuned to the shepherd's voice** to the point that even if they were temporarily mixed with another herd, at the call of the shepherd they would separate and follow him.

They are **called and gifted to care for the spiritual well-being of a local body of God's people**. Pastors are first and foremost servants. They are servants of God and servants of His bride, the church. They are given a mixture of abilities by grace that allows them to serve the needs of an entire community.

Jeremiah 3:15 NKJV *And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

1. Pastors are overseers of the church and shepherds of the people placed under their care.

Acts 20:28 NKJV *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

People are sent by God to connect in specific churches and submit to the care of specific pastors. It's important for pastors to always understand that the people under their care actually belong to God. Pastors oversee the care of the flock which means putting staff pastors and small group pastors in place to help with the duties of making sure people are cared for.

2. Pastor/Shepherds must be disciplined and maintain a good reputation.

1 Tim 3:1-7 NKJV *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*