

PROBLEMS WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS

This lesson will study nine spiritual gifts that are important to the ministries of the body of Christ, the Church, and common problems with their operation.

Six of these 9 spiritual gifts are listed in our lesson text (Rom.1, 8, 9).

1. Evangelist (tous euaggelistes) (Eph.4:11)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to identify pockets of positive volition and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation. Then to teach milk doctrines necessary to secure salvation in these new converts to Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Pet.2:2; Heb.5:13; Acts 8:5, 25-40/ Philip).
- **Problem:** The Evangelist often struggles over the financing of his life and travelling ministry. He often feels guilty of spending so much time away from his marriage, family and the spiritual growth of new converts in the church. He often becomes discouraged with believers who are not reliable to their commitment to his ministry.

2. Teacher (ho didaskaleo en te didaskalia) (Rom.12:7)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to study and to categorize Bible doctrine and communicate it to the believers for their spiritual growth with both milk and meat doctrines (Heb.5:13-14; 1 Cor.12:28-29).
- **Problem:** The teacher often struggles with distractions from studying the scriptures as well as with the opportunities for teaching. The teacher that holds the **office of pastor-teacher** often gets into burn-out from thinking he is paid to resolve all the problems of the church. He often feels guilty of the believer's neglect of marriage, family, and their spiritual growth (**Eph.4:11; 1 Tim.3:1-7**).

3. Serving in the ministry (ho diakonia en te diakonia) (Rom.12:7)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to serve in different ministries within the body of Christ, the church (1 Cor.16:15-18; 2Tim.4:11).
- **Problem:** A believer with this Spiritual Gift can get so busy that they neglect their own weekly spiritual growth within the church. This believer often finds themselves tempted to neglect their own family's need for spiritual growth and personal needs. Unfortunately, personalities can get in the way and this gifted believer can often find themselves in conflict with others on the ministry team (Phil.4:2-3).

4. Exhorting in the exhortation (ho parakaleo en te paraklesis) (Rom.12:8)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to exhort other believers within the body of Christ in those life situations where encouragement is needed. (2 Thess.3:1-7).
- **Problem:** When the Spirit's exhortation is not taken seriously, the exhorter sometimes takes it personally instead of leaving the recipient and their situation with the Lord. Sometimes the exhorter forgets that those things spoken in confidence must remain between the exhorter the exhorted and Lord and no one else (don't gossip) (James 1:26; 3:5-12).

5. Giving in generosity (ho metadidomi en haplotes) (Rom.12:8)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to perceive a need and to give of oneself and resources to generously meet that need of another believer or ministry. The doing of this gift produces an appreciation for God's grace by the recipient. (1 Cor.13:3; Acts 20:35).
- **Problem:** This believer must be aware of the warning issued in 1 Tim.6:9-10 and often forgetting that God funnels money and access to things that meets needs of others. Conflicts often arise when the function of this gift is associated with the lust for power, strings, and favors within the church. (Matt.6:24, 32-34; Acts 8:18-24)

6. Leading in diligence (ho proistemi en spoude) (Rom.12:8)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to take the lead and initiative on some specific church project that results in others being encouraged to support it (Acts 11:22-26) [Barnabas].
- **Problem:** This believer often struggles with this supernatural gift because he / she has not been comfortable in assuming the leadership role in other areas of his life. Remember it is a supernatural gift associated with salvation. There can also be personality issues with the participation of others in the projects needed to overcome. As a result, this believer may become discouraged because he / she thinks more people should be engaged in the project and must remember that God is in charge of the results of every spiritual project (1 Cor.12:6).

7. Mercy in cheerfulness (ho eleo en hilarotes) (Rom.12:8)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to minister cheerfulness in those suffering. (1 Cor.16:15-19)
- **Problem:** This believer can often get caught-up emotionally in the suffering of others and lose the objectivity of the divine gift's power of cheerfulness to the one suffering. This person can sometimes revert to his old man baggage, but must learn to leave it with the Lord and let Him carry it (1 Pet.5:6-9). This believer can sometimes get hurt when others in the church don't feel the same way about the suffering. Remember it is your special gifted ministry.

8. Helps (antilempsis) (1 Cor.12:28)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to render assistance in some burdensome task within the church.
- **Problem:** This believer can struggle with worker-bee mentality. There is always a need to be done in a church. It does not mean you are the only one in the church with this Gift of Helps. It is important to not neglect matters of one's own family or own spiritual growth in assembly teaching. This believer can become discouraged when he / she thinks others are not sharing the load. You are one finger of two hands working on the task (body analogy) (1 Cor.12:15, 21).

9. Administration (hubernesis) (1 Cor.12:28)

- **Function:** This is the supernatural ability to coordinate details and help navigate activities and govern ministries of the church (Acts 27:11) (Like piloting a ship).
- **Problem:** This believer can become discouraged when the leadership of church doesn't seem interested in organizing details of activities of the church. He / she can become discourage when they change or do not follow his/ her detailed instructions or recommendations. It is important to be flexible with the project and people. Remember there are other gifts with oars in the water moving the Lord's ministry ship (Acts 6:1-4).

REMEMBER

**Your Spiritual gift functions by walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit
(Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor.6:19-20)**

(1 Cor.12:11)

“But each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”