

Chapter 19

IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING YOUR GIFTS 10

- I. The gift of evangelism is the divine enablement to so effectively communicate the message of Christ to unbelievers that they respond in faith and discipleship. They love the lost, seek the lost, reach the lost offering a message of salvation, hope, and forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:11-14; 2 Timothy 4:5; Acts 8:26-40, Acts 14:21, Acts 21:8)

The five-fold ministry evangelist has a ministry to the church as well. They should be teaching others; showing how to do evangelism. They can also be an influence to others (to the church) by creating an atmosphere of excitement for sharing with those without Christ.

- A. Because the gift of evangelism is a gift that has passion and a sense of “have to do this,” there are some cautions and misunderstandings that we need to be aware of. Those with the gift of evangelism must be careful not to expect the same burning sense of passion from everyone that they themselves have. Also, they should be careful to put into place a way to care for (disciple) those that they bring to birth.
- B. To develop the gift of evangelism begin by becoming involved with the Evangelism Team in your church or with a para-church ministry. Study various Evangelism strategies and methods. Aim for results, not merely exercise. Finally, link with those who can give effective follow-up to Evangelism.
- C. Philip, the Evangelist is a good Biblical example for the gift of evangelism. He was one of the first deacons to be appointed, but soon developed into an effective evangelist. He preached to crowds, reached out to the Greek-speaking Jews outside of Jerusalem, worked among the Samaritans, talked with and baptized a high official of the Ethiopian court, and was very helpful in the church to help them see the need to preach the gospel to non-Jews. (Acts 6:5, Acts 8:5-40, Acts 21:8)

- II. The gift of hospitality is the practice of sharing yourself and what you have with others. Those with the gift of hospitality provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging. They love to do it. To them it is not a burden, wearisome, or nerve-wracking. In fact, they seem to be happier with guests than not. Those with the gift of hospitality make people feel at home. They don’t apologize for things as they are. (1 Peter 4:9; Romans 12:9-13, Romans 16:23; Acts 16:14-15; Hebrews 13:1-2)

- A. The gift of hospitality is a very helpful and useful gift for a busy, growing church. They are available many times to host visiting ministries and also to host house groups or Bible studies. This gift of hospitality can also be very useful in church growth by offering opportunities for unbelievers or new converts to experience Christianity in a non-threatening environment. The key is not to become anxious, but to allow peace to rule.
- B. In developing the gift of hospitality it can be helpful to read books and stories about those that practice it. Then just begin to practice hospitality. Plan to do it. Even in choosing where you live, what kind of house or flat, how you furnish it. If you have this gift of hospitality begin to believe God for additional space for guests. Think about how would you like to be treated? Begin to prepare even before you have the opportunity to share your home and yourself with others.

- C. In the Biblical example of the Shunammite woman we see these ideas put into practice. She saw a need for the prophet, Elisha, and she met that need. First by providing a meal for him and then she went on to make provision for accommodation for him on a regular basis. (2 Kings 4:8-37)

Then from Gaius in 3 John 1- 8 we see him offering help to others in the faith, but strangers to him. *We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.*

- III. The gift of faith is the unique ability to know from God His will and purpose for the future. The gift of faith is goal-centered and involves possibility thinking. Those with this gift are more interested in the future than history. They are not put off by circumstances, suffering or even obstacles. They are always full of assurance when they know they have heard from God. Those with the gift of faith have a lot of courage because they feel they are in partnership with God. (1 Corinthians 12:9; Acts 11:22-24, Acts 27:21-25; Hebrews 11; Romans 4:18-21)

- A. Those with the gift of faith are often irritated by criticism from others. They actually see it as criticism of God. They also can't understand why everyone can't see it as clearly as they can and so need to be careful not to expect from everyone the same level of faith that they are able to have. They can find it difficult to deal with the "system" because it slows down progress.
- B. To develop the gift of faith, read stories and books of others that you know have exercised the gift of faith. Begin to exercise faith in your own personal life and see God be faithful so that you are built up in your trust of God.
- C. A very good Biblical example for the gift of faith is Abraham. God expected him to respond with out knowing for sure what the outcome would be naturally, but Abraham believed what God told him. The scripture tells us that "*...his faith was made complete by what he did.*" (Genesis 12:1-4; Hebrews 11:8-10; James 2:21-24)

- IV. The gift of ruling or leadership has the unique ability to say to others, "I know where I'm going and how to get there. Follow me." They are organizers, leaders. They can see long-range goals and get others involved to get the job done. These people do not always enjoy doing the job themselves but find satisfaction in making it easy for someone else to do it. (1 Timothy 5:17; Acts 7:10,35; Acts 15:7-11; Romans 12:8; Hebrews 13:17)

- A. There are some characteristics of the gift of ruling or leadership that we will be able to recognize. They have the desire to see jobs completed quickly (they always have other things to move on to). They will have the ability to know what jobs can or cannot be delegated.

Those with this gift are not afraid to assume responsibility where no one is clearly in charge. They will be willing to take adverse reaction from workers to accomplish the ultimate task. The enjoyment of seeing everything come together and others enjoying the finished product is important to them. And they are always eager to move on to new challenges when the previous task is fully completed.

- B. With the gift of ruling, leadership, we are sometimes as aware of the misunderstandings of

the gift as we are the characteristics. To many their ability to delegate may appear as laziness. By neglecting to explain things as completely as they should, they may make workers feel used.

There is a tendency of those with the gift of ruling or leadership to use people as resources. They can sometimes see projects as more important than people. Their desire to finish a project quickly may appear as insensitivity to the schedules, weariness, and priorities of their workers.

- C. Leaders must have followers and discerning, careful leaders never get too far ahead, but are always up front to give direction. Leaders should not manipulate or coerce, but rather create a confidence that they know where to go and how to get there. People want to be led, not driven. Those with the gift of ruling or leadership need to learn to relax. Be careful not to be in such a hurry that you do not give clear instructions. Delegation will be a learned characteristic for the leader, because they usually do not like or even have time for administration.

Leaders are not worried or intimidated by responsibility for the decisions they make. Leaders will make decisive moves because they know what to do and just want to do it. They will recognize and accept the responsibility and they will also realize that there are consequences for their decisions and actions. They have a level of faith that allows them to make decisions and leave the results in God's hands. People with the gift of leadership are usually not one-on-one people. They like to have many people around (the more people, the more that can be done). (Genesis 33:13-14)

- D. From the life of Nehemiah we have a good Biblical example of the gift of ruling, leadership.
1. In Nehemiah 1:4 we see first of all that he had a zeal for the cause of God's people.
 2. Nehemiah went out himself and saw the overall problems and surveyed the needs. (Nehemiah 2:12-15)
 3. Nehemiah recognized that others would have to do the work that needed to be done. (Nehemiah 2:16-18)
 4. Nehemiah saw how long it would take to complete the task. (Nehemiah 2:6)
 5. Nehemiah organized the necessary materials and the people. (Nehemiah 3)
 6. Nehemiah took the pressure and continued on with the work. (Nehemiah 4 and 6)
 7. Nehemiah knew who was best for what job. (Nehemiah 7:1-2)
- E. James, the brother of Jesus also demonstrates the gift of ruling, leadership in Acts 15.

- V. The gift of administration can see the goals and vision of an organization or ministry and beyond that, can put into place the ways and means necessary to reach the goal. The Greek word for administration is helmsman. A helmsman is the one in charge of getting a ship to its destination.

The helmsman will go between the owner of the ship and the crew.

Although the owner of the ship makes the basic decisions as to what the purpose of the voyage is, where the ship is going, and what it is going to do after it gets there, He will have a helmsman that is hired. The crew, on the other hand, take orders from the helmsman and do the physical work necessary for the helmsman to get the ship to its destination. When trouble occurs in mid-voyage, the owner is not consulted unless it is a dire emergency. The helmsman is expected to make the decisions necessary to solve problems as they arise so that the goals are accomplished and the ship gets to where the owner wants it.

The gift of administration is a very important gift in the Body of Christ. It is a gift that those with the gift of ruling, leadership need to have helping them. Could be compared to the shoulders of the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 27:11; Luke 14:28-30)

- A. If you have the gift of administration it will be important to begin developing the gift in some very practical ways. Take classes, read books. Learning proper time management will be a key to function effectively in this gift. Also, good communication skills will be equally important. Learn how best to tell others what you can see clearly. Learn to give the necessary details. Proper office procedures and management of personnel and resources will also be important. Delegation skills are very important in learning to function in the gift of administration. Practice giving detailed instructions. Sometimes it may even be good to have those to whom you are speaking read or say back to you what they have heard you say. Establish an accountability and reporting system for those working with you. Be careful not to give the same job to two people. And give freedom to do the job assigned. Don't always be breathing down the neck of those you have given an assignment giving new instructions as you go along. Always set dates for completion.
- B. There are some Biblical examples from the Old Testament that we can be aware of. First we can see Moses making assignments for the building of the Tabernacle. (Exodus 31:1-11, Exodus 35:30-39:31) Also, David assigned leaders for the house of the Lord. (1 Chronicles 15)

VI. The gift of miracles is the ability to believe that God will override natural laws in specific and immediate situations. Not all healings are miracles and not all miracles are healings. The gift of miracles is not magic or witchcraft. (1 Corinthians 12:10,28; Acts 9:36-42, Acts 19:11-20, Acts 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 2 Corinthians 12:12)

- A. With the gift of miracles operating in your life there is the danger of pride or exaltation by self or by others. It is a gift that can be easily abused.
- B. To develop the gift of miracles first of all desire and ask for the gift to operate in your life. Then ALWAYS make God your first call and contact in any kind of need. Begin to stretch your faith in asking God for large things. Ask for and expect miracles.
- C. A good Biblical example from the Old Testament of the gift of miracles is Elisha. Elisha learned about miracles from watching Elijah and then asking for more power for himself. He raised people from the dead, purified bad water, made provision for a widow, healed, purified food, and fed 100 men. (2 Kings 2:19-22, 2 Kings 4:1-44, 2 Kings 5) In the New Testament we see the example of Peter. He began by asking Jesus to let him walk on water. Together with John he healed the crippled man at the Gate Beautiful. He also

healed a paralytic in Lydda and raised a dead girl to life in Joppa. (Acts 3:1-10, Acts 9:32-43)

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

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1. How can we recognize the gift of ruling or leadership in another person? Give some reasons for your answer.
2. The gift of administration seems to be a very practical gift even though it is a spiritual gift. Discuss some of the practical aspects of the gift of administration that could be effectively used in the Body of Christ today.