

Spiritual **Gifts**

Sunday School Lessons

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS INTRODUCTION

1. IGNORANCE AND FEAR

Today, as in the days of Paul, there is much ignorance about spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:1). There are many people who are afraid of even talking about "spiritual gifts" because of the strange things they have heard about churches who are part of the charismatic movement and practice "speaking in tongues."

Without sounding as if I am critical of that movement, people have heard so many things that go on in some of those churches, like people jumping up, running the isles, dancing on the platform, etc, etc. This is not about whether those things are true or not true, this is about what people have heard.

Therefore, because of those things, people shy away from talking about or practicing "spiritual gifts." They have "a fear" of "spiritual gifts" as they think that the church which is teaching on the subject may be also practicing the things "they have heard" that are being practiced in the "Charismatic Movement."

2. TONGUES

The Charismatics falsely teach that every Christian should actively seek to "speak in tongues." When a person speaks in "an unknown tongue," the Charismatic churches claim that the person has received "the gift of the spirit."

The "spiritual gifts" taught in I Corinthians chapter twelve have nothing whatsoever to do with "the modern day charismatic movement" of speaking in tongues. Spiritual gifts are something that every, truly born again Christian has and should practice for the "work of the ministry." They are remotely connected to the "tongues speaking" therefore, we should have no fear of studying and learning about "spiritual gifts."

3. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS NOT A SIGN OF ANYTHING TO BELIEVERS

Speaking in tongues is not a sign of anything to God's people. I Corinthians 14:22 states, "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not." The "speaking in tongues" that is a sign to "them that believe not," is found in Acts 21:4-11. The tongues in that text - was not an "unknown" tongue, but rather a "foreign language." That truth is made clear in the follow text. God gave the apostles the "gift" to speak in other "foreign languages" in order that the Gospel could be preached and explained to people who understood that particular language. On that particular day there is a list of 16 nations, who spoke 16 different languages, which were present.

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded,

because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."

The "speaking in tongues" that is practiced by churches today is not a sign of anything to either believers or non-believers.

4. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A SPIRITUAL GIFT.

Every Christian receives a "spiritual gift" at the time of Salvation. I will not spend time explaining that in this introductory section, as in lesson #1, this is fully explained.

5. FAILURE OF THE CHURCH

Because the churches of today have been fearful of teaching on this subject, churches have suffered, been weakened, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the church has suffered. Ephesians 4:12 clearly states the reasons for God giving "spiritual gifts" to each member.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Churches and Christians must one day give an account to God for what they did and how they used the "spiritual gift" which God gave them. Matthew 25:15-28 clearly explains that God is vitally concerned that we "use" the gift/s which he gives us.

6. THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

Many times Christians fail to understand that they have been given a "spiritual gift." Therefore, they fail to understand the importance which they play in the church. Realizing this, each person should easily understand that he/she are of vital importance – regardless of which gift he/she possesses. (YOU ARE IMPORTANT!)

Each Christian is a member of the body of Christ in particular. Every part of the body is important. If only one part of the body fails to function, the entire body will suffer and possibly cause death to the body. Gifts differ as we will see, but regardless of whether you have a gift which is seen or unseen, you are important. If your gift is one that is unseen, you are just as important and necessary as those who have gifts which are manifested outwardly. "Nay, much ore those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary" (I Corinthians 12:22).

Our physical body cannot live without certain "unseen" parts. The church cannot live without certain members functioning well, in spite of them being unseen.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Corinthians 12:1-3

INTRODUCTION

I. IGNORANCE & FEAR

Today, as in the days of Paul, there is much ignorance concerning spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:1). Many people are afraid of talking about Spiritual Gifts because the subject is connected with the Charismatic movement (Speaking in tongues).

II. TONGUES: The Charismatics falsely teach that Christians should actively seek to speak in an unknown tongue and that when they do speak as such, that they have received the “gift of the spirit.” The Spiritual gifts taught in the Bible have nothing to do with the modern day Charismatic movement (speaking in tongues). Spiritual gifts are for God’s people.

(Acts 2:8) (Greek – Tongues -Dialektos)

III. NOT A SIGN TO BELIEVERS: Speaking in tongues is not a sign of anything to God’s people. See

I Corinthians 14:22 – The tongues spoken of in this verse refers to “languages” that people understood and could hear the gospel.

IV. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A GIFT:

A. “The manifestation (*endowment*) of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal” (I Corinthians 12:7).

B. “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (I Corinthians 12:11).

C. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another” (I Peter 4:11).

The gift mentioned in this verse is not the gift of Salvation. Salvation is not given unto us for the purpose of ministering one to another.

IV. FAILURE OF THE CHURCH

The failure to understand and utilize the Spiritual Gifts which God has given to every member causes a church to suffer; causes it to be weak, and hinders the efficiency of the church.

Churches and individual members must one day give an account for the use of or neglect of the gift given to them by God (Matthew 25:15-28).

V. IMPORTANCE: Individuals in the church fail to understand that they have a spiritual gift. Every Christian should realize that he/she has a spiritual gift. Realizing this, each person should easily understand that he/she is of vital importance regardless of which gift he/she possesses. (YOU ARE IMPORTANT!). Each one is a member of the body of Christ in particular. Every part of the body is important. If only one part or individual member of the body fails to function,

the entire body will suffer and possibly cause death. Gifts differ, as we will see, but regardless of whether you have a gift which is seen or unseen, you are of vital importance. If your gift is one that is unseen, you are just as important and necessary as those who have a gift which is manifested outwardly. “Nay, much more those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary” (I Corinthians 12:22).

NOTE: Our body cannot live without certain inward, unseen parts! The church cannot live without certain people, unseen, but vitally important.

THE PRE-REQUISITE FOR KNOWING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

There is a pre-requisite for "knowing" and "understanding" your spiritual gift or gifts. It is found in [Romans 12:1-2](#). One must be surrendered to God and desire to understand his/her gift, because that person wants to do his/her part in the body of Christ by using his/her special gift.

Apparently there was a division in the church at Rome and some members were jealous because other members were more recognized than they were. Some wanted to occupy the place that was occupied by others. Paul wrote to help them to understand that we are “all one body!” If people can actually realize that their gift was “given” to them by God and it is not their own, they will be less likely to think more highly of themselves than they ought!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #1

I Corinthians 12:1-12

Lesson One – Section Two

- I. They are "Spiritual" Gifts. (I Corinthians 12:1)**
A. Not natural gifts - good looks - good health -
B. Not material gifts such as money – possessions, etc.
C. Gifts that equip the saints to carry on the work of God in the local church
The Spirit's work – requires Spiritual gifts.
- II. They are "Salvation" Gifts. (I Corinthians 12:12-13)**
A. Receives gift(s) the second you are saved....Placed, by God, into the body...Perfect!
B. “All baptized into one body” (I Corinthians 12:13)
1. This happened at salvation.
2. Placed into the body at the time of salvation (I Corinthians 12:18)
- III. They are "Super-Natural" Gifts. (I Corinthians 12:4)**
A. Word "gift" - "Charismata" meaning "Grace" gift. (Each member is “fitted”)
B. Given by God – This should excite you.
C. They may be combined with "natural" gifts, but are not natural.
Example: Singing - two types (1) Professional (2) Heart-stirring
D. Cannot be obtained by: Study - practice - work, or in any other way.
Example: "I wish I could sing like that” – I can't.
- IV. They are Sovereign Gifts (I Corinthians 12:11)**
A. Means - God decides on the gift that each believer should have.
1. God has a plan – (Verse 14 - 18) "...as it pleased Him"
2. Problem when one member wants another member's place! (Pride)
B. Every member has at least one gift – Possibly more: See [Matthew 25:15](#).
1. Faithful with one - God will give you more.
C. SHAME on the member of a Bible Believing Baptist Church who knows he/she has a gift...
But won't use it! This person is hurting us all.
- V. They are Service gifts. (I Corinthian 12:7)**
A. Gifts are given to help others - "Profit withal" entire body....
(Tongues – Only enables one to "feel" good.)
(Not to make you "look" good)
B. Example: Girl at accident - glad she took First Aid!
1. Sat down – put her head between her knees – Result: She would not faint!
C. Gifts are for "Employment - Not Enjoyment"

I believe every Christian has at least two gifts:

1. Service
2. Minister

Let's seek to find our gift or gifts. When you find it, purpose to put it to work. WE NEED YOU!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #2

Romans 12: 1-8

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

(Example – Peter)

This gift is not like those who prophesied in the Old Testament. Those men “foretold” future events. The New Testament gift of Prophecy is given to men to “tell-forth truth, stand for truth, and defend truth.” They will declare the “Will of God” in a matter, or matters.

CHARACTERISTICS

- I. Has a driving compulsion to speak-out! This is done sometimes rather suddenly. It is especially true where protection of truth is involved.

Examples: Acts 2:12-16 & Acts 4:5-12

- II. Has the ability to detect evil. This person has the spirit of "DISCERNMENT," and can generally read a wrong or selfish motive in another person immediately!
Discerner of spirits. (I Cor. 12:10)

Example: Acts 5:1-3 – Ananias and Sapphira

A. At times they will seem to be harsh when they have no intention of being harsh.

B. They see a problem. They are not harsh. They simply want the problem corrected.

C. Men who have this gift are EXTREMELY important to a church. The church should utilize these people for the protection of the truth and for protection of the church.

- III. They are open to self correction. They are willing to humble themselves and change when they see themselves wrong. When they see wrong in themselves, they correct it immediately, just as they want it corrected in others.

A. They see the “long-range” effect of almost any problem and do not hesitate to correct it.

Example: Luke 5:4-8 – Out fishing

Example: John 13:5-9 – Washing feet

- IV. Have a strong, heart-felt conviction concerning the work of God. They will be very defensive about God, his Word, and His work.

Example: Acts 3:10-12 – Credit given for a lame man healed.

- V. They are painfully direct in correcting problems in others.

A. **This is important!** They have no intention of being harsh. One will be hurt if he/she does not understand them. They see a wrong and only want it corrected because they know it will hurt and maybe destroy the character of the person involved, or, perhaps hurt the church.

Example: [Matthew 16:21-22](#) – Peter rebuked Jesus

Note: Again, it is of great profit to the church, but it is ALSO VERY IMPORTANT that the church and the man's family understand why he does what he does. **Why?** Because he is doing exactly what God gifted him to do!

VI. Has a strong dependence on the Word of God.

A. They will correct or state what is wrong and immediately say, “Let’s look at what the Word of God says about this.”

Example: [Acts 2: 16, 25, 32-36.](#)

VII. He/she show great loyalty.

A. When they believe in a person, they are very loyal. Many times they will stand by a person even when the person, being deceived, is wrong.

Example: [Matthew 26:51](#) ([John 18:10](#) names the man as Peter!)

VIII. They usually are quick to speak. They make split second judgments and speak! They are very impulsive.

A. They always have to put their “two-cents” in if TRUTH is involved.

B. They are uncannily correct! (Far more often than not.)

Example: [Matthew 14:28](#) – Peter walked on water.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #3

Romans 12:1-8

THE GIFT OF MINISTRY

Timothy

(And many others)

The word "ministry" in verse seven is misleading. The word "ministry" is translated from the Greek word "diakonia" which means "one who serves." Strong's Concordance states it as:

"...attendance (as a servant, etc.); figuratively – aiding, (official) service (technically of the diaconate - deacon): gives relief, service(-ing)."

There are more people in this group than in any other group. EVERYONE can fit into this category. As we discussed last week, many can fill a need when asked to do so. However, there are some people who are gifted to "be of service, aid, and giving relief to others." Those who "fill needs" do the work, but they labor at it. Those who are gifted in service are motivated by being asked to help and, especially, to be a blessing to others by filling a need.

Example: A person with this gift may have the ability to teach, and if asked, could substitute as a teacher and most likely do a good job. However, he/she would not feel comfortable and would not as fully enjoy teaching as a person with the gift of teaching would do. This person is filling a need, but is not motivated by teaching. This person would much rather be doing something with his/her hands in a practical way. (If you reverse the circumstances, the same would be true.

This is one of the more important gifts of the seven. Those whom God has gifted for administration or leading, could not and would not, carry on the work given them without many of those who have the gift of service. Any employer in the business world would love to have a complete staff of people who have the spiritual gift of service

CHARACTERISTICS

1. They have the alertness to detect practical needs and have the desire to meet that need. They are "motivated," and receive great satisfaction when they fulfill a need.

- A. They will always notice things that need to be done.
- B. If a need is mentioned, they will think about how they may help
- C. They delight in and are motivated by knowing they have helped the cause of Christ.

Example: Timothy - [Philippians 2:19-21](#)

2. They receive joy in knowing they have freed others to do things they cannot do.
- A. They are grieved if the person they helped wastes the time they saved for them.
 - B. They are delighted when they see that person accomplishing other work.

3. They tend to disregard their own selves in order to meet the needs of others in the work of Christ.

A. They will help in spite of their physical condition.

B. They will work past being tired if they are able to get the job done.

Example: Timothy - [I Timothy 5:23](#) (Often sick and weak)

4. They need to know that they are appreciated and that they are needed.

A. Willing to give and give, but they need to be told they are needed.

B. They need to be told that they are part of the/your ministry.

C. They must be encouraged and they need it often.

Example: Timothy - [I Corinthians 16:10](#) - Paul said of Timothy, "He works for the Lord just as I do." Paul was letting everyone know that Timothy was an equal part of the ministry.

5. They have a strong desire to be with others.

A. This is "on and off" the job. They are not "loners."

B. They do not particularly like to work alone, and work much better if they have someone to work alongside of them.

6. They enjoy "short-range" projects.

A. They are frustrated with any long range projects or responsibility.

B. They like jobs they can finish in a day.

C. They generally like to be given one job at a time and become discouraged when they are given several assignments at one time.

D. They will complete a "year-long" project if you assign it a "bite at a time."
How do you eat an elephant - One bite at a time.

7. They tend to feel inadequate or unqualified for spiritual leadership.

A. Many people have the gift of service. They are spiritual people. They are just as spiritual as those who have the gift of teaching. However, if you ask them to lead in a three-month Bible study, etc., they generally decline. They feel inadequate. They generally say something of this nature, "I will get everything ready and you can have it at my house, I will even provide refreshments, but let someone else lead."

B. You will wipe them out if you ask them to lead.

C. Do not judge them to be unspiritual. They are spiritual, but they are not motivated in this area. God made them for other types of service.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #4

Romans 12:1-8

TEACHING

(Example – Luke)

The person with the motivational gift of "teaching" is interested in "giving you facts" and Spiritual light. They are not necessarily interested in trying to motivate you. They are motivated by facts and not by exhortation (Preachers generally use both).

CHARACTERISTICS

1. The desire to present truth in a systematic way.
 - A. They will have subject and all points in correct order.
 - B. They will give it to a class in chronological order - A spoonful at a time.
Example: [Luke 1:1-4](#)
2. They will put the emphasis on words, meanings and shades of meaning.
 - A. They will stop the advancement of the lesson and spend much time on details.
3. They delight in study, research and reporting.
 - A. The Gospel of Luke gives more details about each subject than the other writers.
 - B. This is also true in the book of Acts, also written by Luke.
 - C. [Acts 1:1-4](#) (From Resurrection – forward - Acts has no finish.) See [Acts 28:25 & 30-31](#)
4. When another is speaking they are alert to notice details. They are looking for 100% truth.
 - A. They are looking for "the facts."
 - B. They notice details and ask questions about things which they did not see.
 - C. They will tend to frustrate the teacher by wanting details! Say, “**Could you qualify that?**”
5. They are forever questioning the statements made by others.
 - A. They force you to defend your position
 - B. They want to know if you are qualified
 - C. They want to know where you found a certain teaching you presented.
 - D. They will cause you to think they do not believe you. (They believe you, but want you to be very exact! VERY exact!)
6. They will generally avoid using any illustration apart from those found in the Scripture.
They will not generally use stories to make a point.
7. Generally, they will remain silent in a discussion until all have "said" and been heard.
They generally give their opinion last and are generally thought to be wise and also more authoritative. (They like being thought of in that manner.)
8. They will establish truth by using other truths from the scriptures.
Their rule is: (Compare Scripture with Scripture)

9. They tend to feel inadequate or unqualified for Spiritual leadership.

A. Many people have the gift of service. They are Spiritual people. They are just as Spiritual as those who have the gift of teaching. However, if you ask them to lead in a three-month Bible study, etc., they generally decline. They feel inadequate. They general say something of this nature, “I will get everything ready and you can have it at my house, I will even provide refreshments, but let someone else lead.”

B. You will wipe them out if you ask them to lead.

C. Do not judge them to be unspiritual. They are Spiritual, but they are not motivated in this area. God made them for other types of services.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #5

Romans 12:1-8

EXHORTATION

(Example – Paul)

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom: that we may present every man perfect (mature) in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 1:28-29 & Colossians 4:12

The person with the gift of exhortation is motivated differently from those who have other gifts.

- A. Prophet – Keep people walking in TRUTH.
 - B. Ministry Service – Help get the project finished
 - C. B. Teacher - Give them the facts – in clear, organized manner
 - D. Exhorter - Get them to grow and mature in their Christian life
 - 1. They are interested in converts becoming disciples.
1. They desire to motivate you to do your very best in your life.
 - A. [Romans 12:1-2](#)
 2. They have the ability to talk with you for a short period of time and determine where you are - and where you COULD be if God had 100% of your life.
 - A. They can picture you in their minds, ten years from now.
 - B. They imagine great things for you.
 3. They will ask questions about your Christian life to determine where you are in your Spiritual life and growth.
 - A. What do you do in/with your personal Bible study?
 - B. What is God doing in your life today?
 - C. Do you know what you need to do next?
 4. They can, without thinking, give you certain steps that you need to follow which will help you mature in your Christian life.
 - A. They will give you a clear path to follow and make it seem simple.
 - B. One of the greatest problems in preaching today is: The preacher tells us where we need to be, but he does not tell us how to get there.
 5. They tend to welcome personal problems in their lives and also in the lives of others.
 - A. Willing to suffer because they know God is working
 - B. Willing to see others suffer, for the same reason

Example: [II Corinthians 12:9](#)
Why? For what purpose? - [I Corinthians 1:4](#)

6. They try to avoid and dislike all teaching, preaching, or other systems of information which do not include a personal application to help people.

A. Prophet says - "Keep them walking in TRUTH"

B. Service says - "What can I do to help?"

C. Teacher says - "Is what you're doing according to the facts?"

D. Exhorter says - "**When are you going to tell them how to fix it?**"

7. They will seek out people in trouble, and seek to encourage and help them through the problem – because they thrive on watching people grow.

A. They are the opposite of the teacher.

1. The teacher tells you what the Bible says and leaves the application to you.

2. The exhorter will take your personal problem and tell you what the Bible says and what you need to do to fix the problem.

8. They delight in getting right in the middle of a problem.

A. They evaluate the situation.

B. In a family problem, a group problem, a church problem, or whatever, they want to help solve the problem- and move forward. Generally, they will help and their answer(s) will seem so simple.

9. They receive their fulfillment in finding people who want to grow.

A. If the person is not interested in growing – they do not want to waste their time.

A. They will spend hours with a person who will let them help in their Christian life.

10. They tend to disregard feelings and are more interested in giving this person some long lasting help.

11. They are more interested in saved people who need help, rather than in lost people who have problems.

A. Paul, in his epistles, dealt almost 100% in trying to help the churches grow. Paul sought to win the lost throughout the book of Acts. However, in his epistles to the churches, he has very little to say to the lost. He was always trying to work with the believers to help them to grow and to please God.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #6

Romans 12:1-8

GIVING

Example: Matthew

Matthew was a tax collector when he received Jesus. This is an example of God using natural ability with your gift. Matthew, as a Roman tax collector, had great ability with money.

Matthew's Gospel has more to say about giving and receiving than any of the other Gospels.

1. He points out that we are to lay up treasure in Heaven. (Matt. 6:19-21)
2. He gave the parable of the Vineyard and Laborers. (Matt. 20:1-16)
3. He gave the parable of the talents. (Matt. 25:14-30)
4. He is the one who speaks of secret giving. (Matt. 6:1-4)
5. He points out concerning the tribute money. (Matt. 17:24)
6. He relates the details of the thirty pieces of silver. (Matt. 24:14)
7. He tells what happened to the thirty pieces . (Matt. 27:3-10)

APPLICATION: Because of the difference in the use of English words from 1611 to the present, (our generation) there is some misunderstanding concerning the word "giveth." It comes from the Greek work "metadidomi." According to Strong's Greek Dictionary, it means: "to give toward or to impart." From a study of the word and how it was used in Scripture, a definition that gives a better understanding are the words "One who distributes funds."

1. Those who have this gift are individuals who are gifted to distribute the funds to the church in a Scriptural and wise manner. They are men who should be given the responsibility of distributing church funds.
2. The word, "...let him do it with simplicity" has several meanings. In this context, one of the more important meanings is: "...without dissimulation," implying that they are to distribute the church funds without "self-interest."

CHARACTERISTICS

1. They have great ability in making wise purchases and in the overall use of money.
 - A. They appear to be able to make a dollar go farther.
 - B. Their motive is not to save money or get rich. It is in order that the money they distribute will be invested wisely and there will be a good return on the investment.
 - C. They are ALWAYS thinking ahead. (II Corinthians 9:6) This is
 1. True in their home
 2. True in the ministry
2. They desire to distribute to worthy projects.
 - A. They do not like gimmicks.
 - B. They are grieved by gimmicks and generally will not give.

THEY TEST GIVING BY THIS PRINCIPLE:

Jude 1:3

- A. They do not like to give money to things that are not “**100%** right, according to the Scriptures”
 - B. They do not agree to give to projects/organizations that are questionable.
 - C. They feel they are compromising and are not “earnestly contending for the faith” if they give to “people, projects, or ministries,” that are not - **100%** - “earnestly contending for the faith.”
3. They consider requests carefully and do not respond to pressure.
- A. All they want is information. They will distribute as God directs them.
4. They desire that others be motivated to give as they see money wisely being used by the church.
- A. Those who have the gift of distributing realize that as they distribute wisely, according to the Scriptures, they receive a return.
 - B. They know that the same principle will work for everyone and hope that all will be motivated to give more because they see money being used wisely.
[See II Corinthians 8 & 9:1-5.](#)
5. They are alert to see financial needs which most people do not notice.
6. They test the faithfulness and wisdom of others by the manner in which they handle money.
- A. Example: [Luke 16:10-12](#) (Faithful over little things...)
7. They tend to practice a very simple life style.
- A. They will live nicely, but without being extravagant.
 - B. They will always seek to distribute for quality things, which they consider a good investment for the church, but they will always search out the best price and value.
8. They receive great joy when they discover that the money they distributed, small or great, was to meet a valid need and did well.
- They are blessed when it is confirmed that they understood God's leadership.
9. They often depend on others who have this same gift and same position.
- A. God will always lead Godly men with this gift to the same conclusion.
 - B. Often, one of them will have a question mark about the project and they will use each other as a check point.
 - C. They are always concerned about giving to right projects, and organizations.
10. They are motivated to distribute to the same project again when they see the money used wisely. They are grieved when the person, group, or church does not use the money given wisely and according to the Scripture.

Note: These people should be recognized and sought out to be put in charge of distributing the funds of the church.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #7

Romans 12: 1-8

RULETH

(Organization - Leading - Administration)

Greek Word gives the mean of "ruleth" as: "One who is our front or leads the way."

The person with the gift of “ruling” (leading the way) is often misunderstood because people tend to think that they want to run everything. The very opposite would be closer to the truth. They are interested in seeing that the job is completed. They care very little about who gets the credit.

(Important that we understand each gift and why people act the way they do)

Whom, or whom do we think when we talk about “ruling” in the church?
Look at “over-all” picture - Watch the “body” come together and function!

Turn to Ephesians 4:11

- A. Men given to the church (body of Christ)
 - 1. Apostles – Ceased to exist (Only those who were alive when Christ was on earth.)
 - 2. Prophets (Foretold future) – ceased to exist when written word came into existence.
 - 3. Evangelists – Church planters (Missionaries)
 - 4. Pastors/Teachers
 - a. Teachers - An extension of the pulpit
- B. God’s plan and purpose
 - 1. Perfecting of the saints
 - 2. Work of the ministry
 - 3. Edifying of the church
- C. What are pastors to do? ([Acts 3](#))
 - 1. Pastors are to give themselves to prayer and study of the word.
- C. What are people with gifts to do?
 - 1. They are to relieve the pastor of ALL the functions of the church apart from study, prayer and preaching.
- D. **(READ) Ephesians 4:12-16**

It is of vital importance that every church, no matter how small or large, has someone who can lead and organize the work.

CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. They are able to see quickly the entire picture, know exactly what needs to be done, and to visualize the final results of a major project.

- A. When a job is discussed and a goal is set, in their minds, they can see it as finished.
2. They can break down the entire project into smaller sections which can be assigned to various ones to accomplish the task.
 - They are never discouraged by the size or length of a job.
 - They visualize it in “small parts.”
 3. They are self-starters. They are motivated to organize the job and put it into action.
 - If you present to them the goal, they will quickly plan it in their minds and visualize it as finished.
 4. They have the ability to determine who and what are needed, and who can do each part to complete the job in the shortest possible time.
 - They do not like negative people.
 5. They have the ability to know what can and what cannot be delegated to others.
 - Why would a person with this gift delegate anything?
 1. There are many things which they do not know how to do.
 2. They recognize the abilities of others.
 6. They will relieve themselves of distracting details and focus on the main goal.
 - A. They delegate work to others who are truly skilled, and really do not want to hear about it until it is finished.
 - B. They do not want a part of the project to become the major part.
 7. They are willing to endure criticism from others.
 - They stay focused on the "finish-line."
 8. They enlist people who will cooperate with the entire project.
 - A. They feel that EVERYONE should be extremely interested in the project.
 - B. They realize that many goals which could be accomplished are not being done.
 10. They have a desire to complete a task as orderly, as well, and as quickly as possible – then move on to the next project.
 11. They receive satisfaction from seeing the job completed.
 - Generally are unconcerned regarding who receives the credit.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS #8

Romans 12: 1-8

MERCY

Example - John

In all of his writings, John displays the kindness, tenderness, and the love which surpasses all of other disciples.

Only John refers to the Holy Spirit as the “Comforter.” (John 14:16, 26; 15:26, & John 16:7).

Some tend to think of this gift as a gift of weakness. It is not! It is not a gift which is given only to women, as some think or may tell us. This is the last gift in the list of seven. God no doubt put it last to illustrate that it is the gift which allows and balances all of the other gifts. We would be in serious trouble if we did not have people with this gift.

NOTE: They are sometimes difficult to identify because generally, they prefer to use their gift to work “behind the scenes” and do not like to be recognized.

A. Do not like to take credit – even when they have helped a person.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. They have the ability to detect that someone is hurting when they enter a room.
2. They are deeply concerned and endeavor to understand the mental and emotional need of the person.
They feel that if they are able to identify the hurt – they are sure they can comfort the person.
3. They desire to bring healing, relief, and to restore joy to a person rather than to look for any benefits from the suffering.
They never say, “You will profit from this.”
4. They are generally able to bring some type of relief.
5. They are not interested in who is right or wrong.
 - A. They are only concerned about stopping the hurt.
 - B. They ALWAYS think the best concerning everyone.
 - C. They never make any negative remark about anyone.
5. They are not generally interested in the outward or physical conditions.
Their interest is caring about inward problems.
5. They are very sensitive about words spoken which would hurt a person.
They are very apt to correct you in a Spiritual way.
6. They are very loyal and will react harshly when one of their friends is rejected.
They want everybody to get along with everybody!

7. They have the ability to detect true, Christian love, and even a greater ability to detect lip service.
8. They are hurt very easily and deeply over the lack of showing love.
 - A. The Prophet: “The truth is.....” - Mercy says, “You didn’t have to say it that way!”
 - B. The Exhorter: “This is going to help you.” – Mercy says: “That will come later – right now, he is hurting”
 - C. The Teacher: “The fact is.....” – Mercy pleads, “Don’t bother me with the facts....”
9. They have a great need for deep friendships and relationships.
 - A. They need to give and have commitments.
 - B. They are not “loners.” They must be around people.
 - C. They are willing to commit totally of themselves to a friend.
10. They measure love by quality time together.
 - A. Everyone has problems and situations which drain them either physically or emotionally, or both.
 - B. People with the gift of mercy are drained emotionally by the lack of a close, personal relationship.
 - C. They feel rejected if a close friend has other people with them, with whom they spend more time.