

PNEUMATOLOGY (112)

He is miserable and the people are miserable even though both love the Lord. It seems to me that one with a true gift recognizes his supernatural gift and has a passion to use it.

Observation #6 - One with the gift of evangelism will have a great joy in seeing others come to Christ.

Notice we read, concerning Philip, that when one came to Christ he “went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). An evangelist has no greater happiness than seeing people come to Christ. One with the true gift of evangelism will find these things to be true.

Gift #4 - The gift of pastor/teacher .

Pastor/teacher is one gift, not two. This conclusion comes from Ephesians 4:11. In this verse, before each noun—apostles, prophets and evangelists—there is an article “the,” meaning it is referring to a specific gift. When we come to the nouns “pastor” and “teacher,” there is one article “the” before the first noun “pastor,” but none before the second noun “teacher.” Pastor and teacher are simply joined together by the coordinating conjunction “and.” Literally the Greek reads “and he gave the pastors and teachers.” There is a grammatical rule in Greek called the Granville Sharp rule, which says when you have one article connected to two nouns of the same case, connected by the copulative conjunction “and,” the last noun “always relates to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun or participle” (*Dana & Mantey*, p. 147). (Another good illustration of this is II Peter 2:20—“the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Jesus Christ is both the Lord and Savior as demonstrated by one article “the” connected to two nouns.) Having discussed this, we conclude that pastor/teacher is one gift, not two.

The word “pastor” is the Greek word for shepherd . It specifically implies acting as a shepherd by tending a flock (*G. Abbott-Smith*, p. 370). The pastor aspect implies caring for the flock, guiding and guarding the flock and leading the flock. It implies having oversight of the flock God has entrusted to him.

The word “teacher” is the Greek word from which we get our English word “didactic.” The word refers to an ability to teach and give instruction concerning the Word of God and the doctrines of God (*Ibid.*, p. 113). Dr. Ryrie defined this as “the God given ability to explain the harmony and the detail of God’s revelation” (Charles Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit*, p. 90).

It is very important to see that this is one gift. One who truly has a God-given gift of pastor/teacher will not only have a supernatural ability to oversee a flock, but to instruct the flock. Dr. Paul Enns makes a very important observation when he states: **“It is sometimes said of a church pastor: ‘He can’t teach very well but he is a fine pastor.’ That, of course, is impossible. If a person has this gift he is both a shepherd and a teacher. As a teacher, the emphasis is on the method by which the shepherd does his work. He guides, guards, he protects by teaching. This is an important emphasis for the maturation of believers in a local church. Paul strongly exhorted Timothy to faithfulness in teaching the Word (I Tim. 1:3, 5; 4:11; 6:2, 17)”** (Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, pp. 274-275).

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If we compare Ephesians 4:11 with I Corinthians 12:28, we conclude that this gift is the third highest ranked gift by God's estimation and classification. This is a gift of very serious accountability (James 3:1). We live in an age when it seems to be popular to want to teach, yet many neglect to realize that those who do will be judged more severely than those who don't.

When one really has this supernatural gift of God, that one will be supernaturally enabled by God to grasp the Word as taught to him (II Tim. 2:2); to study the Word diligently (II Tim. 2:15); to accurately handle the Word (II Tim. 2:15).

Unfortunately, there are many who pastor churches that do not have the supernatural gift of pastor/teacher, and as a result they lead congregations in a variety of directions none of which bring that congregation to a deep understanding of God's Word and doctrines.

When one reads a passage such as Isaiah 28:9-14, it is very clear that God taught His people knowledge through a careful, systematic analysis of His Word. One with a gift of pastor/teacher will have a supernatural ability to systematically study the Word of God and give systematic instruction and teaching to God's people. Unfortunately, most people in churches have not been exposed to this use of the gift of pastor/teacher and as a result powerful instruction has been replaced by discussion of politics, morals, and virtues of the teachings of Jesus or entertainment. In Paul's final charge to Timothy, he commanded him to "preach the word" (II Tim. 4:2). One problem today is that what is so often viewed as preaching the Word, is not preaching the Word. Preaching the Word of God is to accurately expound, proclaim and herald precisely what God put in writing, giving an accurate understanding of what is grammatical, historical and theological. To me (as well as to others such as Dr. Haddon Robinson) a critical determining factor in all of this is whether or not we systematically study a text subjectively or objectively. In other words, one with a true gift of pastor/teacher will always endeavor to bend his thoughts to the actual scriptural text rather than bend the scriptural text to his thoughts. I so appreciate the words of Haddon Robinson who writes: "Although a preacher examines words in the text and sometimes deals with particular words in preaching, words and phrases should never become ends in themselves. Words are stupid things until linked with other words to convey meaning. In our approach to the Bible, therefore, we are primarily concerned not with what individual words mean, but with what the biblical writer means through the use of words. Putting it another way, we do not understand the concepts of a passage merely because we analyze its separate words. A word by word analysis can be as pointless and boring as reading a dictionary. ... In his study the expositor searches for the objective meaning of a passage through his understanding of language, backgrounds, and the setting of the text. ... Ultimately the authority behind preaching resides not in the preacher but in the biblical text. For that reason the expositor deals largely with an explanation of Scripture, so that he focuses the listener's attention on the Bible" (Haddon W. Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, pp. 21-23)

The true gift of pastor/teacher is one that is able to shepherd a flock specifically by giving that flock an accurate understanding of God's Word that is orderly, systematic and would be classified by God as "rightly divided." A passage such as Revelation 22:18-19 would indicate that this gift is a very necessary, non-temporal gift.

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Gift #5 - The gift of teaching .

Dr. Paul Enns made an interesting distinction between this gift and that of pastor/teacher when he said: “A pastor is also a teacher, but a teacher is not necessarily also a pastor” (p. 275). Most of the aspects pertaining to the teaching side of pastor/teacher are applicable to the gift of teaching. It is a gift highly accountable to God (James 3:1). One with this gift would not be led of God into the “pastorate,” but would be given opportunities by God to teach His Word and would take this very seriously. Dr. Enns points out several factors which typically show up if one has this gift. We generally follow his outline and include some of his observations (p. 275):

- 1) One with the gift of teaching has an unusual interest in understanding the Word of God.
- 2) One with the gift of teaching is very disciplined in studying the Word of God.
- 3) One with the gift of teaching is supernaturally enabled to accurately understand the Word of God.
- 4) One with the gift of teaching is supernaturally enabled to clearly communicate the Word of God.
- 5) One with the gift of teaching is supernaturally enabled to apply the Word of God.

Dr. Enns writes: “This gift is clearly evidenced in a man who has the ability to take profound biblical and theological truths and communicate them in a lucid way so ordinary people can readily grasp them. That is the gift of teaching. This gift was emphasized considerably in the local churches in the New Testament because of its importance in bringing believers to maturity (cf. Acts 2:42; 4:2; 5:42; 11:26; 13:1; 15:35; 18:11, etc.)” (p. 275).

There are four observations we would like to make concerning those we have seen who seem to have this gift of teaching:

- 1) One with this gift develops it over a period of time through an intense serious study of the books of the Bible and the doctrines of the Bible. One who truly has this gift does not try and shortchange this process.
- 2) One with this gift has a spiritual gift, not a natural talent. Sometimes public school teachers are given teaching positions in a church because they are a public school teacher. However, as Dr. Enns observed, “It does not necessarily follow that their natural ability to teach means they have the spiritual gift of teaching. The natural ability and the spiritual gift of teaching are not the same” (p. 275).
- 3) One with this gift has a desire to use it in the local church in submission to the other God-ordained authority in the church. In other words, the true gift of teaching will not ever try to usurp the gift of pastor/teacher or think it can take its place. This gift is used of God to build His church, not split His church.