

Lesson 18:

1. The gift of ministry

- References: Acts 6:4, Acts 20:24, Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 1:12
- Romans 12:7 Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- **Definition of the gift of ministry:** God puts a man into the ministry and gives him the supernatural ability to minister to the spiritual needs of others.
- Acts 6:2-4 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
- **Characteristics:** Romans 12:10-15 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
- Compassion and a genuine affection for others. Be able to demonstrate brotherly responsibility and to work without the praise of men. Consider themselves to be a servant of servants. **Mark 10:45** For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
- Acts 13:5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.
- Acts 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
- 1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)
- Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

2. The gift of helps

- **Definition of the gift of helps:** The supernatural ability to minister to the physical need of others.
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- **Characteristics:** Must have compassion and a genuine affection for others, be able to demonstrate brotherly responsibility and work without the praise of men. We find these characteristics given by Jesus when speaking about the final judgement: **Matthew 25:35-39** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Examples:

- **Deacons** – Acts 6:1-8 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in

the daily ministrations. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

- **Dorcas** – Acts 9:36-39 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.
- **Aquila & Pricilla** - Romans 16:3-4, Acts 18:26, 1 Corinthians 16:19
- **Phoebe** – Romans 16:1-2 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cencrea: 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also. (**Note:** *Succourer* means: A female set over others, a protector, an assistant.)
- **Mary** – Romans 16:6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.
- **Urbane** - Romans 16:9 Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

3. The gift of knowledge

- **Definition:** supernatural ability to know things by the revelation and illumination of the Holy Spirit.
- Especially applies to the study of the Word of God and ability to rightly convey its meaning.
- **Characteristics:** the fear of the Lord. Proverbs 1:7: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
- **1 Corinthians 12:8** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
- Ephesians 3:3-5 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

- Ephesians 3:8-9 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- **Daniel** - Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. --- Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:
- **Apostle Paul** - 1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. --- 1 Corinthians 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

4. The gift of wisdom

- Definition: The supernatural ability to critically evaluate and employ knowledge.
- References: 1 Kings 3:5-12 – Solomon asks for wisdom to rule the people and God gives it to him.
- Characteristics: Fear of the Lord, meekness and humility.
- Examples: Solomon, Joseph, Daniel, Stephen, Philip

5. The gift of discerning the spirits

- Definition: The supernatural ability to distinguish between the natural human spirit, devils, and the Spirit of God in another person. To know the Spiritual condition of others as God reveals it.
- 1 Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
- Acts 5:1-5 – Peter ability to discern the bad spirit in Ananias and Sapphira.
- Characteristics: must be sober minded, filled with the Spirit of God and sensitive to His voice, must not be a gossip, keep things to self and pray before any action is taken.
- Paul had the gift of discerning of Spirits: Acts 16:16-18 (damsel with spirit of divination in Philippi)

6. The gift of giving

- Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
- Definition: The motivation to gain assets and share them with others in and for the work of the Lord.
- Characteristics: must take a genuine interest in the needs of Saints and strangers giving to their necessity's according to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Examples

- **Macedonian Churches: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5** Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the

saints. 5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

- **Jerusalem Church: Acts 4:32-37** And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.
- **Galatian Church: Galatians 4:15** Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.
- **Philippian Church: Philippians 4:10-18** But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. 14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

7. The gift of governments

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- Definition: Supernatural gift to organize, administer, and lead the activity of others in the accomplishment of common goals. It is the God-given ability to lead, to identify objectives and to help those involved to accomplish them.
- Characteristics: must be diligent in directing the affairs of the Church. Must be able to take criticism, capable of appointing others to position of authority.
- Romans 12:9-18 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.