

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 6 – THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

LESSON 107 – SPIRITUAL GIFTS: MINISTRY GIFTS (SPEAKING AND SERVING)

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Ministering Gifts

- ▶ The Holy Spirit endows believers with gifts that by their nature and use edify the church body. These ministering gifts are categorized as speaking and serving gifts.
- ▶ 1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Ministering Gifts

- ▶ Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- ▶ Speaking gifts proclaim the truth of Scripture through preaching, teaching, and encouraging (exhorting).
- ▶ Serving gifts include helping (serving, ministering), giving, leading (administration, organization), and showing mercy.

Prophecy

- ▶ Prophecy – preaching, to proclaim, speak forth – “act of stating or disclosing the divine will and purpose of God or a statement made under divine authority.”
- ▶ In the New Testament, after the ministry of the Apostles (Miraculous Gifts), this involves public proclamation that reiterates divine revelation previously given (the Word of God).
- ▶ Foretelling vs. Forth-telling
- ▶ 2 Peter 1:19 And so we have **the prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy

- ▶ Prophecy as preaching demonstrates the role of those gifted with prophetic character faithfully proclaiming, “Thus saith the Lord.”
- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Teaching

- ▶ The gift of teaching involves Spirit-enabled ability to interpret and articulate the truth of the Word of God clearly and accurately so that others can understand and learn.
- ▶ This gift is a necessary qualification for those who would serve as an elder (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9), however, it is not exclusively reserved for pastors.
- ▶ The ministry of every church should be characterized by the regular and repeated teaching of God's Word (Acts 2:42; 15:35; 18:24-25; 2 Tim. 1:11).
- ▶ Teaching is an integral part of making disciples (Matt. 28:19-20).
- ▶ 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also...15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Encouraging

- ▶ Encouraging or exhorting is the Greek word *parakaleo* – to call alongside.
- ▶ This term means an advocate, comforter, helper and is used to refer to the character and ministry of the Spirit to believers.
- ▶ Using this gift involves coming alongside fellow believers and encouraging them to walk in godliness (Heb. 10:24-25).
- ▶ This includes admonishing those in sin, correcting those tempted by error, comforting the hurting, and strengthening the weak.
- ▶ 1 Thess. 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
- ▶ Acts 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

Serving

- ▶ Service, or helping, is the word “to deacon”, and refers to ministering through practical assistance.
- ▶ Often we are called upon to serve one another within the body and by helping each other, especially with mundane or unglamorous tasks, we free up those gifted in other areas to do what the Spirit has gifted them to do.
- ▶ This is best demonstrated in the first seven chosen to assist the apostles with the care of widows in Acts 6, freeing the apostles to focus on the work of preaching and praying, while the servers took care of the daily needs of the congregation.

Leading

- ▶ Those with the gift of leading or administering are responsible to guide the congregation both spiritually and in every day decision making.
- ▶ The phrase, “the one who leads”, translates the word *proistemi*, which means “to stand before.” It is used to describe headship in the home and the church (1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12; 5:17).
- ▶ The term is to guide and is used to describe a pilot steering a ship (Acts 27:11; Rev. 18:17).
- ▶ Those who lead are to do so with diligence, meaning with deliberate and effective skill, but at the same time marked by humility and selflessness (Mark 10:42-45).

Giving

- ▶ The giver refers to one who contributes or shares so that needs are met and it speaks of sacrificial generosity (2 Cor. 8:2-5).
- ▶ Every believer is called to share and to give (Eph. 4:28; Luke 3:11), and those with the gift of giving are particularly equipped with a strong desire and eagerness to contribute cheerfully for others.
- ▶ The term generosity refers to sincere liberality fueled not by an ulterior motive (Acts 5:1-11) but out of genuine love for others and ultimately the Lord (Acts 2:44-45).

Showing Mercy

- ▶ Acts of mercy conveys an attitude of sympathy toward those who are hurting and an ability to comfort and encourage them in the midst of their discomfort.
- ▶ These mercy showers typically have a supernatural ability to sense sorrow and suffering and are especially effective ministering to people who are hurting. They are magnets for people who need comfort.
- ▶ Those with the gift of mercy minister with cheerfulness and grace (1 Peter 5:10).
- ▶ The Lord Jesus consistently exhibited this gift graciously responding with compassion toward those suffering and needy people who came to Him (Luke 4:18-19).

Using Your Gift(s)

- ▶ 1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- ▶ Focus on the Giver more than the gift!
- ▶ Use the gifts.
- ▶ Be good stewards of the gifts – faithful, obedient, useful, selfless.
- ▶ Your giftedness may be a blending of these abilities, or a combination of them that enable you to uniquely serve the body of Christ effectively.
- ▶ Serve with an open heart and an open hand, rejoicing in all the ways the Lord uses believers to make His image glorious in the church.