

Fall Semester, 2003
Spiritual Gifts Class, Session #6
Topic: “Lists of Spiritual Gifts” (Part 2)
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Romans 12:3-8

Prophecy
 Service
 Teaching
 Encouragement
 Giving
 Leadership
 Mercy

1 Cor. 12:8-10,28-30

Message of Wisdom
 Word of Knowledge
 Faith
 Healing
 Miracles
 Prophecy
 Discernment
 Tongues (Languages)
 Interpretation of Tongues
 Apostleship
 Teaching
 Service/Helps
 Administration

Eph. 4:11

Apostleship
 Prophecy
 Evangelist
 Pastor/Teacher

I. LISTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 12 THAT HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED IN ROMANS 12.

A. The Message of Wisdom: The term “message” is the greek word *logos* and seems to indicate, therefore, that this is a speaking gift. “Wisdom” is the greek word *sophia*. In the New Testament this is most often used to indicate the ability to understand God’s will and skillfully apply it to life. The “message of wisdom,” then, would seem to be one who is particularly gifted by the Spirit to impart Biblical insight and application to others. This gift would be found in effective pastors, teachers, or counselors, for example.

B. The Word of Knowledge: The word of knowledge is a broad term that basically refers to the perceiving and understanding of truths from God’s Word. It may have been a revelatory gift in the first century. With the completion of the canon of Scripture, believers no longer receive direct revelation from God. The Spirit now imparts wisdom and knowledge through the revelation that He has recorded for us in the Scriptures. To take the position that believers still receive extra-biblical direct revelation from God is to say that Scripture is still being written.

1. It is likely that the word of Knowledge today is God giving certain

of His saints special ability to study His Word and discover the full meaning of the text and context, of individual words and phrases, and of related passages and truths. Surely we would recognize that there are those we have heard who seem to have unusual ability to study and understand the Bible and to impart those insights to the saints. One person with the gift of knowledge may be highly trained with seminary education. Another may have limited formal training, yet he/she displays the same unusual ability to discover Biblical truth and to explain those truths so that others can understand them.

C. Gift of Faith: This is different from saving faith or daily faith in living. This refers to Christians who have an unusual ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways. The gift of faith enables a person to trust God in impossible circumstances and in the face of overwhelming obstacles. Those with the gift of faith have special ability to lay claim on the promises of God. (James 5:16-18).

1. Abraham is an example of this (see Hebrews 11:8-12,17-19).
2. Those with the gift of faith are able to be a blessing to and serve others, particularly as they exercise this gift in prayer.

D. Gift of Discernment: This gift refers to someone unusually gifted by God to be able to separate out and judge that which is true from that which is false. This is an important gift for the church. Those with the gift of discernment have special ability to recognize “lying spirits.” This gift is needed to examine those who claim to be of God but really aren’t. It is most important in a culture such as America where Christianity/religion is basically unpersecuted and allowed to operate openly. In times of persecution, false teachers are scarce. They abound, however, when there is little direct persecution and danger. Our culture is full of false teachers who claim to represent God and the Bible. The church now, more than ever, needs those with the gift of discernment who are able to see through these lying prophets and expose their deceitful teachings and ways.

1. One of the marks of the end times is that there is less and less discernment among professing believers, and that false teachers will be readily accepted (see Matthew 24:24).

E. Apostleship: The basic meaning of “apostle” (*apostolos*) is “one sent on mission.” In that sense, the word can be used today to refer to a missionary, for example. However, it is important that we realize that there was an office/gift of Apostle in the Early Church that does not exist today. We often see in the New Testament the phrase “apostles

and prophets. (see Ephesians 2:20 for an example). This refers to those men uniquely appointed by God to give His revelation to man and pen the Scriptures. This is why Ephesians 2:20 calls the “apostles and prophets” the foundation upon which we are built. This is why the period of Church History that covers the New Testament is called by historians “The Apostolic Age.” There is a recognized uniqueness to this period when Apostles received direct revelation from God, wrote the Scriptures under the direction of the Spirit, and exercised firm authority over the doctrine and structure of the church as it was being established. The true teaching that everyone was to follow was known as the “apostles’ doctrine/teaching” (see Acts 2:42). Apostles were those who had been directly chosen by Christ and had witnessed the resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22-24; Heb. 2:3). Their apostleship was confirmed by signs and wonders (2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4).

F. Evangelist (Eph. 4:11): This is a spiritual gift given to missionaries and church planters, for example. They often go where Christ is not named and honored and lead people to faith in Christ. They are not people with ten sermons and a road show. In the New Testament, such church planters often remained for periods of time building up the new converts in the faith and opposing false teachers. The Apostle Paul is surely one of the ultimate examples of a man with the gift of evangelist.

G. Pastor/Teacher (Eph. 4:11): The word “pastor” is the greek word *poimen*, which means “shepherd.” “Teachers” (*didaskoloi*) refers to the primary function of a pastor. The gift of pastoring is given to men who are called by the Holy Spirit to be Elders. It is the appointment to the task of shepherding souls by the Spirit and His empowerment for this crucial task (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28-31). It involves teaching, exhorting, confronting sin, counseling/discipling, protecting the flock from false teachers, and equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12).