



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Class 06

THE GIFTS WITHIN THE CHURCH
BODY & MISUSE OF THE GIFTS

1

Tonight we will be looking at the gifts as offices in the church [Teacher, Pastor], the working of the gifts in the church body and the abuse/misuse of the gifts of the Spirit.

2

Though the gifts of teacher, pastor and evangelist often overlap and can work synonymously, they also have their respective places and abilities within the church.

3

We will look at the teacher and pastor individually, but you will see how they are able to overlap and even intersect.

We'll begin with the Gift of Teaching/Teacher

4

Teaching/Teacher

Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesian 4:11

Romans 12:6-7 "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...he who teaches, in teaching"

5

1 Corinthians 12:28 "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers" (NKJV).

Ephesian 4:11 "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" (NKJV).

6

The word Paul uses for “teachers” is the Greek word didaskalos (did-as'-kal-os, deed-os'-kal-os) and is taken from the root word didasko. Didasko means “to teach - to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses; to be a teacher;

7

to teach one –

1. to impart instruction
 2. instill doctrine into one
 3. the thing taught or enjoined
 4. to explain or expound a thing
 5. to teach one something”
- (Strong’s Concordance)¹

8

A teacher is an instructor.

There are many ways one can be a teacher: One who disciples is a teacher as he/she teaches a new believer Christian and Bible basics in order to cause Christian growth;

9

Musicians and singers can be teachers, giving instruction to those who desire to be in the music ministry and require further knowledge or how to improve their skill;

10

There are teachers in the Children’s ministry that have the ability to connect with the children and instruct them in the way of the Lord, instilling doctrine in them at an early age.

11

I believe the gift of teaching is a permanent gift.
“Teaching is simply a Spirit-given ability to build into the lives of Christians a knowledge of God’s Word and its application to their thinking and conduct” Billy Graham³

12

The primary goal of teaching is conforming believers into the image of Jesus Christ.

There are some Theologians and Bible scholars who believe teaching also requires the gifts of “the words of wisdom” and “the word of knowledge.”

13

There are also those who do not believe these gifts are required in order to be a gifted teacher.

I tend to agree, though wisdom and knowledge are necessary for one to teach, for without knowledge how can one teach?

14

Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary defines teaching as, “the act of instructing students or imparting knowledge and information.”²

15

Within the New Testament, this does not specifically mean the teaching of worldly knowledge to children, as in school, but the instruction in the faith, whether that be in a synagogue or church, a home or the streets and public places.

16

This teaching is therefore different from preaching or proclaiming the gospel message to non-Christians. Jesus was called "Teacher" many times and more than anyone else, including those who taught in the synagogues, and through His teaching validates the teaching of the Christian faith.

17

Looking at the books of the gospels, we see Jesus both teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 4:23). He had different methods for teaching – parables; stories, both true and metaphorical; and from scripture (our Old Testament) – how to live as a believer and His follower.

18

When he preached, He preached of His coming kingdom, the only way for salvation and eternal life. Paul even made a distinction between preaching and teaching:

19

1 Timothy 2:7 “for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”

20

Sound instruction in the true doctrine of Jesus Christ is essential to the spiritual growth of believers and in the development of the church.

The Bible contains numerous passages that deal with teaching (Mark 4:1-2; Mark 6:2; Luke 4:14-15, 31-32; Galatians 6:6).

21

Teachers expound, explain, and unpack the Word of God, imparting instruction based on truth already revealed.

22

Preaching is done by evangelists and though there are many who are capable and gifted with both teaching and evangelizing, it seems apparent that Paul separates the two in his epistles as do the writers of the gospels.

23

The gift of teaching involves the analysis and proclamation of the Word of God, explaining the meaning, context, and application to the hearer's life.

24

The gifted teacher is one who has the unique ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the doctrines of the faith and truths of the Bible (Got Questions)⁴

25

Beware of false teachers (2 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Peter 2:1-3).
Sound teaching was a concept deeply engrained in the Jewish mind since OT times.
Moses and Aaron were considered teachers of God's commandments (Ex 18:20).

26

Parents were also directed to teach their children about God and His statutes (Deut. 4:9-10).
There is a special blessing for parents who diligently teach their children, particularly Godly living.

27

Pastor

Ephesians 4:11

The Greek word for Pastor is poimēn (poy-mane') and means a herdsman, especially a shepherd;

28

Metaphorically - the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church; of the overseers of the Christian assemblies

29

The roles of teacher, pastor and evangelist often overlap and intersect and one person can have the gift of teaching and a pastor.

However, there are those who have the gift of teaching but do not have the gift of a pastor.

30

There are many who are gifted teachers, but in comparison, few who are given the gift as a pastor or evangelist, though an evangelistic message can be part of the teaching given by both pastor and teacher.

31

In John 10:11 Jesus applied the term, shepherd, to Himself in His ministry.
The same word is used here that Paul uses for pastor.

32

Therefore, those who have been given the gift and called to the pastoral ministry by the Holy Spirit are “undershepherds” of the flock (the church body).

33

Peter exhorts the elders (and pastors) to shepherd the flock of God and refers to Jesus as the Chief Shepherd who will someday appear (1 Peter 5:2-4).

It seems apparent that since Jesus is the Chief Shepherd there certainly must be assistant shepherds;

34

which would be pastors & elders, but could also include those who have gifts that pertain to the protection and nurturing of the flock (e.g. counseling, discipling and guarding)

35

Though there are many ministry leaders and workers who perform functions associated with the pastoral gift, they are not given that specific gift.

36

The pastoral gift is much greater than a lesser gifted position in the church.
 Many churches have multiple (ordained) pastors and each one has his own responsibilities.

37

The primary pastor (senior pastor) has a primary responsibility of teaching/preaching, prayer, protecting, caring for and leading the flock – his respective church body.

38

He is also responsible for delegation within the body. That means placing elders over various ministries and placing deacons over specific duties (1 and 2 Timothy) so he can focus on his specific responsibilities.

39

In their book, "On Being A Pastor" Derek Prime and Alistair Begg write that shepherding equals pastoral care.

"Pastoral care has as it's objective the fulfillment of these goals:

40

The feeding of the flock; the proclaiming the whole will of God, presenting of every believer perfect in Christ, the preparing of God's people for works of service, and equipping them to be fishers of men."⁵

41

A pastor's duties are far more than most people consider. Many people think that the pastor that preaches on Sunday is only there on Sunday and his only job is to prepare the Sunday message and a Wednesday message if there is a Wednesday night service.

42

Until a person has served along side of a pastor or has become a pastor, they really have no idea all that he does. This is why a teacher or evangelist may not have the pastoral gift.

43

A pastor is held to the greatest accountability by God because He is the one who is charged with the feeding and nurturing of the flock, the body of believers.

44

Pastors that are teaching incorrect doctrine, watering down the Word of God and deciding on their own what people should be hearing will be held accountable when they meet Jesus.

45

Though he is held accountable for what is being taught, that doesn't mean he is held accountable for a person's failure to test what he is saying with the Word of God.

46

Everyone who listens to a message from a pastor, preacher or teacher is called to be a Berean, to test what is being said with God's Word.

If people just sit, listen and agree with everything being said without checking it, they could be like a sheep being led to slaughter.

47

It's okay to question what you are hearing. Make a note of it, go home and study it for yourself and if you still question it, talk to the pastor or teacher about it.

It's also okay to disagree on some interpretations because no one has all the answers except the Holy Spirit.

48

The Holy Spirit may enlighten you to something that someone else does not see and when we talk to the pastor or teacher, we need to remember to do it in love and not demand that you are right and the other person is wrong.

49

If it's an interpretation from the Holy Spirit, then it can't be wrong. It is a different view However, when it comes to the teaching of the doctrine of Jesus Christ that is being taught correctly, there can be no argument against that.

50

Elders and Deacons

Though elders and deacons are not listed in the gifts of the Spirit, these offices of the church are important for the complete operation of the church.

51

Paul lays out the offices and requirements for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-13
(Also Titus 1:5-9)

¹This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

52

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

53

⁴ one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence

⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

54

⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

55

The Greek word for bishop is episkopē (ep-is-kop-ay') and means overseership, office, charge, the office of an elder

Paul addresses “elders” in 1 Timothy 5:17 “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”

56

The Greek word for elder is presbyteros (pres-boo'-ter-os) Strong's Concordance defines the elder as “among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies (or churches) The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably”

57

The work of an elder is that of an overseer.
 Elders oversee ministries and ministry leaders.
 Elders are also Bible teachers and the office is synonymous with that of a pastor
 All elders should have the gift of teaching at least to some extent (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:9)

58

⁸ Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰ But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.

59

¹¹ Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.
¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

60

13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

61

The Greek word for deacon is diakonos (dee-ak'-on-os) and means one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister;

62

a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use;
Also, a waiter, one who serves food and drink

63

A deacon is a worker in the church, usually that of a ministry leader and serves under the authority of an elder or pastor.

Acts 6 tells us that there was a deficiency within the newly developing church pertaining to the neglect of widows and in the “daily distribution.”

64

The 12 disciples “summoned the multitude of disciples” and told them to select “seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,” to take care of the matter.

They said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.”

65

The word “serve” is *diakoneō* (dee-ak-on-eh'-o) and is from the root word *diakonos*.

Vine’s Expository Dictionary - It means “to be a servant, attendant, to serve, wait upon, minister;”

66

of waiting at table, "ministering" to the guests;

of relieving one's necessities, supplying the necessities of life; more definitely in connection with such service in a local church

Though the deacon is not an office of the church, it maintains a position of leadership

67

Other Gifts of the Spirit

The question arises, are there other gifts of the Spirit besides those specifically addressed by Paul?

It is very possible.

68

As I said before, if we limit the Holy Spirit to just those gifts that Paul teaches we are not allowing Him full reign in the church.

There may be other gifts such as hospitality, prayer and music.

69

If there are other gifts of the Spirit we must apply the same criteria to them that is applied to the gifts that Paul teaches. Any gift of the Spirit is given by the Holy Spirit and is a supernatural ability to do the work of that gift.

70

The purpose is the same: to bring glory to God and to edify the church. Biblical support for the gift of hospitality may be 1 Peter 4:9-10: "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

71

1st & 2nd Chronicles has much to say about music and musicians.
 1 Chron 6:31-32
 1 Chron 15:16
 There is no specific Biblical evidence that there is a gift of prayer.

72

We are all called to pray
 The disciples in Acts 6
 remained devoted to prayer
 and the ministry of the Word.
 There are those in the church
 who are more disciplined in
 and devoted to praying than
 others.

73

These will obviously bring glory to
 God and edify the church, but
 there is no evidence that a person
 is supernaturally empowered
 through a “gift” of prayer.
 If there was a gift of prayer, some
 would say they don’t have that gift
 and use this as an excuse to not
 pray.

74

It is true that there are those
 who have a special anointing
 in regards to musical ability
 and song writing.
 I have music ability and I have
 written a few songs
 I played the trumpet for 10
 years and I can read music

75

But to be any good I had to practice and still do have to practice.

I do not have a supernatural ability to play or write music, or to sing.

But, I hope that when I lead worship that it brings glory to God and edifies the church.

76

Then there are men and women like Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher and Amy Grant who have an amazing ability to put God's Word and words of experience to music which they also write and collaborate with other song writers.

77

We call them "gifted artists." The songs they write certainly bring glory to God and edify the church, but it seems that this "gift" would fall under the gift of ministry rather than being a gift of its own.

78

The joy of entertaining (hospitality) is also a special ability, but it is often something passed down through generations.

Those whose parents and grandparents enjoyed fellowship with friends and family (not necessarily all Christians) in their homes will often develop that trait and carry on those traditions.

79

Either people enjoy this or they don't.

This too, I believe, would fall under the gift of ministry.

Robin and I enjoy have people over for fellowship through eating and playing games.

80

Using The Gifts In The Church

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-26

Ephesians 4:12

Paul now compares the body of Christ, the true church, to the human body.

81

As we have looked into all of the gifts of the Spirit that Paul has laid out in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, we now come to put them into action.

I said in a previous class that these gifts are given to be used in serving God.

82

They aren't meant to be metaphorically put on a shelf to collect dust.

Every believer has been consecrated by Jesus.

He has ordained every true believer to serve God the Father.

83

We are set apart from the world and He has dedicated us to His service.

He has given us the abilities and gifts to do the work He has called us to.

84

“When God calls you to something, He is not always calling you to succeed, He’s calling you to obey! The success of the calling is up to Him; the obedience is up to you.” David Wilkerson

85

One of the many problems with the (global) church today is that people are doing things in the name of “ministry” and not in the name of Jesus.

Church leaders have placed people in leadership positions they have no business of being in.

86

They have allowed people to “serve” in ministries that do not have the gift for that ministry.

In their desperation to fill a void, church pastors and leaders are not following the direction and leading of the Holy Spirit, they are following the direction of the need.

87

The leadership is desperate to succeed and for “their” church to succeed.

They are failing to remember that if it is truly a church, a part of the body of Christ, then it is Christ’s church, not theirs.

88

Church success is not measured by how big the building is, how many people are in attendance every week or how many programs the church has.

89

The only measurement of success in the true church is done by God and man should not be concerned with it.

We also are not to be concerned with success in a ministry.

90

We want to be because that is our nature.

We want to know how many children were in the children's ministry on any given Sunday; how many were in attendance at the church service and so on.

91

We need to focus on doing God's work and give our concern for success to Him.

It is only because of God (*elohim*), that we have any success in anything.

92

The believer's measuring rod for prosperity and success should be God's Word, not the bank account, what's in the garage, how many people are involved in their ministry or the number in attendance on a Sunday morning.

93

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (NASB)

94

A.W. Tozer said, "I am responsible before God for the conduct of the work He has given me to do."⁷

I would go beyond that and apply to every true believer.

Every true believer is responsible before God for the conduct of the work He has given them to do.

95

I am not responsible for the calling and gift God has given someone else to do.

I am only responsible for putting the gifts God has given me to work.

96

I am somewhat responsible for anyone I am charged with overseeing to ensure they are using their respective gift(s) correctly, in a manner worthy of Christ and according to His doctrine for the greater good of the church.

97

Tozer writes of the “genuine gifts of the Holy Spirit” and it is these gifts that are necessary for the true church.⁷

We have seen in this module of the gifts of the Spirit and the previous modules that Satan is working hard to interfere with the lives of believers and the true churches of Christ.

98

He has, is and will continue to strategically place people with false gifts of his own spirit in the church in order to cause dissention and disruption.

Or he will use a weaker vessel to use a counterfeit gift in the church.

99

Church leaders and ministry leaders must be aware of these and be able to identify them with their gift of discernment.

The gifts of the Spirit are given to a believer to be used anywhere in the world where a true church body of believers is gathered together.

100

The Holy Spirit doesn't give a gift to someone who is attending a certain church and then if they move away take it away from him/her.

Every local body of believers should demonstrate every function of the entire Body.

101

Each believer is to use their gift(s) given by the Holy Spirit within the body in order to accomplish the work of God as a complete unit, as a team.

When our military goes to war, each branch of the service is also like a body with many parts that are scattered all over the world.

102

There are many military bases and each base has its own units
Each unit has its own assignments and duties.
The Marines have 3 primary bases of operation, West Coast, East Coast and Okinawa, Japan (at least for now)

103

The West Coast is made up of the 1st Marine Air Wing, First Marine Division, First Force Service Support Group and so on.
The East Coast is the 2nd and Okinawa is the 3rd.

104

They remain one United States Marine Corps, but they are in different locations.
The Marines that are assigned to those major units can go to any one of the 3 and their perspective Battalions, Companies and Platoons.

105

They will have the same job because they have been trained for a specific job and wherever they go within the Corps, that is their job.

The believer is the same way with the gift(s) that has been given him/her.

106

Every branch of the military has one primary leader.

The Marine Corps has the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a 4 star general and the Army has the General of the Army, a 5 star general.

107

These generals are in charge, the "headship" of all things to do with their respective branches of the military.

Jesus is the headship of the Christian Church, His church body and every true believer, no matter where they live, is part of that body.

108

Tozer likens the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the church as our own souls to our physical bodies.

When the soul leaves the body, the body parts no longer function and they become useless.

109

When the Holy Spirit is not fully in the Body of Christ, the Body suffers and the church cannot function as God intends it to.

There are dead churches everywhere because they have denied the Holy Spirit in His place in those Bodies.

110

Ephesians 1:19 Paul states, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." (NKJV)

111

And, as I read in 1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

It is obvious that every true believer is indeed a part of the whole body of Christ, His church.

112

Each person is a member of His body just as every human body has members and every member is important for the complete function of the body. The human body profits from every member.

113

When the body has an itch, the brain tells the arm to move and then the hand to move and then the finger to scratch the itch.

The whole body is comforted and blessed by the movements of its members.

114

God gives spiritual gifts so that the whole body can profit spiritually.

The acts of true believers in using their gifts enables the maintaining of the spiritual health and prosperity of the Body in its complete service to Jesus Christ.

115

1 Corinthians 12:24-26 But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *part* which lacked, ²⁵ so *that* there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same care for one another.

116

²⁶ And if one part *of the body* suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it.

117

J.B. Phillips New Testament –
“But God has harmonised the whole body by giving importance of function to the parts which lack apparent importance, that the body should work together as a whole with all the members in sympathetic relationship with one another.”

118

Speaking of both the human body and the body of Christ Paul is saying that every part of the body is significant and has a purpose, though some may think otherwise.

119

For instance, the pinky toe obviously has a function for the entire body because God made it and placed it where it is. But it seems insignificant and of very little importance compared to the big toe, or the foot and leg.

120

But, if that little toe gets hurt, the whole body is going to suffer because of the pain and discomfort.

So it goes in the body of Christ. Someone may feel that they and their gift are insignificant compared to others.

121

Paul says that God has actually placed more importance on those who seem less important because the body needs to work together.

No one has a greater gift than another and no one is greater than another.

122

As the saying goes, "We're all in this together."

We all edify Christ together with the workings of every gift by the power of the Holy Spirit.

123

Discovering Your Spiritual Gift(s)

We have studied the Holy Spirit; Who He is, what He does, His offices and works and His distribution of spiritual gifts; the gifts of the Spirit and how they are used in the body of Christ, the church.

124

Some may be wondering, "How do I know what my spiritual gift is?"

There is no magic formula. Often some of the things you already do or enjoy doing can become, or already is your spiritual gift.

125

That doesn't include turning on the radio and listening to music or sitting down to watch TV...Sorry

Your spiritual gift could also be something that you have never even thought of doing.

126

Sometimes others will see a gift in you that you haven't seen.

If someone desires to teach the Word of God a convalescent home or the children's ministry is a great place to start.

127

People and friends watch you and the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to see something in you.

Or, the Holy Spirit will reveal a gift to someone else and impress upon them to talk to you about it, as what took place with me.

128

Since I had never really taught before, except in leading marriage groups at our home, neither one of these men had been able to see me "teach." This was revealed directly by the Holy Spirit.

129

You can take a test online that will give you an idea of what your gift(s) may be.

I took one just to see what it would come up with.

It gave me a "top 5" list

130

1-Leadership, 2-Teaching,
3-Craftmanship
(or Workmanship)

4-Prophecy, 5-Discernment

I would say that is pretty accurate and Craftmanship is much better than "Craftiness!"

131

Of course, you have to be completely honest when taking these types of tests.

But don't depend completely on one of these tests to reveal your spiritual gift(s). These are just to be used to point you in a direction and seek the Lord for the only true and correct answer.

132

Discovering your spiritual gift should not be a priority. Don't become so obsessed with "finding" your spiritual gift that your priorities shift and you seek the gift instead of the giver of the gift

133

There are steps one should take when trying to discover your gift(s):
 1. Faith – as a believer, you already have a measure of faith, as we learned last week. Faith, again, is having confidence that God will do what He promises.

134

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, which every believer receives upon their belief and confession of Jesus Christ. Since the Holy Spirit gives a gift to each person you can have faith that He has given you a gift.

135

2. Pray – Ask God to reveal to you the spiritual gift He has already given you.

John 15:16 Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

136

Regular and earnest prayer is key to discovering the spiritual gift(s) you have been given and understanding them.

3. Study God’s Word – Read and meditate over the passages concerning gifts of the Spirit.

137

Through prayer and studying the Word you will make many discoveries, including your spiritual gift(s).

If someone speaks to you about “your spiritual gift” you need to seek the Lord in prayer and His Word to confirm that a the particular gift is His will for you.

138

4. Talents and Passions – We all have talents and abilities and often these can become a spiritual gift.

But don't just assume that you are a school teacher that your spiritual gift must be that of teaching.

139

Teaching God's Word is a much greater responsibility than teaching school students. I'm not discounting the fantastic work teachers do in all levels of academia. And I praise them for what they do because I can't do it.

140

Also, you may have a passion for languages and can speak several languages fluently, but that doesn't mean you have the gift of tongues.

However, you may have a passion for the lost, those who don't know Jesus.

141

Your gift could be that of evangelism.

Talents and passions “may indicate a gift just below the surface that God has a plan for within the Body.

142

Through prayer, ask God to give insight into these passions and talents.

The Holy Spirit will place upon your heart the answer you are seeking.”⁷

143

We were created to worship and serve God and He has given every believer a spiritual gift, or gifts, to be used in serving Him.

I think that when we get to heaven we will be asked at least 2 questions:

144

“What did you do with the gift I gave you?”, and “What did you do with Jesus?”

Will we have joy in our answers or will we be embarrassed by the answers?

145

Misuse and Abuse of
Spiritual Gifts

You may be thinking or asking yourself, “How can spiritual gifts be misused or abused?”

“If they are given and empowered by the Holy Spirit, what misuse or abuse could there possibly be?”

146

It may surprise you to find out that it truly is possible.

Last week I talked about the sandwich Paul makes in three chapters of 1 Corinthians – 12, 13 and 14

147

In Chapter 12 Paul discusses some of the gifts of the Spirit and church body; how the gifts are to work in the church.

In Chapter 14 he discusses the use of tongues and prophecy, expounds on the speaking of tongues and the importance of having order in the church

148

Sandwiched in the middle of these two chapters Paul writes about love and having love in the church.

But more than that, he states that the greatest gift of all is that of love.

149

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,

150

and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

151

v. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. The gift of love is not only a gift we have received from God through Christ Jesus, it is also a gift we give.

152

We give love through the working of gifts God has given to us through the Holy Spirit. The KJV uses the word, charity, which is the Greek word, agapē and means affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love.

153

We understand it to be God's unconditional love for all of mankind (John 3:16)
 This is the kind of love (charity) we are to use in conjunction with the spiritual gifts we have and are using in service to God for the edification of the church.

154

Chuck Missler states this love "seeks the best interest of the beloved, regardless of whether the beloved deserves that love and commitment."⁸
 Paul describes what love is and does, and what love doesn't do.

155

When we look at the gifts of the Spirit being used by a person we can use verses 4-7 to evaluate the way the gifts are being used.
 We are told to judge other believers by their fruit; the fruit they bear, the works they do in the name of Jesus Christ.

156

Those that have the gift of discernment will see the true heart, attitude and motives of the servant of God.

We are able to judge the fruit in two ways: by their love and by the demonstration of the fruit of the Spirit.

157

Let's start with love...

It may seem strange, but the gifts of the Spirit can be used without love

Is the gift a person is using align with love?

158

Are they using the gift and doing the work out of envy, pride, selfishness, boastfulness or even anger?

Paul states that love does not contain any of these characteristics.

159

Pride is one of the biggest downfalls of Christian work. When people compliment a worship leader or a teacher it can very easily cause that person to get puffed up.

160

It can be difficult to remain humble when people see and complement someone on the great job they are doing. When this happens, they are no longer doing God's work purely out of love, but now they are doing it for their own satisfaction and selfishness.

161

The more visible a person and their gifts are, the more difficult it is to remain humble and keep focused on bringing glory to God. There are also times when envy will be the cause of misusing a spiritual gift.

162

There are plenty of people who have the spiritual gift of ministry and the areas of ministry are many.

One person may be using her gift as an usher but would rather be doing something that is much grander,

163

like being on the worship team, even though she doesn't sing that well or play an instrument.

This person is envious of another and therefore is not doing the work she is called to do as an usher with love.

164

Her focus has gone from serving God wherever she is needed to I want to serve God somewhere else, even though she is not "gifted" in that area.

There are many other examples I could give.

165

The idea is that people will use the gifts God gives them inappropriately and with the wrong motives and attitudes. A person serving in a ministry that doesn't have the gift for that ministry is misusing their true gift.

166

They are, or may be, keeping the one who has the gift from using that gift for God's glory. When a gift is being misused or not used at all, the church is not being edified and God is not being glorified.

167

Gifts of the Spirit are ineffective without love.

They have no value to God, to the individual or to the church.

We have learned and now know that every true believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling in them.

168

We have also learned that not every true believer is living a life that reflects the indwelling of the Spirit.

Those who attempt to do the work of God without the power of the Holy Spirit are doing it on their own talents and abilities.

169

Yes, God has given them these talents and abilities, but they are depending on these rather than submitting to the authority of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

170

Serving God should not only be a desire, but also a sacrifice as we read in Romans 12:1 but it must not become a ritual. When service is a sacrifice, it is acceptable to God and He is glorified through it.

171

When service is done with the wrong motive and attitude, or under one's own abilities it is not acceptable to God.

Proverbs 16:2 All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. (NIV)

172

We judge a believer's Christian character by their fruit; fruit of their works and the fruit of the Spirit.

I know some of are thinking, "doesn't the Bible say that we are not to judge others?"

173

Yes. Jesus said in Matthew 7:1 and Luke 6:31, "judge not, lest you be judged."

Jesus is talking about placing judgement on one's sins.

How can we judge others for their sins when we ourselves sin in the same way?

174

I prefer to use the term “fruit inspector.”

1 Timothy 3:16-17 says, All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

175

As we inspect the fruit of others it is our responsibility to go to that person who is doing works with the wrong attitude and motive and talk to them; first in love and then in word, God’s Word.

Reproof means that by which a thing is proved or tested

176

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 5:12 that we are not to judge those outside the church and asks, “Are you not to judge those inside?” (NIV)

Galatians 6:1-2

A fault is a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness; a sin or misdeed

177

If we are not to judge another believer's works by their fruit, then how can we know if it is done with the wrong motive and restore him or her?

Galatians 5:22-23

178

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

The fruit of the Spirit is not just the evidence that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in the believer

179

It also is evidence that the spiritual gift is being used by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are able to measure a believer's works by love as described in 1 Corinthians 13 and by the fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5

180

All works that are done for God and in the name of Jesus Christ are to be done first and foremost with love.

Love is the key ingredient and if it is missing, then the work is being done out of some other motive

181

Love is what makes the sandwich taste good.

Now, let me add this...

Everyone has a bad day or bad moments now and then and the emotions that we have reflect our attitude and demeanor to those around us.

182

There have been times on Sunday mornings that I just wake up in a foul mood.

I don't know why, other than the devil is messing with me

183

When we are working in ministry, using the gift that God has given us and we arrive at church in a foul mood, it is going to affect everyone who is serving with us and that will spread to others

184

Can you imagine bringing your children to the children's ministry and being greeted by the person who is in a foul mood?

They look like they're mad at the world and speak in an angry voice.

185

Would you want your children to even be in there?

On those occasions when I was in a foul mood before church I would pray and ask God to change my mood.

I was the worship leader and had a team of people to lead.

186

If I walk into church still in this mood, it would spread to the team and then it would spread to the congregation.

I believe it is impossible to praise and worship God when in a bad mood.

However, it is possible to go through the motions

187

We cannot allow the enemy to interfere with our sacrifice of service to God.

We cannot come into the house of the Lord and think that we can serve Him in His house when we are in a bad mood.

We need to deal with it before we get out of the car

188

This is how the gifts of the Spirit are misused and abused

If we see a brother or sister in this condition, we must take them aside, talk to them and pray with them.

This must be dealt with immediately for their sake and for the sake of the church

189

Let us use God's gifts given through the Holy Spirit in a worthy manner, with the right attitude, as a sacrifice to Him, bringing Him all glory and edifying the church.

190

¹ "Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary" 1995
Thomas Nelson Publisher p.1228

² Blue Letter Bible, Lexicon, blueletterbible.org, Strong's
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³ "The Holy Spirit – Activating God's Power in Your
Life" by Billy Graham, pp. 179-180

⁴ "What is the Spiritual Gift of Teaching?"
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⁵ "On Being A Pastor – Understanding Our Calling and
Work," by Derek Prime & Alistair Begg, 2004,
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⁶ "Tragedy In The Church," by A.W. Tozer, 1990
Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p. 3, 12-13

⁷ "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts," by Jeff, July 2020,
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⁸ "Spiritual Gifts" Dr Chuck Missler, 2016 Koinonia
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QUESTIONS



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