

Excerpts From Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts

Charles Stanley (1999) – Thomas Nelson Publishers - Nashville

Spiritual Gifts Within the Body of Christ

1 Cor 12: 24-26

Rom 12: 6-8

Overall – must apply Love, Humility, Peace

Col 3:23-24

Characteristics of Individuals Who Have Each Gift

Prophecy – Acts 2:17-40, 3:12-26, 4:8-12, 10:34-48

- head to head confrontation of evil, hypocrisy, error, false conclusions/judgments
- reveals character and motives of others
- requires prophet to be honest about himself and to seek correction for his own error
- often voiced as a defense of the church, God's people, God's programs, or God's nature
- functions without regard to personal consequences for the prophet

Service – John 13:15-17, Eph 6:7-8

- alert to practical needs and has a desire to meet them
- has joy when he knows the service frees another person to engage more fully in their ministry
- tends to ignore his own needs and to overextend personal energy and strength
- needs to be appreciated for his or her service to confirm that it is necessary, valued, beneficial
- strong desire to be with other people
- feel that they must respond to the practical needs they see
- are most effective in working on short-range projects
- often feel very unqualified and inadequate for ministry

Teaching – Titus 1:10-11, 14-15, 2 Tim 2:17-19, 2 Tim 4:3-4

- great concern with a systematic sequence
- concern with the accuracy of words & use of language
- a great interest in knowing as much as possible about a subject being studied
- concerned with the acquisition of knowledge and understanding – vital to wisdom
- primarily concerned with fact, not illustration or application

Exhortation – Col 1: 28-29, 1 Thess 2: 3-8

- desires to see others mature in their faith
- desires to see others discover their spiritual potential
- quick to ask questions about a person's general welfare, often in an attempt to discover the individual's spiritual welfare
- must always point others to Christ Jesus
- includes the ability to give precise instructions about how a person might grow in relationship with Christ
- has learned value in suffering
- concerned with the application of God's word
- want to be with people and "see" firsthand how they are growing in their faith

Giving – Luke 6:38, 2 Cor 9:6-7

- generally has a keen ability to make wise investments in order to have more money to give
- desire to give quietly so not to call attention to himself
- often do not respond to great pressure to give or to ardent appeals by professional fund-raisers
- usually eager to motivate others to give
- often has an ability to see financial and material needs that others overlook
- often judges others on the basis of their giving
- rejoices when he perceives that his giving is an answer to someone else's prayer
- relies upon the wise counsel of his spouse
- desires to give gifts of high quality
- take joy in being a part of the ministry of the person to whom they have given

Organization – James 1:23-25, 3: 16-17, 4:13-15,

- ability to see the big picture
- ability to break down large projects into bite-sized pieces
- self-starters
- keenly aware of all the resources necessary for accomplishing a goal
- very positive that God-given goals can be accomplished
- know how to delegate
- little tolerance for details
- capacity to receive criticism without crumbling
- need to know that those with whom he is working are loyal to him and committed to the task at hand
- tendency to move into a leadership role if no leader emerges or if a situation becomes disorderly
- want to see a goal reached as quickly as possible, as well as possible, and with as few resources as possible
- delight in seeing projects accomplished

Mercy – 1 John 3:18, 23 4:7-11, 18 Luke 6:35-36

- great ability to feel the joy or distress of another person or group
- able to identify with others and to vicariously experience what others are going through
- desire to see those who are hurting alleviated of their hurt
- sensitive to statements and actions that may hurt others
- ability to sense genuine unconditional love and to detect expressions of love that are insincere or hypocritical
- great need for friendship
- reluctant to speak against any person, regardless of what they have done

Reasons Christians don't seem to recognize their own gifts:

1. They may have a "cloudy" relationship with God.
2. They may not be involved in service to others.
3. They may be attempting to imitate another person.
4. They may have failed to recognize fully the motivation for their own actions.
5. They may be confused about the difference between ministry and gift. (ministry is a specific act of service to others).
6. They may have a false understanding that only full-time clergy and staff members in a church are gifted or qualified for ministry.