

THE REACHING PEOPLE GIFTS
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Apostleship-Evangelism
Spiritual Gifts Part 3

A SPIRITUAL GIFT MAY BE DEFINED AS: (Explain each for a moment)

A SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATION-OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-WORKING THROUGH A BELIEVER'S LIFE-TO
ENABLE THE CHURCH TO EXECUTE ITS TASK ON EARTH.

WE WILL STUDY THE GIFTS ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN WE OUTLINED LAST WEEK WHICH
ARRANGED THE GIFTS IN TERMS OF THEIR FUNCTION IN ADVANCING CHRISTIANITY ON
EARTH.

REACHING PEOPLE: Apostleship-Evangelism-Miracles-Healing-Mercy

MATURING CHRISTIANS: Prophecy-Teaching-Wisdom-Knowledge-Encouragement-
Distinguishing Between Spirits-Faith-Tongues-Interpreting Tongues-Giving-Helps

ORGANIZING THE CHURCH TO REACH PEOPLE AND TO MATURE CHRISTIANS: Administration-
Leadership-Pastoring

HOW TO IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP YOUR GIFT

1. Study The Gifts In The Bible To Learn How They Operate.
2. Observe The Lives Of Christians You Know To See How The Gift Operates In Them.
3. Analyze What Gifts You Recognize And See Developing Within Yourself.

Gothard's Motivations illustrations

If each of the seven gifts were represented in a family and someone just dropped the desert on the floor, here is what each might say: Which is the best response?

"That is what happens when you're not careful." -Prophecy- Motivation: To correct his life.

"Don't feel badly. It could have happened to anyone." -Mercy- Motivation: To relieve embarrassment.

"Oh, let me help you clean it up." -Service- Motivation: To fulfill a need.

"The reason that fell is because the plate was unbalanced on you hand." -Teaching- Motivation: to discover why it happened.

"Next time, let's serve the dessert with the meal so that it is already on the table." -Exhortation- Motivation: To plan for the future.

"I will be happy to buy a new dessert." -Giving- Motivation: To meet a tangible need.

"Jim, would you please get the mop. Sue, please pick it up, and Mary, help me fix another dessert." -
Administration- Motivation: To achieve the immediate goal of the group.

4. Seek Confirmation Of Your Gift From Others.
ask your friends who know you well to identify your gift.
primarily ask the church of which you are a functioning part to identify your gift.
5. Let Experience Be A Determining Factor In Bringing Out Your Gift
you will be aware of fruit resulting from the exercising of your gift.
you will realize an increasing personal satisfaction in what you are doing.

APOSTLESHIP-The gift of apostleship refers to a special leadership capacity in which one is sent transculturally to establish new local churches and new works which are needed to enhance the spread of Christianity.

Has the gift died out? Does it continue today?

"APOSTLE" WITH CAPITAL "A"

The word apostle had an official usage limited to the Twelve (Acts 9:27; 1 Cor 15:7).

They had been with Jesus from the beginning. (Acts 1:21,22)

They had a personal call from Christ (John 20:21)

They were witnesses of the resurrection (Acts 1:22)

They laid the doctrinal foundation of the church (John 14:26; 16:13)

They will one day sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Luke 22:29, 30).

When the apostles died, the office of apostleship died with them.

"APOSTLE" WITH LITTLE "A."

The word missionary is rooted in the Latin "to send", while the word apostle comes from the Greek "to send".

Linguistically, missionary and apostles are equals. Both are sent ones.

The functional apostolic role filled by a number of individuals.

Barnabas (Acts 14:4,14)

James, the Lord's brother (Gal 1:19)

Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy (1 Thes 1:1; 2:6)

Andronicus and Junia

The missionary gift is the continuing aspect of the apostleship.

Acts 14:4,14-Romans 16:7

Acts 13:1-3-"Sent them off"

Paul's ministry and that of his companions is recorded in detail because he and they provide the typical example for the exceedingly important permanent ministry of church-planting.

LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

Vision

SENT TRANSCULTURALLY

Ability to serve in another culture is part of the missionary gift.

A pastor on a round-the-world trip to observe missionary work noticed time and again in many countries that he was the object of curious gaze. Especially did people stare at his blonde wife. The couple enjoyed retreating at the close of day to some American hotel in major cities, declaring, "We can stand the cultural shock during the day if we can get back to a little bit of American food and life each evening."

Youth culture today can be transcultural.

TO ESTABLISH NEW LOCAL CHURCHES AND WORKS WHICH ARE NEEDED TO ENHANCE THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

Full-orbed apostleship includes conversion, baptism, growth, and the organized fellowship; in other words; church-planting. The missionary gift calls for the starting of new churches by evangelization of new areas.

PERSONAL INDICATORS

- * A strong sense of call by God for establishing Christianity in places where Christ is not known or appreciated
- * A deep trust that God will do what is necessary in unusual situations in order to establish His work
- * An open acceptance and enjoyment in dealing with people from different cultural backgrounds
- * A leadership personality which people follow
- * A sense of multi-giftedness
- * A heartfelt love of adventure and new situations
- * A clear understanding of the nature of the church and its purpose.
- * A drive which can only be satisfied by seeing unreached people included in the community of God

Years ago, before China was engulfed by Communism, the board of directors of a large American company wanted to secure a well qualified man to handle their business interests in China. He had to be not only conversant with the language but familiar with the customs. Also, he had to be a man of tact, strong personality, and administrative ability. They would be willing to pay a large salary.

One of the directors immediately spoke up. "I know just the man you want. Moreover, he's already in China, knows their customs, and speaks Chinese fluently. His present salary is just \$600 a year, which isn't his fault, but the fault of the board employing him." The directors voted that this member locate and interview personally the man so highly recommended, and to hire him even if necessary to offer a salary as high as \$20,000 a year.

After some months of traveling, the director located his man, a missionary, in a remote, interior part of China. He told the missionary of his board's action and informed him how eager the firm was to secure his services. Would he be willing to accept the job for a salary of \$10,000?

The missionary shook his head.

"Well, then, would \$12,000 be an inducement?"

Again the missionary declined.

"I've come a long way, and I shouldn't go back without some positive news. Will you accept the position for \$15,000?"

"No."

"We have no other person in mind. Will you accept for a salary of \$20,000?"

The missionary responded with a decisive no.

"Why not?" asked the visitor. "Isn't the salary big enough?"

"To be sure it is," replied the missionary. "In fact, the salary is far larger than the work would justify. The trouble is not with the salary, but with the job. The job isn't big enough!"

What a thrilling job for someone with the missionary gift, sent out to a different culture somewhere around the world, to be engaged in the planting of churches!

EVANGELISM-The gift of evangelism is the capacity to persuade people both publicly and privately through various communicative methods with the Good News of salvation so that people respond positively to the claims of Christ in conversion and in discipleship.

PERSUADE PEOPLE BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THROUGH VARIOUS COMMUNICATIVE METHODS

Example Public Challenge

Peter's ministry as seen in Acts 2,4,5 and 10

Philips' ministry in Acts 8:5-13 and verse 40

Paul's ministry in Acts 16:9-15

Example Private Persuasion

Philip's ministry to the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:26-39.
Paul's ministry to the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:25-33.

WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

In some circles today evangelism is spoken of as the "Christian presence." Almost total emphasis is placed on living a consistently godly life in one's environment. But the gift of evangelism is more than non-verbal influence.

No one is saved by observing a quiet, godly life.

The gift of evangelism involves proclaiming the Good News.

As in every age, people made a commitment of faith based on evidence, not a leap in the dark. The hearer's emotions may or may not be moved, but his reason must not be bypassed.

ABC'S of the Gospel

A-"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
(Repentance)

B-"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31-13)

C-"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

SO THAT PEOPLE RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST IN CONVERSION AND IN DISCIPLESHIP.

The gift of evangelism involves the proclamation of the Good News effectively so that people respond.

Not that there is a response every time we witness.

Campus Crusade for Christ defined success in witnessing as "sharing Christ in the power of the Spirit and leaving the results to Him." However, when the evangelistic gift is present, faithful witnessing will from time to time yield affirmative responses.

When Peter preached at Pentecost, his hearers "were pricked in their heart, and said... Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). The result was conversion and baptism of 3,000.

Even when an affirmative decision is not registered, the gift of evangelism so effectively confronts people with the claims of Christ that they have to decide eventually for or against.

After Paul spoke boldly in the synagogue at Ephesus for three months, his listeners were forced to a yes or no. Tragically, many "were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude" (Acts 19:9).

After Paul's reasoning of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Governor Felix tremblingly rejected the faith (Acts 24:25).

Besides direct outreach to unsaved it is used to encourage members of a local churches to exercise their gifts of evangelism. That is, the evangelist is to influence or lead Christians to evangelize.

A careful reading of Ephesians 4:11-12 shows that the leadership gifts mentioned here have as their primary focus the enabling of the individual Christians to perform ministries according to their individual gifts.

PERSONAL INDICATORS

- * An intense spirit of unrest within at the thought of people being unsaved and eternally damned to Hell
- * The ability to insert spiritual truth in normal conversation with unsaved
- * A freedom and joy in talking about Christian things naturally and in an unforced manner
- * Unsaved people with whom you come in contact often end up by pursuing Christianity further
- * Unsaved people actually make discipleship commitments as a direct or indirect result of your influence.
- * A frequent praying for unsaved people by name
- * A frequent praying specifically for groups of unreached people.
- * The ability to make friends easily
- * The ability to converse easily with strangers or people of short acquaintance in either a public or private setting--or both

C.T. STUDD:

"Some want to live within the sound
Of church and chapel bell;
I want to run a rescue ship
Within a yard of hell."

Do you know that the great evangelist D.L.Moody wasn't always interested in winning people to Christ? At first his main passion was in getting people to attend Sunday School. He related how he began to discover his gift of evangelism.

"When I went to Chicago, I hired four pews in a church and used to go out on the street and pick up young men and fill these pews. I never spoke to the young men about their souls; that was the work of the elders, I thought. After working for some time like that, I started a mission Sunday School. I thought numbers were everything, and so I worked for numbers. When the attendance ran below 1,000 it troubled me, and when it ran to 1,200 or 1,500 I was elated. Still none were converted. There was no harvest. Then God opened my eyes."

One Sunday Moody filled in for a seriously ill teacher of a class of young ladies. They were so frivolous that Moody felt like telling them never to return. The teacher confided in Moody, "I've never led any of my class to Christ. I really believe I've done the girls more harm than good."

Says Moody, "I had never heard anyone talk like that before, and it set me thinking."

Later Moody said to the teacher, "Suppose you go and tell them how you feel. I'll go with you in a carriage, if you want to go."

The teacher consented. Says Moody, "We started out together. It was one of the best journeys I ever had on earth." He tells how they would go to the house of one of the girls, and the teacher would talk to her about her soul. No frivolity there, rather tears. After the teacher explained the way of life, he suggested Moody pray. Moody had never done such a thing in his life as to pray to God to convert a young lady there and then. But he prayed. God answered. They went to other houses. The teacher would go upstairs, be all out of breath, then tell the girl why he had come. Before long they would break down and seek salvation.

When the teacher's strength would wane, Moody would take her home for the night. Next evening they would go out again. At the end of ten days his face was shining. "Mr. Moody, the last one of my class has yielded herself to Christ."

Because the teacher was moving from the area, Moody called the class together for a prayer meeting. The dying teacher sat in the midst and read John 14. They tried to sing. "Blest be the tie that binds." Then they knelt to pray. Every member of the class prayed for her teacher. Says Moody, "That night God kindled a fire in my soul that has never gone out. The height of my ambition had been to be a successful merchant." Unlike the rich young ruler, he turned his back on money. From then on, soul-winning was his business. Discovering his gift he employed it to his dying day.

Even if we do not have the gift of evangelism, we are to do the work of an evangelist. Jesus said, "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). As we launch out into the deep, perhaps we will discover that we have a Spirit-implanted ability - the gift of evangelism.

HOW WIDESPREAD IS THIS GIFT?

How many believers in the average congregation have it? Do you have it?

Campus Crusade estimated that it takes 1,000 laymen and six pastors one year to win one to Christ. Surely, since the Lord wished the Gospel proclaimed effectively to every last person in our culture, to say nothing of all the cultures of the world, He must have given the gift of evangelism to large numbers of believers. At least enough Christians so it wouldn't take a thousand of them to win one soul a year!

The Early Church was a lay movement. Though all the apostles doubtless possessed the gift of evangelism, so did multitudes of the early saints. It's likely that in all ages, including ours, far more believers have this gift than are aware of it.

Just as fishermen do not fish in an aquarium they have stocked with fish, soul-winners will not find the sacred enclosure of a church building the best place to exercise their witness. The Early Church evangelized in the open air, on highways, in houses, by rivers, in jails, in the intellectual arena as at Mars Hill, at court. "In the history of the church more people have been won to Christ by such quiet ways than in great mass meetings."

If Christians were faithful in discharging their duty in witnessing, many would discover that they have the gift of evangelism which has lain dormant since their regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

If we can talk about the Detroit Tigers, the Miami Dolphins, the Montreal Canadians, the New York Knickerbockers, politics, weather, and our cars, surely we can talk about Jesus Christ.

We have lost the sense of urgency.

People need a savior.

Jesus ministered to people's needs. And then told them that they needed a savior because Hell was imminent.

NEED CASAS TO BE BOTH PRO-CHRIST AND ANTI-HELL.

DID YOU SAY IT WAS FREE?

James - murdered in Jerusalem by King Herod.

Matthew - carried Christ to a little country called Ethiopia. There he was slain on a sword.

Philip - hanged in Phrygia.

Bartholomew - had his skin ripped from his body while he was still alive.

Andrew - was crucified in Achaia.

Thomas - carried the Cause to East India. There he was run through with a lance.

Thaddeus - was shot to death with arrows. He was buried, legend says, in Beirut.

Simon, a member of the Jewish nationalistic party - crucified in Persia.

Peter - crucified upside down in Rome.

Matthias, selected to fill the place of one who betrayed the Leader - beheaded.

And somebody still says the Christian faith is free.