

## **Gifts 4: The Other Gifts**

**Rom 12:3-8 Psa 118:19-29 Mat 5:1-16**

I have entitled this talk “The Other Gifts”... but I don’t want you to think of them as the leftovers. Apostles and teachers are ranked first in Paul’s list in 1 Corinthians 12, but also we know that no gift, however menial, is unimportant.

Today then we look at...

Apostles, Teachers, Faith, Distinguish between spirits, Service, Exhorting, Contributing, Giving aid, Acts of mercy.

**Apostles** – Those who are sent as messengers of the gospel. Like missionaries, establishing churches, and moving on. Like bishops in the sense that they proclaim the same faith across the churches. Apostles may be evangelists and will often be teachers...

But **teachers** do not have to be apostles.

There will be teachers who specialise with certain age and ability groups.

Some who are good at lecturing students may not be able to communicate well with children, and vice versa.

And being good at something doesn’t always mean you can teach it.

+ Susan tells of a maths teacher who was brilliant at maths, but could not teach the students. He was enthusiastic and involved but he raced through his explanations and left them floundering.

The task of the Teacher is to make the Scriptures plain and understandable.

The teacher should be honing his or her skills in presentation, but also praying for the Holy Spirit, who is the ultimate teacher.

Teachers have the potential to make a lasting difference.

+BI A Sunday School teacher, a Mr. Kimball, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ.

The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.

Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach. During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ.

Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.

Teaching Scripture in schools is one of the greatest opportunities we have today to present Christ to young people. I trust that you will support SRE in your prayers, both for public and high schools.

Although teaching is a particular gift, all of us teach at some point in our lives - whether it is children, friends, relatives or whoever.

When the opportunity arises pray for the Spirit to give you the right words to say.

### **Faith**

We all must have **faith** in order to become a Christian, but the faith mentioned here has to be for great things and comes from an inner assurance, given by the Spirit that a certain venture will succeed and

be supported. (AS such it may overlap with prophecy).  
As I have said before in relation to healing, faith develops out of relationship, and relationships develop through being with and conversing with a person (in this case, God).

**Distinguish between spirits.** Such a person will be valuable in a church which is hearing prophecies and tongues in its services. Such a person will know whether the message is from God.  
Again, we all need to be discerning of what is right and wrong. The Scriptures are our guide, and the better we know them the more ably we will discern what is from God.  
Special discernment probably has to do with spiritual manifestations and to know whether they are from the Holt Spirit.

**Service, giving aid and acts of mercy,** are hard to separate  
They cover the multitude of tasks that are a part of the functioning of the parish.  
In the running of the worship service,  
Welcoming people at the door.  
In looking after the buildings and grounds  
Repairing things that are broken  
Those who can get ventures up and running, and can get people motivated to help (entrepreneurial skills).  
Those who set up the church and clean it.  
Cooking and preparing morning tea and cleaning up afterwards and so on...  
are all acts of service

**Giving aid and acts of mercy** are also acts of service,  
but perhaps at a more pastoral level  
Being able to help where the need arises.  
It includes things like visiting those who are shut-in.  
Cooking or housecleaning for those who are sick  
+BI When H. M. Stanley went to Africa in 1871 to find and report on

David Livingstone, he spent several months in the missionary's company, carefully observing the man and his work. Livingstone never spoke to Stanley about spiritual matters, but Livingstone's loving and patient compassion for the African people was beyond Stanley's comprehension. He could not understand how the missionary could have such love for and patience with the backward, pagan people among whom he had so long ministered. Livingstone literally spent himself in untiring service for those whom he had no reason to love except for Christ's sake. Stanley wrote in his journal, "When I saw that unwearied patience, that unflagging zeal, and those enlightened sons of Africa, I became a Christian at his side, though he never spoke to me one word."

**Exhorting** has to do with inspiring people and goes hand in hand with encouraging. It is pleading with people to do what is right.

**Contributing** is for those who have more money or possessions than someone else has. (It not just for the very rich, but being rich helps)

+BI Dr. Truett, pastor for years at First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas was invited to a church that was raising \$6,500 to dedicate a church building. After about half was promised, the offerings ceased.

Then a plainly dressed woman arose and spoke to her husband who was taking the names. "Charles, I wonder if you would be willing to give our little cottage, just out of debt? We were offered \$3,500 for it yesterday. Would you be willing to give our little house for Christ that his house may be free?" The fine fellow responded in the same high spirit: "Jeanie, dear. I was just thinking the same thing." Then looking at Truett with his face covered with tears, he said, "We will give \$3,500."

Then there followed a scene beyond description. Men and women sobbed aloud, and almost in a moment, the \$3,500 was provided.

Then without an invitation, there came down the aisle men and women saying, "Sir, where is the Saviour, and how can we find him?"

When some began to exercise the gift of giving, people wanted to know their Saviour.

And so it is with all the gifts that God gives us.  
In hands they are multiplied to his glory.

### **Finally from Romans 12 we learn that...**

We are members one of another:

That speaks of great commitment

We are not just individuals free to go our own way

We are members of a family,

MORE than that – we are parts of a body.

We belong to each other.

It means that we don't just live our own private lives

It implies far more than just turning up on Sunday

It means doing things together as a family and building each other up as we do so.

Romans 12 also speaks to some extent, of the WAY in which these gifts are to be exercised.

The giver with generosity

The leader with diligence

The compassionate in cheerfulness

It indicates that we are to exercise God's gifts to us from the heart – wholeheartedly.

We are to see that this is the ministry that God has given us, and we want to be good at it.

To be our best for God and for each other.

+BI John Gardner, author of Excellence, said, "The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water."

In practice then...

If you are going to take part in a church service (playing, singing, reading, praying) then you will want to put some time into preparing.

And if you do not have an upfront part to play, you will want to be here before the starting time, to prepare yourself for worship.

If you take on a job of preparing morning tea, cleaning, arranging flowers, welcoming people at the door, mowing, repairing, gardening or whatever it may be.

It will not be a chore – to be done with a sigh, but with a cheerfulness knowing that God sees what we do for him, even when others don't notice.

What is more, we will see our everyday jobs and involvements as our ministries too...

For in the end our whole lives are to be lived to the glory of God.

Romans 12

*<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Next week you will be given a survey to fill in, indicating the gifts and abilities that you have.*

*Purpose:*

*To print a resource book.*

*To provide information on people's interests.*

*To help us plan for future training and teaching.*

*To enable people to use their talents in service to God and for building up the church.*