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### Anointed to Serve



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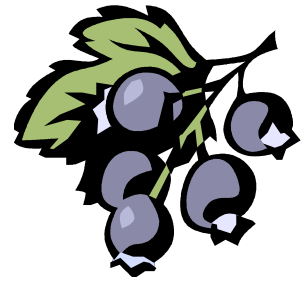
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## Introduction to Level IV:

### *You are anointed to minister in the Kingdom of God*



*“I am the vine; you are the branches.  
If someone remains in me and I in them,  
they will bear much fruit;  
apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Jesus - John 15:5

*You are called!*

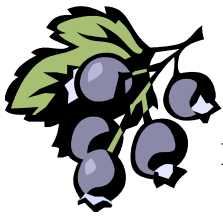


God calls each believer to Christian ministry. Whether preaching to thousands, wielding a hammer, praying in the night, teaching a child, showing hospitality, or leading throngs in worship, *each of us has a ministry to fulfill!* God also clearly promises that we would not be left to fend for ourselves in these efforts. Christ himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

*Ministry must be super-natural*

Authentic ministry is humanly impossible. We are called to extend God’s rule in a world infested by demons and dominated by human societies that rebel against precisely that authority. For this reason, we need a supernatural power to execute our calling with eternal value. Thankfully, God invests us with this power by endowing us – by filling us – with His Holy Spirit. We call this spiritual investiture, “anointing,” harkening back to the days when the Old Testament priests would “anoint” the chosen king or prophet with oil, which represented God’s presence; authorizing that individual to act on behalf of His rule on earth. On the day of Pentecost, the risen and exalted Jesus poured out this anointing upon the apostles, empowering them to deliver his gospel “to the ends of the earth!”





**Fruit: *The anointing of the Holy Spirit shines Jesus' heart through our ministry***

As New Testament believers, we depend on this “anointing” to fulfill our ministry. This supernatural power manifests itself through the “fruit” of Christ-like character, which shines through us as we serve. The very personality of Jesus can emanate from us like light through a prism, which results in a spectrum of brilliant color: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self control.*

**Gifts: *The Holy Spirit endows us with supernatural power***

This spiritual anointing also manifests itself through certain other-worldly powers, or “gifts,” intended to help us to fulfill specific functions in this kingdom work. Quite different from natural talents or human competence, these gifts are spiritual in essence, imparting Divine power to fulfill whatever task God calls us to do.



In Level IV we consider, and seek to cultivate, this multi-faceted anointing in our lives. Do we indeed minister with supernatural joy, even in the drudgery and sometimes agonizing moments of Christian service? Does our zeal include the gentleness of Jesus, or do we “plow over” others in our drive to achieve God’s purposes? These are the types of hard questions we will ask ourselves as we visualize a ministry which reflects the fruit of the Spirit.

We will also consider the awesome variety of gifting God has provided for His church. In breathtaking variety and precision, God has equipped each of us to fulfill a critical role in His unfolding plan on earth.

As we embark upon this amazing exploration,

***.... we invite you to pray for the following attitudes of mind and heart:***

**Pray for wisdom .... *about your own gifting and calling.***

**Pray for a teachable heart...**

- *To receive instruction (and warnings) appropriate to your own gifting and temperament – your particular spiritual “wiring.”*
- *To recognize honestly those ways in which your service in Jesus’ name does not always reflect his character.*

**Pray for eyes ....**

- *To see and appreciate the gifting in others, becoming more of a team player in God’s kingdom work.*
- *To visualize the fruit of the Spirit - specific qualities of the character of Jesus- reflected in the day to day details of ministry.*

**Pray that the Lord of His harvest would send you into His harvest field in a way that yields fruit – 100 fold!**



## Our Goals for Level 4

### *To learn about and pray for the fruit of the Spirit in our ministry*

- *To visualize how each “fruit” of Christian character becomes evident in real life ministry situations*
- *To identify our areas of struggle and pray growth in our own character*



### *To learn about and pray for the gifts of the Spirit in our ministry*

- *To visualize each gift in action*
- *To value the need to work in partnership with those who have different giftings*
- *To observe the potential “pitfalls” related to each gift*
- *To begin to identify our own areas of gifting*



### *We are anointed to minister....*

*with Jesus’ heart and Jesus’ power!*





## Table I: The Fruit of the Spirit



**Love** - *Perfectly demonstrated by Christ's death on the cross for undeserving sinners. Disinterested care and service to others. A decision, by faith, to seek the good of others unconditionally and without seeking personal gain.*

**Goodness** - *To live with authentic integrity and sincerity, being honest and seeking to do what is right, whatever the cost.*



**Joy** - *A positive attitude of hope and optimism which is based in the faithfulness of God, and not one's circumstances.*

**Faithfulness** - *To be responsible, reliable and trustworthy.*



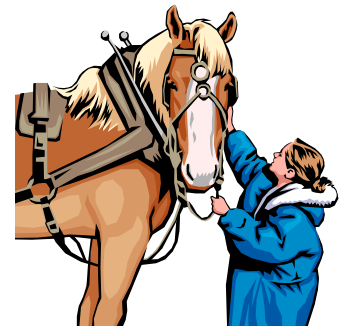
**Peace** - *A state of order, tranquility, interpersonal harmony and well-being, imparted by the Spirit, even in the midst of difficulty or conflict.*

**Patience** - *The art of waiting. The capacity to absorb negativity or setbacks without giving up; following through in a long term process with perseverance.*



**Kindness** - *Transmitting good will to others. A sweet, benevolent and attentive disposition.*

**Gentleness** - *Strength of will which has been submitted to the Lordship of Christ. Being docile and responsive to God's voice and the leadership of spiritual authority; respectful and courteous to all.*



**Self-Control** - *The capacity to harness one's instincts, impulses and appetites in order to serve the Lord with discipline and sobriety.*





## Table II: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.  
1 Corinthians 12:7

### Gifts of Care-giving

**Hospitality** *A special anointing to make others feel “at home,” welcome, cared for and part of the group.*



**Mercy** - *A special empathy and sincere compassion for the pain and suffering of others, resulting in practical expressions of support and charity.*

**Exhortation** - *A special anointing to encourage, challenge and admonish.*



**Service** - *A special anointing to anticipate and fill the needs of others.*



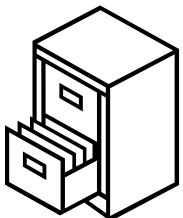
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### Gifts that Support the Work of God



**Intercession** - *A special anointing to pray intensely for extended periods of time under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

**Helps** - *A special anointing to work alongside others to support their efforts in practical ways.*



**Administration** - *A special anointing to coordinate and organize people and projects.*

**Craftsmanship** - *A special anointing to create and enhance beautiful environments in which God’s service can take place.*

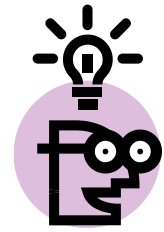


**Giving** - *A special attention to the practical and financial needs of the church and the capacity to contribute cheerfully and generously to fulfill those needs.*



## Gifts of Divine Revelation

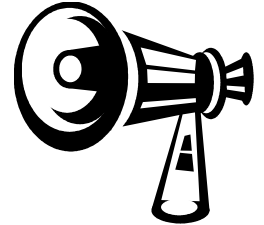
**Word of Wisdom** - *Supernatural revelation about how to proceed and speak in certain practical life situations.*



**Word of Knowledge** - *The supernatural revelation of information in specific situations that could not have been ascertained by natural means.*



**Prophecy** : *A special anointing to receive supernatural revelation and communicate messages from the Holy Spirit.*



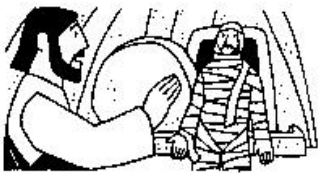
**Discernment** *A special anointing to perceive the presence of angels and demons, as well as the capacity to know if the actions, words and motivations of a person are of Divine, demonic or merely human origin.*



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## Gifts of Miraculous Signs and Wonders

**Faith** - *An exceptional anointing to believe that God will move in specific and practical ways that defy circumstantial evidence.*



**Miracles** - *A special anointing to perform supernatural actions by the power of God.*

**Healings** - *A special anointing to minister emotional or physical healing by the power of God.*



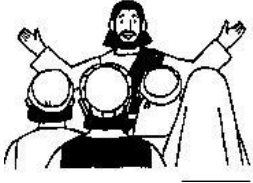
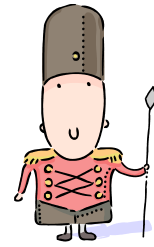
**Tongues** *A special anointing to pray, worship or prophesy in a language which is unknown to the speaker.*

**Interpretation of Tongues:** *A special anointing to interpret a prophetic message that was delivered originally in tongues.*

**Exorcism:** *A special anointing to cast demons out of or away from another individual.*

## Gifts of Leadership to Equip the Saints

**Leadership** - *A special anointing to influence and mobilize others to fulfill a mission in the Kingdom of God.*



**Teaching**- *An anointing to communicate the truths of the word of God in a clear, memorable and impacting way which impacts the daily lives of the listeners.*

**Worship Arts** - *A special anointing to enrich worship through song, instrumental music, dance or some other artistic expression.*



**Pastor** - *A special anointing to assume responsibility for the spiritual growth of a group of believers.*

**Apostle** *A special anointing to provide spiritual leadership over a number of pastors and churches to promote the extension of the kingdom at a regional level.*



**Missionary** - *A special anointing to minister effectively in other cultures.*

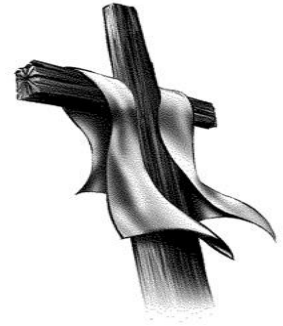
**Evangelism:** *A special wisdom and anointing to win souls and mobilize others in the work of sharing the gospel with unbelievers.*





## Lesson #1 – Love and Goodness in Ministry

“For the love of Christ compels us...” 2 Corinthians 5:14



### The Eyes of the Father: *David on the Street-corner*

You can smell him before you see him. The stench of urine mixes with body odor and vodka to provide ample advance notice as you approach. There David sits on the corner of Park St. and Tremont Ave., “curing” himself, but still trembling as he brings the brown paper bag to his lips. Even in the midnight darkness, the glare of streetlight reveals a man whose gaunt features, moistened by perspiration, betray pre-mature aging, laced with pain and inner scars. He barks obscenity at passers-by. You experience a strange combination of revulsion and curiosity. How did this man become debased to this degree?

You come home later that evening and even though bed-time has long since passed, you check on your two year old child, asleep in her room. You gingerly open the door so as not to disturb. The child’s features have a pinkish hue in the soft night-light. Calming piano lullabies quietly fill the stillness. The child lays in completely trusting innocence – clutching a stuffed friend to provide comfort. The tummy rises and falls in an almost imperceptible cadence. You can hardly believe that this creature is real – that this tiny human being *came from you* in some wonderful, mysterious way. It seems incredible *that you would do anything* for this little person’s well being. How is it possible to care so deeply, so passionately – even violently, for the good of another?

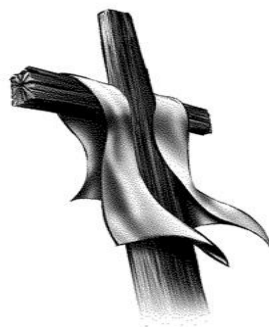
In the sublime silence of the night, God speaks: “*That’s the way I see my David.*”

In ministry, let us see each person through the eyes of the Father.

**What motivates you in ministry?** *Why* do we serve others?

*In the eyes of God, it is not only what we do that matters, but why we do it!*

We may overflow with spiritual passion and shine with spectacular spiritual gifts, but if we are not motivated by love and goodness of heart, our ministry will be tainted and evanescent. Insincerity contaminates the flow of the Holy Spirit and erodes trust in those around us. Love, in contrast, invests even our weakest attempts to minister with eternal value. When ministry flows out of genuine love and a heart of goodness and nobility, what we build will stand the test of fire on that awesome and terrible Day of Judgment. Indeed, *love never fails!*



## Part I – Love: *The Most Excellent Way*

*“The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”* (1 John 4:8)

### *Imagine the power of a ministry motivated by love*

- *The children’s Sunday School teacher* who prays, weeps and fasts for “her” kids
- *The usher* who goes the “extra mile” to tend to the needs of a handicapped visitor
- *The deliverance intercessor* who spends days in fasting for the deliverance of a single person from demonic oppression
- *The craftsman* who does a job “*as if it were for his own daughter.*”

*“For the love of Christ compels us...”* 2 Corinthians 5:14

What does the word “compel” mean for a minister? \_\_\_\_\_

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### *In “Part I” of this lesson we learn...*

- *What love is – and what it is not!*
- *The characteristics of a love-motivated ministry*
- *The difference between the “hireling” and the “good shepherd”*

### *Let’s do a “heart check”*

- Do you serve someone “*as if she were your own daughter... or mother?*”
- Do you feel privileged to make sacrifices for others?
- Do you go the extra mile, or do you settle for the minimum?
- Do you take chances sometimes to help others, or do “play it safe” by taking care of your own needs first?
- Do you sometimes weep for those you serve?
- Are you disinterested in what you do in ministry, or do you have a hidden agenda?
- If you are not properly recognized for what you do, do you cease serving with the same level of intensity?

### *What is Love?*

- *Is it a feeling of warmth in the heart?*
- *Is it physical attraction?*

¡NO!



## The Bible re-defines love in light of the cross!

- **Biblical love is not a feeling!** -- We certainly seek to cultivate “brotherly affection” and positive feelings towards others. The Greek word for this kind of affection, “*Fileo*,” appears often in the New Testament, but God’s love (*Agape*) goes much, much deeper!
- **Biblical love is different from physical, romantic attraction** - – *Eros* is the Greek word for that kind of romantic passion which God has ordained to be enjoyed in the marriage relationship. This type of love is celebrated in the *Song of Solomon*. Again, however, “*Agape*” love goes much deeper.

**Definition:** *Love is shown perfectly in God’s willingness to give His son to die on the cross for undeserving sinners. Love is disinterested service and self sacrifice for the well being others. It is a decision, by faith, to seek the good of others without expecting anything in return.*

## The qualities of a love-motivated ministry

1. **Love serves others**
2. **Love sacrifices itself for others**
3. **Love promotes harmony among the brothers**
4. **Love is disinterested – seeking the good of others without seeking personal gain**

### 1. Love serves others

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. <sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:12-15

### *A Servant’s Heart is...*

#### 1. **Humble**

- Sheds privileges
- Takes the lowest place

#### 2. **Cheerful**

- Serves especially the “least of these” as if he were a king... an “angel in disguise,” as if they were Jesus himself!
- Feels privileged to serve
  - .... with a smile
  - .... attentively

#### 3. **Faithful**

- Following through on commitments
- Actions that speak louder than words
- Simple, “small” acts of love rather than vacuous bravado





#### 4. Daring

- Extravagant – even imprudent – goes the “extra mile”
- Takes chances
- Does not make excuses

Mention an example of someone you know who ministers with this kind of “servant’s heart.” How do they demonstrate love through their service?

Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific examples of their ethic of “servant love”: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 2. Love sacrifices itself for others

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*  
John 15:13

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8

<sup>17</sup> *But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.* Philippians 2:17

<sup>24</sup> *Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.*  
Colossians 1:24



What does the Apostle Paul mean, in your opinion, when he says, “*I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions..?*”

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Mention three specific sacrifices that “come with the territory” in your particular area of ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Love promotes harmony among the believers – 1 Corinthians 13

We often read 1 Corinthians 13 in weddings, but this chapter was originally written in the context of Christian ministry!! The believers in that city moved with anointing, but lacked love.

According to 1 Corinthians 13, it is possible to be in Christian ministry and still...

- Envy others
- Seek to feed one’s own narcissistic ego
- Become annoyed easily with others
- Harbor resentment
- Deal with others harshly and without tact
- Live a double life, indulging unrighteousness
- Be impatient
- Give up easily
- Be negative and cynical

In contrast, according to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, a love motivated ministry is...

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_



#### **4. Love is disinterested – The hireling v the good shepherd**

***The hireling serves in ministry for personal gain and not genuine love for others.***

*<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. John 10:11-12*

**Heart check: It’s not just being money-hungry. What are your motivations in ministry?**

- Money?
- Recognition and fame?
- Self worth?
- Power over others?
- Prestige in a group?
- Personal validation? (The “need to be needed”)

***The “hireling” ministers for ulterior motives***

*<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1 Cor. 13:1-3*

According to these verses, what are some potential gifts or ministries which can possibly be exercised *with power, but without love?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

***Sincere love seeks the well being of the other and not personal gain***

***.... Serves others as if they were “loved ones”! (Children, mother, father...etc.)***

Consider these sentiments expressed by the Apostle Paul about those he served in ministry.

*<sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. Acts 20:24*

*“<sup>3</sup> ... I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. <sup>4</sup> I have spoken to you with great frankness; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds. 2 Cor. 7:3-4*

*<sup>19</sup> My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, Galatians 4:19*

*<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> Indeed, you are our glory and joy. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20*

The disinterested love of the Apostle Paul’s ministry shines through the verses noted above. Mention some specific ways this love is described in the above verses.

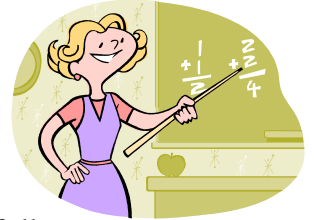
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Example: Loving Laura the Sunday School Teacher***

Sister Laura does not just “teach Sunday School.” She dedicates herself, heart and soul, to minister to the children in her class as if they were her own kids. She makes an effort to learn the names of each one, remembering their likes and dislikes, as well as the idiosyncrasies of each one. She takes time to get to know their parents. She prays for each child by name every night before going to bed. Sometimes during the night the Holy Spirit wakes her with an urgency to pray for one or another of these, “her” kids.



Laura refuses to “wing it.” She prepares each lesson with care, thoroughness and excellence, as if it were to be delivered before a congregation of hundreds in the main sanctuary. She arrives early on Sunday mornings to set up the chairs and anoint each one with oil, praying that the children will feel happy and peaceful as they enter this welcoming, ordered physical space. The kids call her “Aunty Laura” because they know she loves them. She sets clear limits, applying discipline appropriately and consistently. She never fails to “show up,” regardless of the weather, knowing that “her kids” are counting on her to be there.



One day, when Laura heard that one of her students had suffered abuse in school, she cried sincerely and called the home to express support for the parents. She does not receive a penny for her service, and the vast majority of the church has no awareness of who she is or what she does. But she continues, fully dedicated, out of love.

How do we observe love in practical ways through Laura’s ministry?

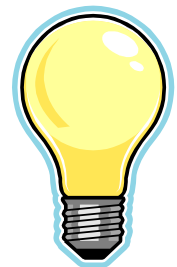
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Think of your own ministry. Mention five ways you can express love in practical ways in your own ministry context.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II: Goodness – Ministering in the Light

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7*



### ***In Part II of this lesson we learn***

- *What “goodness” is and what it is not.*
- *What it means to live “above reproach”*
- *What it means to have a moral backbone – or moral compass*
- *Negative examples of ministry that lacks this quality*
- *The key to goodness: Transparency*



## **Goodness = Integrity (not “being nice!”)**

**Definition:** *Goodness means living sincerely with integrity; being honest, and doing the right thing, even when it “hurts.”*

### **1. “Goodness” means living a life that is “beyond reproach; “walking in the light.”**

- Having sincere motives
- Being transparent
- Cultivating holiness in the day to day affairs of life

### **2. “Goodness” means having moral backbone... doing the right thing, even when it hurts.**

- Fulfilling a promise, even when it’s difficult
- Confessing a mistake or sin, in spite of the embarrassment involved
- Refusing to participate in “questionable” shortcuts, even if it results in financial loss

### **3. “Goodness” means refusing to sweep things under the carpet, such as ....**

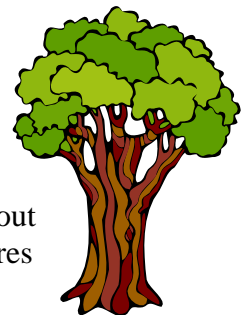
- The *cell leader* who keeps some of the offering for himself
- The *evangelist* who flirts with women in the destinations he visits
- The *pastor* who avoids preaching certain Biblical texts so as not to offend the sensibilities of certain members
- The *deacon* who turns a blind eye when he knows of some sort of corruption
- The *cell leader* who does not challenge a flagrant sin in his co-leader’s life, so as not to offend and lose him



## **Example of a “good” Deacon: Bob**

*“He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water....”* Psalm 1

Bob serves as the president of the Deacon board. Some lust after such positions of authority in the church in order to feel superior or important, but not Bob. His schedule is already overburdened by family and professional responsibilities, and he would rather not serve in any kind of prominent position. But he knows that the church needs his leadership, so Bob accepted this position out of a sense of duty to serve his church and the kingdom of God. He sincerely desires that his pastors prosper in their ministry and that the church grow both in number and spiritual depth.



Bob lives above reproach, and his lifestyle represents the values of the kingdom with integrity and consistency. He is faithful to his wife, and has breakfast with two close brothers in Christ on a weekly basis to share about their lives and confess any struggles they may be experiencing. These friendships allow them to be truly open with one another, finding help and support in making wise decisions and pursuing a life of purity. Women in his workplace and at church know that he is a committed family man who avoids inappropriate flirtation.

As a deacon, he is committed to seek the best interests of the kingdom, no matter what. At one time it came to his attention that a member of the church staff, a personal friend of Bob's, was misappropriating the funds of the church. In spite of their personal connection, Bob took the necessary action to discipline this brother and rectify the situation. He lost a friend as a result, but in spite of this reality, chose to fulfill his responsibility without bias or personal prejudice.

Once in a Deacon's meeting the financial committee discovered a mistake in the budget plan. When Bob realized that he had been responsible for this error, he admitted it immediately and took responsibility for any consequences. The entire team recognized that Bob had acted in good faith, and forgave the mistake. What is more, their respect for him grew as a result of his transparency and honesty.

*Bob is a man who exemplifies "goodness" and integrity.*

Mention some specific ways we can observe goodness in Bob's life and ministry.

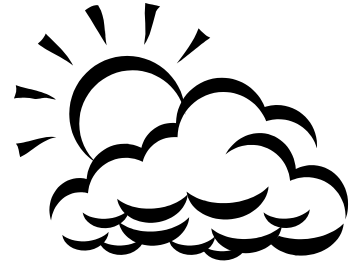
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***Heart Check – Does your ministry reflect goodness?***

- Would your spouse, children (or roommates) say that you are same person at home as you are in church?
- What motivates you in ministry? Do you seek some sort of personal benefit?
- Do you sincerely desire the good of others, or do you put on a loving face?
- Do you tell frequent "white lies?"
- Do you avoid certain topics of Christian faith and holiness in order not to offend?
- Do you lead a "double life," practicing certain sins in secret which you have never confessed to anyone?
- Do you behave appropriately and discreetly with members of the opposite sex?
- Do you sometimes point out the failings of others in order to boost your own status?
- Do people easily trust you as a sincere and honest person?
- Do you sometimes preach one thing, and do another?
- Do you excuse certain "questionable" practices, because "that's the way things work?"
- Do you confess your sins and struggles to a trusted Christian friend regularly?



## Transparency: *The Key to Goodness*



A “good” minister is not perfect, but honest and sincere

<sup>1</sup> *Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.*

<sup>2</sup> *Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit. Psalm 32:1-2*

<sup>47</sup> *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” John 1:47*

In your opinion, what does the phrase, “in whom there is no deceit” mean?

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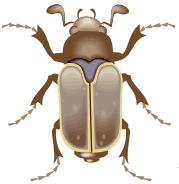
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In order to be transparent, one must confess struggles to another person. What are the qualities of a person who would be appropriate to trust with a personal confession.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

***Goodness thrives in light – “Open the window!”***

*If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:6-7*



***Cock-roaches and rats thrive in darkness***

Do you have someone in your life with whom you can share your personal struggles? Who?

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**“No hidden agenda” – Paul’s “M.O.” (way of operating)**

*<sup>2</sup> Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. 2 Cor. 4:2*

What does it mean to have a “hidden agenda” in ministry, in your opinion?

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**Psalm 15 – The good man**

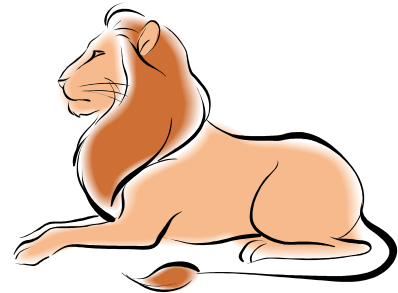
*<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?  
Who may live on your holy mountain?*

*<sup>2</sup> The one whose walk is blameless,  
who does what is righteous,  
who speaks the truth from their heart;*

*<sup>3</sup> whose tongue utters no slander,  
who does no wrong to a neighbor,  
and casts no slur on others;*

*<sup>4</sup> who despises a vile person  
but honors those who fear the LORD;  
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,  
and does not change their mind;*

*<sup>5</sup> who lends money to the poor without interest;  
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.*



*Whoever does these things  
will never be shaken.*

According to this Psalm 15, note some qualities or practices of the “good man.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Review Questions***

Define “love.” \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you say to the cell leader who refuses to minister to a particular brother because he does not “like” him?

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Mention four qualities of a love-motivated ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some qualities of the servant-hearted love.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Think of a person whom you have observed that ministers with love. Who is it? Describe the specific ways that his or her service demonstrates this quality.

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Define “goodness.” \_\_\_\_\_

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Mention four elements of a life that is “above reproach.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some specific ways that goodness requires moral backbone – moral courage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some negative examples – in which ministry or service can lack goodness.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to “walk in the light” and why is it so important?

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## Lesson #2 – Joy and Faithfulness: *Our Strength*

### Part I – Joy!

<sup>10</sup> Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

#### *In this lesson we learn...*

- What is joy – as opposed to “happiness”
- The danger of being a “grouchy servant”
- How joy gives us stamina in affliction
- How to cultivate joy in spite of the difficulties of ministry



#### **What is joy?**

- A happy feeling inside?
  - The satisfaction of pleasant circumstances?
  - The thrill that makes us “jump for joy” and beam with smiles?
- ;Not quite!**

**Definition:** Joy is a positive attitude and hope-filled, optimistic disposition based in the goodness and faithfulness of God.

#### **How is joy different from happiness?**

- An attitude we can choose, more than a feeling we experience
- Based in a faith-filled and hopeful perspective
- Depends on God more than circumstances
- Springs from *the security of knowing that God is in control* and can bring good even from evil
- Accompanied by *praise and thanksgiving* for God, regardless of the situation
- *Hopes in the promises of God* rather than visible evidence
- Knows that our *efforts in ministry are never in vain*
- A type of *spiritual discipline*, and can be cultivated as such

## Don't be a grumpy servant!

*When we serve out of obligation, it feels like a "forced kiss."*

Ever had the following experience? You greet a little, three-year old child, and the parents command the child to greet you with a kiss.

*"No. I don't wanna kiss her!"* Protests the child.

The parent gives the child a little whack and speaks with a stern tone: *"Kiss her!"*

The child, flowing with alligator tears, presses his quivering lips to your cheek.

*Now how does that feel?*

*A joyless minister is like a grouchy waiter.*

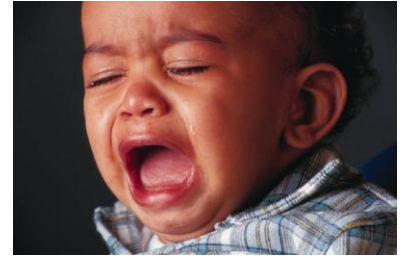
Have you ever had a waiter who hates his job? He wears a permanent scowl and grumbles under his breath with an aggravated sigh when you ask for a re-fill to your coffee cup. You feel that you have inconvenienced him tremendously by your very presence in the restaurant. How does the food taste in that kind of atmosphere?

Now imagine a very different waitress, who enjoys her job thoroughly and approaches every situation with playful humor. She smiles naturally, makes jokes, and seems genuinely to enjoy making you happy. She seems to feel privileged to serve you, as if you were doing her a favor by allowing her to do so! Her cheerful demeanor is contagious! *Now how does the food taste?*

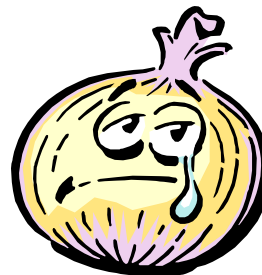
*Joy sets the tone of our ministry – adding a "bounce" to all we do!*

## Heart Check: Does your ministry reflect joy?

- Do you often find yourself serving reluctantly – dragging yourself along?
- Do you have a grateful spirit, thanking God for the opportunity to serve?
- Do you tend to see the cup half empty or half full?
- Do you often serve without praying, using your own efforts?
- Do you sometimes feel like a victim – that others take advantage of your kindness and burden you unfairly?
- Do you serve more from obligation than enthusiasm?
- Do you sometimes feel that you are spinning your wheels, serving constantly without accomplishing anything?
- Do you find yourself complaining more often than not?







***Luke 15 – God invites us to share His joy in ministry***

***The syndrome of the “older brother”***

The heart of God delights in the salvation of sinners. He invites us to share this heavenly joy!! In the parable of the prodigal son we meet a character who served diligently and faithfully, but without joy. This older brother was a hard worker, but lacked a true understanding of his father’s heart and motivations.

**Read Luke 15 – *The joy of salvation***

How do we observe joy in the three parables? In each case, what provokes this joyful reaction?

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Describe the attitude of the older brother while serving in his father’s household. Luke 15:25-30

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Have you felt like this older brother at times, ill-used, working hard without appropriate reward? Mention a situation in ministry when you have struggled with these kinds of feelings.

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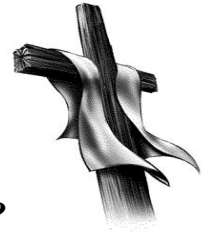
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## Joy gives us strength and stamina in affliction

### 1. How did Jesus bring himself to suffer the agony of crucifixion?

*“...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2*

According to this verse, how was Jesus able to face the torture of the cross?

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How can this same attitude help you to “push through” hard times in your ministry?

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### 2. Example of Paul – Joy in prison!

#### a. “If life gives you lemons – make lemonade!” Read Philippians 1:12-26

*Joy sees through spiritual eyes --*



What do you do when things go wrong? The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while rotting in a Roman jail – all because of his faithfulness in ministry. Some spiteful and envious “brothers” were preaching the gospel in the streets with the express purpose of aggravating his maltreatment in prison. He lived under the imminent threat of execution for treason. (Preaching Jesus as “Lord” rather than Caesar). In spite of all this, he chose to rejoice and teaches us how to choose joy in the midst of tribulation.

According to these verses, how does Paul manage to rejoice in the midst of suffering?

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**b. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!” Read Philippians 4:10-13**

*It is possible to cultivate joy in all circumstances*

According to these verses, what is Paul’s “secret” to joy and contentment in life?

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**c. We can en-joy our ministry! Delight in your spiritual “kids.”**

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 Juan 4*

*“For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> Indeed, you are our glory and joy. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20*

<sup>3</sup> *I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3,4,6*

Describe a specific joy-filled moment in your own ministry.

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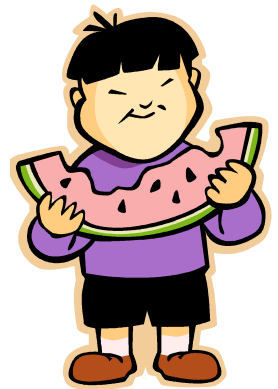
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## **How to cultivate Joy in Ministry**

*Joy is an attitude – a discipline, and as such, can be cultivated.*

- 1. Pray - Do not even try to serve God in your own strength!**
- 2. Love - It’s not about you!**
- 3. Remember Grace – It’s not about “earning points” with God!**
- 4. Thanksgiving - Resist the temptation to complain.**
- 5. Play and Rest - Honor the Sabbath!**
- 6. Establish appropriate boundaries - It’s ok to say “no” sometimes!**





## **1. Pray – Ministry without prayer is like rowing a boat against the tide!**

### ***When we stop praying...***

- We forget to depend on God’s power
- We minister out of our own strength and exhaust ourselves
- We lose intimacy with God in our ministry

### ***When we pray***

- We draw supernatural energy from Jesus, the Vine (John 15)
- We feel a new power as we serve
- We enjoy God’s company as we go about our service

## **2. Remember to love – And forget about yourself!**

### ***When we are wrapped up in ourselves....***

- Our problems are magnified

### ***When we take time to think about others...***

- We “lose ourselves” in service
- We regain a positive perspective
- We align ourselves with God’s motivation in our service
- The “good vibes” come back to us



## **3. Remember God’s Grace - We are sons, not slaves; daughters, not do-gooders!**

### ***When we minister under the law...***

- We serve out of obligation rather than love
- We think we need to earn God’s approval
- We see ourselves as employees and God as a tough boss
- We view ourselves as superior to others because of what we do
- We feel that we have never done enough to please God

### ***When we minister in God’s grace...***

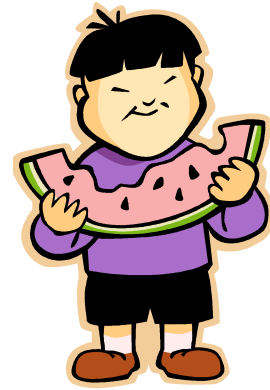
- We know that we are privileged to serve God, not only “duty bound”
- We remember that God is our “Daddy” and we are his “child”
- We remember that God accepts what we do in His name, however insignificant or imperfect it may be

#### **4. Remember to play! - Observe the Sabbath!**

*Joyful people do not take themselves too seriously.*

**Take a good “Sabbath” with the Lord to renew your soul...**

- Spend time in nature
- Read a good book
- Spend leisurely time with loved ones



#### **5. Thanksgiving – Quit yer complainin’!**

**Example of Paul and Silas – From prison to praise!**

<sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. Acts 16:23-26



**Complaining...**

- Finds the negative in any situation (the cup half empty)
- Sees itself as having a “right” to something better at all times

**Thanksgiving and praise**

- Finds contentment in what one does have, rather than dissatisfaction with what one does not have
- Recognizes that everything comes from God
- Recognizes that none of us “deserves” anything, and thus appreciates each blessing as a gift of God’s grace

#### **6. Establish Appropriate Boundaries - Remember that you are not the Christ!**

**When we fail to set appropriate limits...**

- We fear disappointing others
- We say “yes” to everyone
- We ultimately feel victimized by the excessive demands of others
- We resent the unrealistic expectations that we feel others have of us
- We neglect our emotional, spiritual, physical and family health

***When we use appropriate limits...***

- We remember that Jesus is the savior, and we are not
- We do not try to have everyone “like” us
- We serve willingly, and not out of obligation, to please others

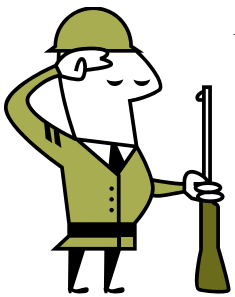
Think of those times when you lack joy in ministry. Which of these practices, mentioned above, would you like to use more often to cultivate joy in your service? Why?

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**Part II: Faithfulness – *The reliability of our ministry***



<sup>10</sup> *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 16:10*

<sup>24</sup> *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. Acts20:24<sup>a</sup> – Paul*

***In this lesson we consider...***

- *What it means to be faithful in practical ways*
- *The qualities and practices of a faithful servant*

***Definition:*** *To be faithful is to be reliable, conscientious responsible and trustworthy.*

***“Faithful Servant”*** – *The best title a minister can carry*

Have you heard of the following characters from the New Testament? They all have something in common...

***Timothy*** (1 Cor. 4:17; Eph. 6:21); ***Tichicus*** (Col. 4:7); ***Epaphras*** (Col. 1:7); ***Onesimus*** (Col. 4:9); ***Silvanus*** (1 Pe. 5:12); ***Antipas*** (Apoc. 2:13)

They may not be famous, but each is called a ***“Faithful Servant!”***

*A Faithful Servant is...*



- *Trustworthy* Keeps a commitment.
- *Tested* Overcomes obstacles without giving up
- *Conscientious* Fulfills responsibilities to the best of his ability.
- *Clear* His “yes” is “yes” and his “no” is “no.”
- *Detail oriented* Considers the various aspects of a project.
- *Punctual* Arrives early!
- *Thorough* Does not leave a job half done
- *Excellent* Does not settle for “good enough.”
- *Dedicated* Throws himself into the work, heart and soul
- *Responsible* No excuses
- *Pro-active* Takes initiative without being told what to do
- *Diligent* Gives 100%

**A church sexton: *Example of a Faithful Servant***

***Reliable Rick***

Rick maintains the physical plant of his church. Every Saturday evening, without fail, he stretches elastic chords, attached by clamps, across the full length of each row of seats. Not a seat will be out of alignment for the next day’s worship service. He sets up boxes of Kleenex on each side of the sanctuary, vacuums the carpets, sets out the stack of bulletins at the usher stations, and cleans the bathroom. In all of these tasks, he is completely alone in the building, working quietly and methodically. Very few of the hundreds of people who will pass through these spaces the next morning will know who prepared the setting, but this does not matter to Rick. He relishes this time of solitude and the anonymous nature of these tasks. He senses God’s smile and attention to each detail that he prepares, and feels himself to be worshiping in profound silence. Before retiring for the night, he double checks the locked doors, tests the lights to see if any bulbs need replacement, and sets the temperature for the next day. No one has assigned him the specifics of these tasks; no one supervises him; and no one will check up to be sure all is done well. No one needs to.



The next morning he will arise early to sweep the sidewalk, or shovel and sand in the winter. Even when sick or tired, he will be there, preparing God’s house for God’s people. If he is traveling, he takes the initiative to assure that others will fulfill these tasks with the same ethic of excellence and care. No one ever utters the phrase; “Where is Rick when you need him?”

*He is a man of his Word. A man of excellence. A faithful man.*

Mention some specific examples of faithfulness in Rick’s ministry.

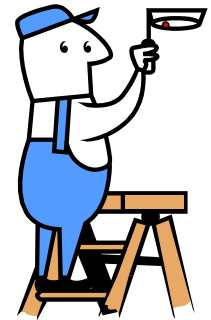
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7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

***If you paint a wall....***

***is it obvious that a Christian painted that wall?***



**Heart check: *Are you a faithful minister? – Ask yourself...***

- Do you make excuses when you are not able to fulfill a commitment?
- Can people count on you to complete a task or a project?
- What about when you feel tired or unmotivated? Do you tend to give up?
- Do you require excellence of yourself, or do you settle for “good enough.”
- *If you are a children’s Sunday School teacher*, do you always show up when it is your turn to teach? If something unavoidable comes up, do you give advance notice to the Sunday school supervisor? Do you prepare your lessons well or do you improvise?
- *If you are an usher*, when you go on vacation do you contact your team leader to find a replacement?
- *If you are a cell participant*, do you arrive on time to the meetings?
- *If you are a musician in the worship team*, do you rehearse well and pray beforehand?
- *If you are a cell group host*, do you take time to arrange the room comfortably before the participants arrive?
- *If you are a contractor or maintenance worker in the church*, do you take pride in a job well done, or do you settle for shoddy workmanship that people might not notice?



***Our faithfulness is rooted in God’s faithfulness!  
God is Faithful – worthy of trust!***



*..... to help keep us from falling...*

*<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

*<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

*.. to fulfill His promises*

*<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23*

*<sup>11</sup> And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. Hebrews 11:11*

***We can count on Him!*** Mention an example of God’s faithfulness in your life.

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## **The practices of a faithful minister**

### ***1. The faithful minister pays attention to the “little things.”***

*<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Matthew 25:21*

In your own ministry, what are some of the details which make a big difference?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. The faithful minister speaks with actions, and not only words**

### ***Parable of the two sons***

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

<sup>29</sup> “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup> “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup> “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. Matthew 21:28-31

## **3. The faithful servant is tested in times of struggle and opposition**

<sup>10</sup> Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. Revelation 2:10

Mention a trial or difficulty in your ministry that could tempt you to “give up.”

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## **4. The faithful servant does not seek public recognition**

<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. Colossians 3:22-25

If you serve in a ministry that feels un-noticed, why keep going?

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## **Review Questions**

Define “joy” \_\_\_\_\_

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How is joy different from “happiness”

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List some practical ways to cultivate joy in ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some qualities of a faithful minister.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

In your ministry, what is a specific way in which you desire to be more faithful?

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## Lesson #3 – Peace: *The atmosphere of our ministry*

<sup>27</sup> *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* John 14:27

<sup>18</sup> *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.* James 3:18

### In this lesson we consider...

- *How to transmit peace to others in our ministry*
- *How to cultivate inner peace as we serve*
- *How to be a peacemaker in relationships as we serve*
  - *How to work in teams*
  - *How to resolve conflict*

### What is the “peace of God?”

**Definition:** *Peace is a state of order, tranquility, interpersonal harmony and well being, imparted by the Holy Spirit, even in situations for struggle.*

- The Hebrew word, *Shalom*, implies holistic well being; not merely absence of struggle.
- Not of this world – supernatural!
- “Surpasses all understanding” – not based in circumstances
- The security that God is in control of my present and my future
- Transmits to those around us
- Promotes harmony and trust among those we serve



### Example of Peace-full Ministry

#### *Irene – A Cell Hostess who transmits the peace of God*

Irene hosts a cell meeting in her house every Thursday evening. Her life has not been easy, as she has had to struggle to raise two children by herself and adapt to a new culture and society. But in the midst of her many challenges and hard times, the Holy Spirit has given her a supernatural peace that has sustained her. Whether facing financial difficulties or parenting challenges, Irene has learned how to cast her anxiety upon the Lord. She takes time to pray about her worries and enjoys a calm that seems impenetrable.

Her home reflects this inward stillness. One can almost breathe easier after entering her door. She prepares the living room before the meeting, arranging the seating in an “cozy” fashion that promotes interaction among her guests. She anoints each seat with oil and prays, “*peace to the one who sits in this chair.*” She plays some soft praise music in the background, creating an inviting atmosphere of praise and spiritual rest. The first to arrive feel a sense of relief as they enter the room, as if they can let out a deep breath and let the tension of the day lift away. Regardless of the rain, snow or traffic that complicates the arrival of the guests, they can finally relax in this place of spiritual refuge and refreshment.

She makes a point of expressing words of welcome at the beginning of the meeting, and seems to know how to tell a joke that sets the newcomers at ease. One hears laughter and natural spontaneity in the conversations, as if people can feel free to “be themselves” in the group. The inevitable disagreements and annoyances of community life are softened by this atmosphere of trust and security. No need to walk on eggshells or be overly self-conscious in this setting. Irene is an instrument of peace, ministering in the shalom of the Holy Spirit.

Mention some specific ways that Irene transmits peace to the members of her cell group?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Heart check: *Does your ministry transmit peace?***

*We ask ourselves...*



- Do you sometimes feel anxiety, fear or worry as you serve God?
- Do you find yourself running from one crisis to another, rarely stopping to rest or laugh?
- Are you a “team player,” or do you often end up working on your own?
- Do you inspire trust and confidence in others?
- Do you find yourself often complaining about those with whom you serve in ministry?
- Do you see yourself as having “bad luck” in this respect – that you often end up serving with problematic people who make your life difficult?
- Do you have a mental list of “enemies” in the church or workplace?
- Do you intentionally avoid speaking to some members of the church for long periods of time, or even years?
- If someone contradicts you publicly in a meeting, do you look for a chance to make them “look bad,” even in subtle ways?
- How do you respond if someone in your ministry has superior gifts to your own?

### **The Art of Cultivating Inner Peace: *Repent, Relax and Rejoice***

**To minister in peace, we must be “healed” of anxiety**

1. **Repent** – ... of worry... and lack of faith...
  - a. ...in storms
  - b. ...in daily problems

2. **Relax** -; *God is in control!*

- a. Pray ... breathe in the peace of God
- b. Have faith – cast your cares on Him

3. **Rejoice**

**Step #1 – Repent of worry!**

Anxiety is a type of sin! When we choose to worry we choose not to trust that God will take care of us in the storms of life and in our daily challenges. Anxiety weighs upon us when we lose our focus on God’s sovereign control. As a result, we try to “take things into our own hands.” Repentance, therefore, is the first order of business.

**Case #1 – Peace in the storms of life... Read Mark 5:35-41**



Ministry will inevitably lead us through storms. Mention some storms, (headaches, worries), that “come with the territory” in your ministry.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

How do we observe the contrast between Jesus’ attitude and that of the disciples?

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The disciples scold Jesus: “Lord, don’t you care that we are about to die!?!?” How did they perceive Jesus’ attitude in the midst of this danger.

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How was the disciples’ attitude in this situation sinful?

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**Case #2 – Worry in God’s Service - Read Luke 10:38-42: Martha and Mary**

Why was Martha so “worked up” in this situation?

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Mention some situations in your life or ministry in which you often feel “worried and concerned?”

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What is Jesus’ counsel to Mary?

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How can we avoid the “Martha syndrome” in our service for Jesus?

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**Step #2 – Relax – Pray!**

**“Relax, God is in Control.”**

*He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;*

*I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10*

<sup>3</sup> *You will keep in perfect peace*

*those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Isa. 26:3*

**Don’t forget to breathe! Take a deep breath**

*Inhale the Shalom of God... Exhale the burdens and worries*

**Inhale – We must receive (breathe in) the peace of God!**

<sup>33</sup> *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace... 1 Corinthians 14:33*

<sup>27</sup> *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27*



*Exhale – We must expel (breathe out), our burdens to him in prayer*

*<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7*

**Step #3 – Rejoice – God is near!**

*Joy is antithetical to anxiety!*

**Read Philippians 4:2-9: Counsel to two Christian women in conflict**

List some specific pieces of advice about how to cultivate the peace of God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** *Think of a situation in your life right now that causes you anxiety.*

What is the situation? \_\_\_\_\_.

Write a prayer/petition, related to this situation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Write a phrase of thanksgiving, also related to this situation. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Think of a person whom you admire. What would this person’s attitude be in a comparable situation? How would they handle it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



## How to be a “peace-maker”

1. *Team-work*
2. *Conflict resolution*

*Our ministry should transmit peace to others*

*“Peace to you...” A powerful benediction!*

- Paul’s used this blessing to begin and end his letters
- Jesus said used this phrase to the “woman with the flow of blood” and the “sinful woman” who anointed him
- Jesus said this to the disciples after his resurrection
- Jesus taught his disciples to say “peace to this home” and if a “man of peace” lived there, his household would receive it. Otherwise, the peace would “bounce back” to the disciples. Luke 10:5
- The priests could “put God’s name” upon the people of Israel by blessing them!

<sup>22</sup> *The LORD said to Moses,* <sup>23</sup> *“Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: <sup>24</sup> “‘The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.’”*

*“So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”* Numbers 6:22-27

**Think of someone to whom you minister in some way. Try pronouncing a “blessing” upon them: “Peace to you” – and watch what happens!!**

### 1. Peacemakers know how to work in teams!

*The Lone Ranger v. the Team Player*

*The team player....*

1. *Is humble* -- Knows that he is not the “be all and end all” (The last coca cola in the desert)
2. *Is wise* -- Understands the inter-dependence in nature and human relationships
3. *Is grateful* - Appreciates the value of his co-ministers



## 1. The team player is humble...

*The Lone Ranger believes he is the last coca cola in the desert!*

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves... Philippians 2:3*

*<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:3-5*

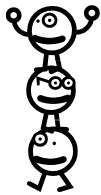
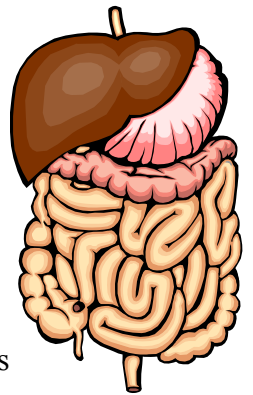
Why is it necessary to be humble in order to work well with others \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. The team player is wise – and knows that he cannot “go it alone!”

*We are one body, with diverse members, which need one another. 1 Corinthians 12*

God has fashioned each one of us to serve in a distinctive way.



*We are inter-dependent = We need one another!*

What are some “members” of the human body which are not as visible or “attractive” as others, but in fact more important to the health and life of the body as a whole?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some ministries in God’s service which are not “visible,” but in fact indispensable?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Unity in Diversity – It is necessary to work with those that are different!**



*<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13*

What are some of the types of differences between people that are mentioned in this text?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the differences between members in your church?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, what holds us together, in spite of our differences?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. The team player values his co-workers in ministry**



**Paul gives thanks for the Philippians!**

*<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. Philippians 1:3-7*

How do we observe the intensity of Paul’s feelings towards the Philippians in this text?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**We are on the same team!**

*<sup>38</sup> “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” <sup>39</sup> “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us. Mark 9:38-40*

We see in the text above how the disciples saw themselves as competitive rivals of other “Christian” groups. Give an example of this attitude in our time.

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***No one can do it alone! We need to cultivate unity! Read Philippians 2:1-4***



According to this text, what are some attitudes that promote peace in the church?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention the names of two or three people who serve with you in ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe a specific person with whom you serve in ministry who possesses gifts, talents or a style which is different from your own. Have you had difficulties with this person?

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## 2. Peace makers resolve conflicts

### Don't be a Peace-Buster!

Certain attitudes can lead to chronic conflict in ministries

**1. Princes and Princesses** -- Ambitious ministers who defend their "territory" and compete with others rather than working in partnership. Such Christians tend to feel threatened by those who are more talented or gifted than themselves.

- The cell leader who will not allow his members to visit other groups
- The preacher who speaks ill of other prominent ministries
- The singer in a worship team who feels jealous of the new sister with a better voice
- The cell leader who wants his group to be bigger than the other groups.

**2. The Prickly Porcupine** - Christians who experience chronic conflict in ministry.

- Those that hold grudges for perceived offenses
- Those that seek revenge, often subtly, against those that have slighted them
- Those that lack discretion and complain incessantly
- Those that express their opinions in ways that put others on the defensive

*Are you a princess or a porcupine? You can change!*

### How to resolve conflicts

#### 1. Do not allow resentment to fester

Conflict is unavoidable, but a mature Christian knows how to resolve it.

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:26-27

What should I do if the other person is partly (or mostly) responsible?

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## 2. Follow the Biblical Steps – Read Matthew 18:15-20

According to this text, what are the three steps of the process of reconciliation?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Don't "talk too much"

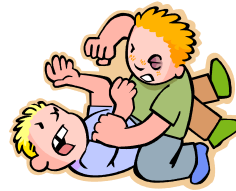
A conflict need not spread! With careful restraint in conversations, a conflict can be "contained" or even "smothered," much like a fire which goes out when deprived of oxygen.

<sup>20</sup> Without wood a fire goes out;  
without a gossip a quarrel dies down. Proverbs 26:20

## 4. Work towards a "Win-Win" solution

**Review: Ways to deal with conflict**

1. *Dominate: I win – you lose*



We get what we want, but lose the relationship.

2. *Yield: You win – I lose*

We "give in," sacrificing our values, and allowing ourselves to be "walked on."

3. *Vengeance: I lose – You lose*

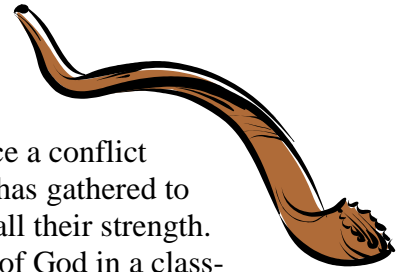
It does not matter if I lose, as long as the other one suffers as well.

**How to get to "win-win?" – A solution which meets the legitimate concerns of both parties.**

1. *Work together* – the "problem is the problem" – not the person!
2. *Listen to one another*
3. *Put yourself in the other's shoes*
4. Genuinely seek to *understand* the perspective and needs of the other
5. *Express* your perspective in a clear, respectful way
6. *Seek solutions* together that meet the needs of both parties



**Example of Conflict Resolution – The call of the Shofar**



On a particular Tuesday evening two activities experience a conflict regarding the use of space in the church. One group of brothers has gathered to cry out to God in prayer, blasting Shofars in the sanctuary with all their strength. The other group has gathered with the pastor to study the Word of God in a classroom on the second floor balcony, directly above the sanctuary. The ones studying could not be heard because of the holy raucous going on below them. Use your imagination to visualize different ways of attempting to deal with this situation, positive and negative.

Describe some less than ideal solutions.

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Describe a “win-win” solution to this conflict.

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**Review Questions**

Define “peace” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Mention three ways to cultivate inner peace.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two primary qualities of a “peace maker” in ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

Describe the “prince” or “princess” in ministry.

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Mention three qualities of a “team player.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the “Prickly Porcupine.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

List what must be done in order to work towards a “win win” solution.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe a conflict which you have experienced in ministry.

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## Lesson #4 – Patience and Kindness: *A ministry of grace*

<sup>1</sup> *I waited patiently for the LORD to help me,  
and he turned to me and heard my cry.*

Psalm 40:1

*...And let us run with perseverance the race God has set before us.*

Heb. 12:1

<sup>19</sup> *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen,  
slow to speak and slow to become angry,*

James 1:19

### Part I: Patience - *The Art of Waiting*

#### *In Part I of this Lesson we Consider*

- *The definition of patience*
- *Qualities of a patient ministry*
  1. *Tolerant of human failings*
  2. *Calm in the face of personal offenses*
  3. *Discrete in verbal expression*
  4. *Adopts a long term perspective*

#### **What is patience?**

#### *Patience – the Art of Waiting*

- **Possessing a “long fuse”:** *The Greek word for patience is “Macromuthia”- Long burn*
- **Comparison: “Shock absorbers” - of a car**

**Definition:** *Patience is the art of waiting. Perseverance. The capacity to absorb negativity or setbacks without giving up. Following a process through to completion.*

#### **Wait a minute!**

#### **Being patient is not...**

- *Never getting angry*
- *Repressing anger .... which results in outbursts, depression or resentment.*
- *Tolerating injustice or abuse*

#### **Being patient means hitting the “pause button” and waiting before ...**

- *Condemning someone*
- *Drawing conclusions*
- *Getting angry over a perceived slight*
- *Speaking*
- *Giving up*

Think of a situation in your ministry which tests your patience. What is it? Be specific.

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### ***Example of a Patient Ministry***

#### ***Cell Leader: Peter the Patient***

Peter’s cell group started small, but grew quickly. After the initial enthusiasm wore off, however, he was left with three or four regular attendees. After months of these tiny gatherings, even these faithful few started wondering if the group would ever truly get off the ground. “Why keep coming?” they started wondering. “It’s just not working.” Some evenings Peter would be alone with Joe, his co-leader, but Peter kept thoroughly preparing his Bible study and worship songs every week as if he were ministering to a great throng. He made his calls to the group members and potential visitors every week, and separated every Tuesday to fast and pray. After all this, Joe also left the group, and fell into a sinful situation.

In spite of his natural discouragement, *Peter decided to keep on moving forward*. After another several months of small, but faithful gatherings, the group gradually began to grow. First two or three new people started visiting, and then an entire family joined the group. Around that time Joe reached out to Peter, embarrassed and ashamed, asking if perhaps he could visit again. The other members of the group still resented him for leaving the group, but Peter decided to give him another chance. He spent a year supporting Joe, meetin regularly, and going over the materials from Discipleship level #2 again with him (sanctification and inner healing). Little by little, Joe started feeling “like himself again” in the Lord, and Peter decided to give him some chances to participate in different aspects of the ministry.

Peter’s patience and perseverance has been richly rewarded. Another year has passed and the group has grown to a regular attendance of about fifteen members on a weekly basis. Last month they launched a new group in a neighboring town – *with Joe as the leader!*

How do we observe patience in Peter’s ministry?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Heart Check: *Does your ministry reflect patience?*

- Are you quick to say, “off with his head!” when someone gets in your way?
- When a brother or sister fails you in some way, are you willing to give them a second (or a third) chance?
- Do you find yourself beginning projects, losing interest, and moving on to the next thing before the first project is fully established?
- Do you get discouraged easily when things don’t enjoy quick success?
- Have you ever followed through on a long term project that takes years to develop?
- When someone annoys you, do you have a hard time biting your tongue?
- Do you easily let perceived offenses roll off your back?
- Do you often get frustrated with the incompetence of those around you?

*Time to learn how to wait!*

### Qualities of the Patient Minister

#### 1. Tolerant of the failings and imperfections of others

- *Waits before drawing conclusions or judgments*
- *Gives a second (third, fourth...) chance to those who fail*
- *Does not easily “chop off heads”*

#### 2. Generous when offended

- *Waits before getting angry*
- *Has a long fuse*
- *Gives the benefit of the doubt*
- *Has a thick skin – not overly sensitive*
- *Has a soft heart – compassionate, tender, and forgiving*

#### 3. Discrete in speaking

- *Uses an internal “pause” button before speaking his thoughts.*

#### 4. Adopts a long term perspective

- *Waits before calling it quits*
- *Does not become easily discouraged when facing setbacks*



## 1. The Patient minister is tolerant of the failings and imperfections of others .... Waits before drawing conclusions and judgments

*The patient minister knows that God is patient with us!*

*Parable of the sterile fruit tree:*

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup> “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’” Luke 13:6-9



*The Lord is patient, allowing time for people to repent*

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8-9

Do we really know that God is patient with us – that if it were not for His unfathomable patience we would already be in hell?

Note down a specific way that God has been patient with you.

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**We are usually quick to declare, “Off with his head!”**

*The case of Paul and John Mark*

<sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, <sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. <sup>39</sup> They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. Acts 15:37-40

A young man named Mark had failed Paul and Barnabas during one of their missionary journeys. When Barnabas wanted to give the kid another chance, Paul preferred not take the chance, so Barnabas and Paul parted company. Thank God Barnabas chose not to declare, “off with his head,” because this young man ended up becoming a great man of God -- who wrote the “gospel of Mark!”

Think of a situation in the recent past in which you had opportunity to give a second chance to someone who had failed in

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## 2. The patient minister doesn't overreact when offended in some way *Waits before getting angry*

### **A long fuse:** .... *slow to become angry*

<sup>19</sup> *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, James 1:19*

- How long is your fuse?
- Do you give a second chance to the person who annoys you?



### **A thick skin:** ... *not overly sensitive to personal offenses*

- How do you respond to annoyances when others “step on your toes?”
- What do you do when someone “looks at you funny?”

### **A soft heart:** ... *forgives easily*

*“A Fool. Shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult”* Prov. 12:16

Mention a recent annoyance that you needed to forgive in some sort of ministry situation.

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## 3. The Patient Minister is discrete in his or her speech

***Think before speaking!***

*... but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. Proverbs 11:12b*

Spanish - “... *el hombre prudente calla.*”

***Ask the Lord to install an “editor” – a delay switch – between our minds and mouths!***

<sup>3</sup> *Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;*

*keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3*



***Before speaking, sift it through the “Three Filters”***

Review: What are the “three filters” (From lesson #9, Level III)? These are three questions we can ask ourselves before verbalizing a thought.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**4. The Patient Minister assumes a long term perspective –  
*He waits before giving up!***

***Some processes take time and cannot be rushed!***

- *Pregnancy*
- *Growth of an Oak tree*
- *Discipleship of a new believer*
- *Change of life-long patterns*
- *Earning trust with others*



***Every ministry will experience cycles – “ups and downs”***

- People will leave your cell group
- Kids will “act out” in Sunday School
- People will complain – even about us!
- A song will be out of tune, even after focused rehearsal

Mention a “dip” or setback which you have experienced in ministry, tempting you to quit.

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**What do you do when you experience a “dip?” Do you call it quits?**

***The Perseverance of Job***

*<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. James 5:10-11*

How can Job’s story encourage and inspire us to have patience and persevere?

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***Ministerial work requires patience***

*<sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2*

Do you sometimes feel like giving up on your ministry? Why? In your personal experience, what specific things make you feel like quitting?

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**Review Questions**

Define “patience.” \_\_\_\_\_

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Patience is not...

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_





Mention some distinguishing characteristics of the patient minister

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to have a “thick skin and a soft heart?”

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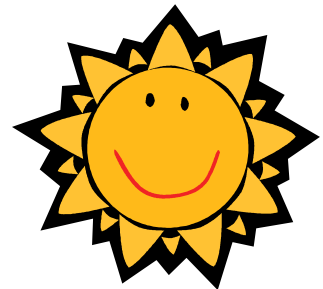
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## Part II: Kindness – *the power of a positive person*

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

*In this lesson we consider...*

- *How kindness can brighten a ministry?*
- *The kind ministry vs. the toxic ministry*
- *How to cultivate kindness in the daily process of ministry*



**God is kind!**

*But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Luke 6:35*

<sup>45</sup> *that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:45*

<sup>4</sup> *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4*

Based on the verses above, list some ways God expresses His kindness for humanity every day.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition of Kindness:** *Transmit positive concern for others. A sweet, gentle and benevolent disposition towards others. “Positive vibes.”*

**Kindness is...**

- What we demonstrate in traffic!
- How we represent Christ as his ambassador
- Respect for all – without prejudice
- Extending courtesy to others, even those which test our patience
- Showing genuine interest and concern for others
- Being diplomatic – expressing opinions and criticisms in a merciful and balanced way

**Heart Check:** *Do you minister with the kindness of the Holy Spirit?*

- Do people seek out your company as a positive, pleasant person?
- Do you “call ‘em like you see ‘em,” expressing yourself in tactless, cutting and even cruel ways at times?
- Do you have a hard time letting another vehicle into traffic ahead of you?
- Do you take time to listen to others, or do you interrupt?
- When you have opportunity to deal with a potentially conflictive person, do you know how to “win them over” by earning their trust, and diffusing their negativity?
- ...Or do you tend to “light the fuse” of such potentially negative people?
- Do you look down on someone who smells bad because of living on the streets?
- When you meet a person with significant wealth or social influence, do you tend to treat them better than a “normal” person?
- Do you think of gestures of concern for others every now and then? (gifts, a call, a card?)
- Do you make an effort to remember names?
- Do you genuinely express concern for the families of others?
- Do you find ways to pass along negative information about some people, subtly undermining the esteem others might have for them?
- Do you genuinely express concern for your partners in ministry beyond their specifically ministry-related roles?
- When you are annoyed, does it show?
- Do you invest concentrated attention and energy into listening to others?

**Mmmmmmm, kindness sweetens life!**



## Qualities of a kind minister

1. ***Respect, Respect, Respect, Respect*** – the key to kindness
2. *The kind minister ameliorates (smoothes out) the natural frictions in ministry relationships*
3. *The kind minister represents the kingdom in a winsome way (ambassador of the kingdom)*

### 1. The kind minister respects others

For you, what does it mean to show respect?

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#### *Elements of Respect*

- *Value each person as being made in the image and likeness of God*
- *No favoritism* (or preferential treatment) based on race, gender, or social status
- *Honor each person as if he or she were Jesus himself in disguise*
- *Validate the feelings and needs of each person*
- *Remember the price* with which each individual has been purchased for God – that each person is “worth” the blood of Jesus
- *Courtesy*
- *Take into account the opinions, feelings and rights of others*
- *Listen to others, recognizing the value of their perspective*

#### **Read Mark 10:46-52** – *The Case of Bartimaeus – Respect for the blind beggar on the street!*

Ironically, the name “Bartimaeus” means “son of honor.” How do we observe him being disrespected in this account?

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How does Jesus demonstrate respect for him?

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Mention some “types” of people that could possibly be marginalized and not treated with respect in our church, in your opinion?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. The kind minister ameliorates the daily frictions of interpersonal relationships in ministry**

*Kindness is like the oil that helps a motor function without excessive friction and over-heating*

Conflicts, annoyances and differences of opinion come with the territory in any ministry!  
Where people are involved, there will be conflict.

Mention a common type of conflict in your ministry. \_\_\_\_\_.

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*Some ministries are “malignant” and “toxic” like a cancerous tumor* – their negativity is contagious.

Think of a “negative” person you know. Without mentioning the name, describe them. What, specifically, causes the negativity in their relationships?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

*The kind minister transmits positive energy to others.*

Kindness exerts a positive influence, which radiates with benevolence and good intentions. Think of a “positive” person you know. Describe him or her. Specifically how do they transmit this “good vibe” to others?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. The kind minister is a winsome ambassador of the Kingdom of God

*They represent the gospel in the world with a winning, gracious manner and spirit*

<sup>5</sup> *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:5*

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6*

Considering our role as “ambassadors,” why would it be particularly important for ushers, parking attendants, and hospitality workers to demonstrate kindness?

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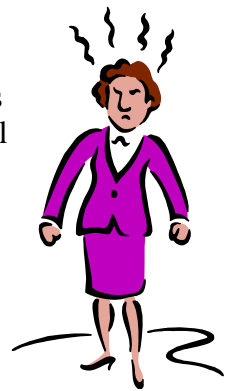
#### ***Example of a kind usher -- Kenny the Kind***

Kenny serves as an usher in his church. The Lord has moved in significant ways and the congregation has quickly outgrown its facility. The parking is tight, the seats fill up quickly, and women often need to wait in line to use the bathroom. Like a large family that is forced to share cramped space and a single bathroom, the situation is ripe for frustration and annoyances.

*Thank God for Kenny.* His attentive courtesy and natural humor have a way of disarming even the prickliest “customers.” When Sister Amargalina huffed into the sanctuary, fuming over being asked to move her car and go upstairs to the balcony to squeeze into a seat, Kenny knew just how to calm her frustration. With genuine friendliness and a warm smile, he asked her forgiveness for all the inconveniences and treated her like a queen – like an honored guest. He greeted her by name and asked about her new grand-child, making her feel recognized and valued as a special human being, and not merely another face in the crowd.

Kenny’s winsome manner and sincere concern for others quickly inspire trust and set people at ease. When he needs to ask someone to change seats or pick up their purse, he expresses himself with such tact and diplomacy that people seem to forget their annoyance and happily accommodate, as if doing a personal favor for Kenny. When he serves the Lord’s Supper he silently pronounces a blessing over each person, taking time to make eye contact and express a non-verbal greeting. He sees each person as special and valuable, worth the shed blood of Christ that is commemorated in this holy moment.

One rainy afternoon after service Kenny noticed a visitor coming back into the building with her two small children, wearing an expression of visible anxiety. As it turns out, her car would not start, and she did not know what to do. Even though his “shift” had officially ended, he knew that his uniform still identified him as an usher, and thus took the liberty of approaching this woman, introducing himself as an usher, and ascertaining her problem. Kenny is all thumbs when it comes to mechanical work, but he took the time to find a brother in the church who had jumper cables and could help her out. He stayed with the woman and her kids until everything was resolved. He did not get home until five that afternoon, but the next Sunday this woman returned to the church. Years later she still remembers the expression of courtesy and care which she had received from Kenny.



Kenny knows that he serves as the “face” of the congregation; the first impression of the church that visitors receive as they enter the sanctuary. It is impossible to quantify the fruit of his kind ministry. He helps to establish an atmosphere of grace, helping many to feel at home and look forward to coming back.

*Mention some specific ways we observe kindness in Kenny’s ministry.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Cultivating Kindness - Exercises**

***Exercise #1: Empathy – Putting yourself in the shoes of another***

***Exercise #2: Details – Small gestures of care***

***Exercise #3: Attentive Listening***

**Exercise #1: *Empathy = Putting yourself in the shoes of another***

1. *It is not necessary to have personally experienced the pain of another person. So often we interrupt someone who is sharing a personal struggle, with the words, “I know exactly what you’re going through...” We then launch into our own story, which may or may not be relevant to the person who has tried to open themselves up to share. Empathy focuses on the other person, not one’s self.*
2. *Requires genuine concern for the other person*
3. *Requires a desire to understand their experience as they explain it*
4. *One must forget him or herself*
5. *Requires imagination: How does this person feel?*

Mention the name of someone you know who demonstrates empathy. \_\_\_\_\_.



**Exercise:** Take nine minutes to think about three people with whom you have contact on a regular basis. Get comfortable and use your imagination. (3 minutes per person)

**Questions to consider and imagine...**

- *I wonder what's happening in this person's life today?*
- *I wonder how they are feeling?*
- *What might they be enjoying or worrying about?*
- *What might be some challenges they are facing?*
- *What might help them feel happier today?*

**Person #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

What might they be experiencing today?

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**Person #2** \_\_\_\_\_

What might they be experiencing today?

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**Person #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

What might they be experiencing today?

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## Exercise #2: Details – Small acts of kindness

Plan to do five small acts of kindness in your daily life – perhaps at church, school, work, at home or even on the street. For example...

- Give up your seat on the train
- Buy coffee for a co-worker
- Remember a birthday
- Do a chore at home you do not usually do
- Send a “thank you” note
- Forward along a joke to your spouse to brighten her day...etc.



*Note some of your own below.*

Gesture #1 \_\_\_\_\_.

Gesture #2 \_\_\_\_\_.

Gesture #3 \_\_\_\_\_.

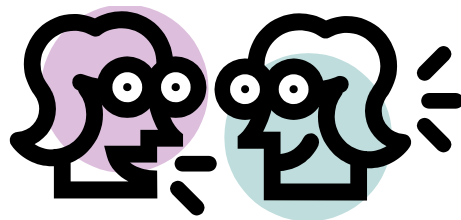
Gesture #4 \_\_\_\_\_.

Gesture #5 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Exercise #3 - Listen

*How to (really) listen?*

- Concentrate, tuning out distractions
- Shut off the cell phone or the TV
- Make eye contact
- Don't interrupt. Let the other person share.
- Don't talk about yourself excessively.
- Be interested in the other person and what they have to share.
- Ask questions that help the person continue developing their personal sharing





## Listening Lab - Exercise in Class:

*Divide the class into pairs. Each one shares about an important goal they have for their future in relation to their family, profession or ministry. Take turns. Five minutes each.*

Your partner \_\_\_\_\_

What did they share? List 5 specific pieces of information that the person shared.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

***Evaluation of your partner.*** Using a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best), evaluate the listening skills of your partner.

Eye contact? \_\_\_\_\_

Body language that transmits attention and respect. \_\_\_\_\_

Feedback. Did they interact in ways that helped you feel free to continue sharing? \_\_\_\_\_

Did they let you speak without interrupting? \_\_\_\_\_

Did they make you feel that they were interested in what you were saying? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you end up feeling a desire to continue sharing with this person? \_\_\_\_\_

## Review

Define "kindness." \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some qualities of the kind minister

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

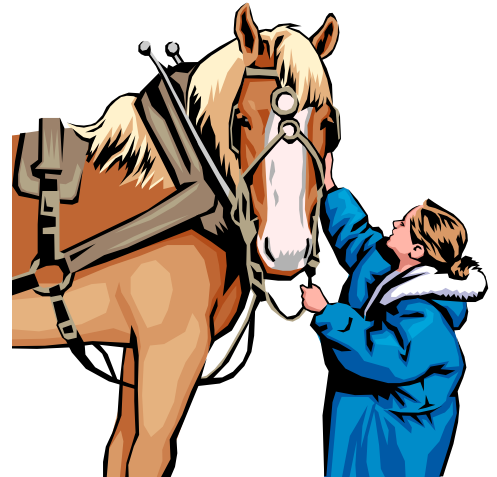
## Lesson #5 – Gentleness and Self Control A Disciplined Ministry

*<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29*

### Part I: Gentleness

*In this lesson we consider...*

- *What it means to be “gentle” (and what it does not mean)*
- *That rebellion v. human authority = rebellion v. God*
- *How to test your heart for rebellion*
- *The breaking process of God’s servants*



***What does it mean to be “gentle?”***

*Being soft? Lacking backbone?  
Being anemic or lacking determination?*

**¡NO! Meekness is not weakness!**

***Gentleness = Strength of will, submitted to the Lordship of Christ***

***Definition:*** *Strength of will which has been submitted to the Lordship of Christ. A docile and responsive spirit to God’s voice and the leadership of spiritual authority. Respectful and courteous to all.*

*Gentle people have submitted their strength to the Captain of their lives!*

***The gentle minister...***

- *Submits to his or her leaders*
- *Is broken before the Lord, as were Moses and Jesus*
- *Is teachable and open to guidance, suggestions and criticism*
- *Defers to others without concern for his own status or authority*
- *Does not worry about defending his or her “rights”*
- *Is obedient to the word of the Lord, even when it hurts*
- *Learns from God’s discipline*
- *Is respectful and considerate of others*
- *Has learned to say to the Lord; “... not my will, but your will be done.”*





### **Comparison #1 – The horse**

*The rebellious minister is like...*

*A wild un-broken, un-bridled animal*

*Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.*

*<sup>10</sup> Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Psalm 32:9-10*



Why is it so important for a horse to be broken and tamed?

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In what way are potentially great ministers comparable to untamed stallions?

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### **Comparison #2 – The Soldier**

*The rebellious minister is like a soldier who “does his own thing”*

What is the goal a soldier's training? Why? And how is this done?

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### **Comparison #3 – A Stiff neck!**

*<sup>9</sup> “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. Exodus 32:9*

Why does scripture compare the rebellious heart to a stiff neck, in your opinion?

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***Rebellion against Spiritual Authority is Rebellion against God***

God himself instituted human authority. When we rebel against the legitimate authorities, *we rebel against the God who instituted them!*

***Example of David***

*“I will not touch the Lord’s anointed” – (No matter how rotten he is!)*

David, before becoming the King of Israel, refused to harm the corrupt King Saul, who persecuted him without cause. No matter how evil Saul had become, his “anointing” represented God’s authority upon him. David knew that to touch the person who carried this anointing was to attack the presence of God Himself.



**Read Numbers 12:1-10: *Miriam and Aaron rebel against Moses***

Why do you think Aaron and Miriam rebel against Moses?

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In general, why do people rebel against spiritual authorities?

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***Submission to Spiritual Authority in the church results in our own “benefit”***

*17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Hebrews 13:17*

Mention two spiritual authorities who supervise your work. (Besides the pastor)

Authority #1 \_\_\_\_\_

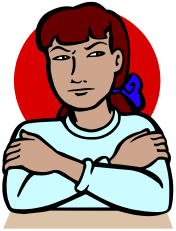
Authority #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Think for a moment: *How do you respond to spiritual authority?* What has provoked you to complain, at times, against your spiritual authorities, whether pastor or ministry leader?

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## **Heart Check: *Does your ministry reflect gentleness?***

***The lack of gentleness is common in ministry!***

***Rebellion, and even rudeness, can be disguised as zeal and intensity!***

### ***Examples***

- The cell leader who refuses to follow the established schedule, insisting she is led by the spirit, and not the guidelines of the cell ministry directory
- The cell leader who corrects the “lies” the pastor preached the previous week
- The musician who refuses to turn down the volume when instructed to by the worship director
- The children’s Sunday School teacher who insists on setting the curriculum aside and teaching her own lesson

### ***We ask ourselves...***

- Do you assume that rules do not apply to you much of the time?
- Do you have a hard time working under the leadership of others?
- Do you find yourself complaining, even subtly, about your pastor or minister leader?
- Do you have a hard time admitting a mistake?
- Do you readily assume the role of “helper” or “assistant” in a project?
- How do you respond to the parking attendant when asked to move your vehicle?
- How do you respond to the suggestions of your ministry leader?
- How do you respond to the usher who asks you to change seats?
- Do you feel restless when attending a cell group or a prayer meeting led by another brother or sister?
- When you serve in leadership, do you feel the need to be “tough” or talk about your previous successes to establish your authority?
- When someone raises an opinion different from your own in a meeting or Bible study, do you feel compelled to argue, or are you able to listen patiently and recognize that they may have a point?

**Gentleness requires personal security.** *Truly strong and secure people need not impose themselves or prove themselves to others. They are free to be gentle.*

## **Gentleness Tests**

### ***1. How do you handle conflict?***

#### ***Do you tend to blame others?***

- When dismissed from a job – *The boss was a “control freak.” It’s her fault.*
- You lose a friend – *He is selfish and peevish*
- You receive a parking ticket - *The cops are out to get me!*
- You hop from church to church - *The pastor never pays enough attention to me!*

**2. How do you respond to correction and discipline?**

*<sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. James 1:21*

**Think of an occasion when someone offered you a word of correction or advice.**

What happened? Describe the situation.

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How did you feel?

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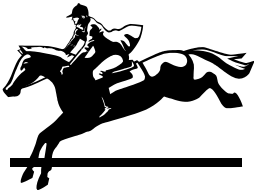
What resulted from this experience? \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***God breaks the one He would use!***

There is simply no way around it. In order to exercise spiritual authority with integrity, we must be prepared by God's discipline. We must be "trained" and "tamed." We must be broken.

<sup>5</sup>*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.* Matthew 5:5

### ***God's discipline breaks our pride***

*"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."*



<sup>7</sup> *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.* Hebrews 12:4-11

### ***God breaks his chosen servants --- Moses' example***

<sup>3</sup> *(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)* Numbers 12:3

Moses started out as a "cocky" young man! While he eventually became a man of legendary meekness and unique spiritual authority, he began his life with tremendous pride. Raised and educated in the palace of Pharaoh himself, Moses early acquired a profound consciousness of his own importance and destiny in the plans of God. He assumed the self-appointed role of leader and judge, killing an Egyptian whom he found mistreating a fellow Hebrew. The next day he assumed the authority to separate two fighting Israelites. Perhaps because of his royal upbringing or his naturally strong temperament, Moses simply took for granted that he had the right to command others.



Therefore, before God called him and invested him with a staff of authority, He dealt with this pride and willfulness. Forty years of obscurity in the desert cured him of any messiah complex, and produced in him a humility and gentleness that would allow him to wield the most awesome spiritual authority ever endowed upon a human being up to that time. When Yahweh called to him from a burning bush, Moses made no presumptions of his own importance, but sincerely admitted his own inadequacy to such a holy role. After forty years of breaking and training in the desert, he had shed his self-sufficiency and haughty self awareness. He did not abuse his authority or seek to be a "prince" over the people of Israel. Instead of asserting his own authority, he interceded for those who rebelled against him. He had become the type of humble, gentle leader that could be trusted with true power. *And you...? Is your ego still intact?*

## Review of Level III (Lesson #8) - The Variety of God's Discipline

### *God breaks us through...*

1. *Moments of Crisis* – He “wrestles us” as with Jacob.
2. *Our failures* – He shows us our frailty – Peter’s denials.
3. *Long Waiting Periods* -He makes us wander in the desert for what seems like an eternity
4. *Moments of “Cruel” Obedience* – The Garden of Gethsemane - Jesus
5. *Human authorities* – He breaks us through leaders he has invested with authority, teaching us submission and respect.

In your own life, what has been a significant way that God has broken your pride and willfulness, making you a more gentle, submitted person?

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you learn? How did you grow and change through this experience? \_\_\_\_\_

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### † *Prayer of Submission*

We suggest a kneeling posture, physically symbolizing an attitude of submission

*Lord God, I confess that I am often rebellious.*

*I insist on doing things my own way and refuse to submit to your way.*

*I complain against authority figures at work, at home and at church.*

*Forgive me.*

*I want to be humble and gentle, as you are.*

*I want to be a completely obedient soldier of my captain, Jesus Christ.*

*I ask you to break my pride and rebelliousness.*

*As Jesus prayed, “Not my will, but your will be done.” Amen.*



## Part II: Self Control – Self Mastery

<sup>28</sup> *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.* Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> *Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.* <sup>2</sup> *We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.* James 3:1-2

<sup>7</sup> *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.* 2 Timothy 1:7



### ***In this lesson, we consider...***

- *The definition of self control in daily life*
- *The “internal brake” of a sober ministry*
- *Qualities of self control in God’s service*

***Definition:*** *Self control is the ability to harness one’s appetites, impulses, and feelings in order to serve God with sobriety and discipline. Self mastery.*

### ***Self Control requires us to set limits in our behavior and speech***

<sup>28</sup> *Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.* Prov. 25:28 (NIV)

Why this comparison? How is a person without self control akin to a city without strong walls?

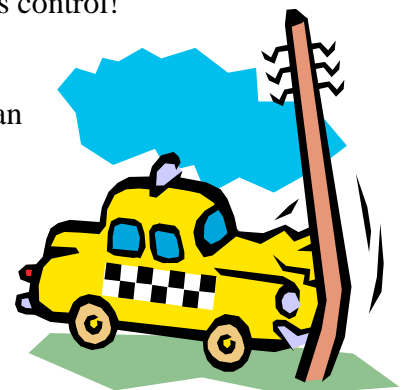
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### ***Self Control requires that we use an “inner brake”***

What happens when the brakes of a vehicle malfunction? The car loses control! Regardless of the quality of the motor or the fine paint job, it ends up smashed against a tree! Likewise in ministry, regardless of our giftedness, talents, or passion for Christ, without self-control; without an “inner harness,” we end up in ruins.



## ***Self Control is spiritual power to...***

### ***... harness (or brake) the desires of the flesh***

*<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. Galatians 5:16-17*

### ***... harness (or brake) the tongue***

*<sup>1</sup> I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth while in the presence of the wicked." Psalm 39:1*

### ***... harness (or brake) our anger***

*<sup>11</sup> Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end. Proverbs 29:11*

*He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,  
And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32*

### ***... harness (or brake) our physical impulses***

*<sup>12</sup> "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. <sup>13</sup> You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. I Corinthians 6:12-13*

### ***.... harness (or brake) our emotions***

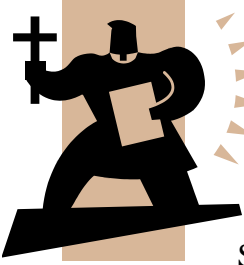
*<sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:12-1*

For you, which of the impulses above are most difficult to control?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention a situation in which you struggle to "harness" yourself in some way.

\_\_\_\_\_.



## Example of (the lack of...) Self Control in Ministry

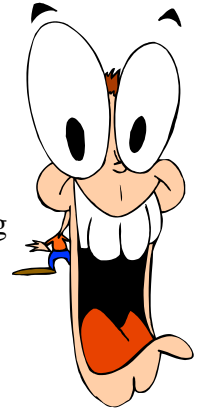
### *Fiery Franky the Evangelist -- "Franky el Fogoso"*

Franky preaches with fire and anointing. He has no fear of standing on a street corner to preach the gospel, moving in a unique grace to impact his hearers.

Sometimes he receives a miraculous word of knowledge, enabling him to speak directly to the problem a person may have, cutting through their opposition and leading them into an encounter with Christ. He weeps and shouts and groans in prayer for hours at a time. In worship he has no inhibition and leaps for joy in God's presence. In his enthusiasm he sometimes "shoots from the hip" and speaks indiscreetly. Especially when angry, he pulls no punches.



Franky loves to flow with the Spirit, and resists making plans in advance. He improvises, and as a result, the events he leads often lack organization. The anointing is never lacking, but neither is the chaos. Whenever a new opportunity presents itself, he is quick to say "yes" without hesitation, and sometimes he agrees to two or three events on the same day, forgetting previous engagements and promises he had made. When he tries to organize an evangelistic event, he usually waits until the last minute to make plans, often resulting in widespread confusion. No one seems to know where to put the speakers, who will set up the tent, where to be, and when?



After intense ministry, when the adrenaline has passed, Franky sometimes suffers severe depression. In his discouragement he will often stop attending services for weeks at a time, and falls into certain temptations over and over again, especially in the area of sexual purity. One can observe this lack of sobriety in other areas of his life as well. His finances are a disaster, and he often overeats. He allows himself to be carried away by his feelings, whether good or bad.



*He is an anointed evangelist, but lacks self control.*



List the ways we can observe the lack of sobriety and self control in Franky's life and ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



## Heart Check: *Does your ministry reflect sobriety and self-discipline?*

### *We ask ourselves...*

- Do you act on impulse, making quick decisions without considering consequences?
- Do you have a hard time biting your tongue when angry?
- Do you fall into the same temptations over and over again?
- Do you have difficulty controlling your sexual appetites?
- Do you often forget commitments you made?
- Do you plan ahead, using a calendar?
- Do you keep a budget or does money “burn a hole in your pocket?”
- Do you tend to improvise rather than plan ahead?
- Do you let yourself be led by emotions more often than not?
- Do you have a hard time managing your time, money and eating habits?

### *Qualities of self-control in ministry*

1. *Knows how to restrain itself*
2. *Is sober*
3. *Is disciplined*



### **1. The ministry with self-control knows how to “apply the brakes”**

#### *If we do not apply the brakes, we “crash and burn”...*

- *If we fail to harness our tongue* – we end up in constant arguments
- *If we fail to harness our sexual desires* – we fall into sin
- *If we fail to harness our spending* – we end up in debt
- *If we fail to harness our hunger* – we end up overweight
- *If we fail to harness our commitments and time management* – we become exhausted and run chronically late
- *If we fail to harness our emotions* – we suffer extreme ups and downs
- *If we fail to harness our anger* – we explode and destroy relationships

Mention two of these situations, mentioned above, which present a particular challenge for you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



## 2. The Self-controlled minister is sober-minded

### *Sobriety - your “game face”*

Professional athletes and soldiers habitually wear an expression of seriousness and concentration when engaged in competition or official service. This “game face” communicates discipline and attentiveness. A self-controlled minister cultivates this sober attitude, enabling him or her to stay focused and alert to the things of the Spirit and the task at hand.

*<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8*

*Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 1 Peter 1:13-15*

In view of the focus on holiness in the verses above, mention specific ways we can remain sober and alert in ministry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. The self-controlled minister embraces rigorous training and preparation

*<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Cor. 9:24-27*

### *One must sacrifice and abstain from certain indulgences in order to “stay sharp”*

Mention some ways that a marathon runner or boxer must exercise abstinence and self sacrifice in order to stay in shape.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

***Discipline v. Legalism: The self-controlled minister is self-disciplined to stay sharp!***

Like the marathon runner, the self controlled minister observes a distinctive regimen of training and life-style that “normal” people need not. Certain activities may not be sinful in and of themselves, but perhaps they “dull” our spiritual wits. If we truly desire to stay “sharp” in ministry, we must abstain from certain “permitted” behaviors that cloud our spiritual sensibilities.

These expressions of self discipline do not earn God’s favor in any way, since our very existence depends of God’s grace. The Apostle Paul clearly affirms that “it is by grace that we have this ministry.” (2 Corinthians) Rather, self control frees us to walk in this grace with a clear mind and a focused heart.

*<sup>12</sup> “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. 1 Corinthians 6:12*

***Disciplines of the self-controlled minister***

1. Abstain from certain movies and TV programs which contaminate our thoughts
2. Fast regularly
3. Refuse to indulge inappropriate flirtation
4. Distance themselves from people who draw them into negative attitudes or behaviors...etc.

In your case, mention a way that you would like to begin “training” and disciplining yourself to maintain a more alert and sober spirituality.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Review:**

Define self-control. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Mention some specific ways that we must “apply our internal brakes” to control our lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_.

## Part II – The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

<sup>4</sup> Such confidence we have through Christ before God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. <sup>6</sup> He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

### Lesson #6 – The Gifts of Care-giving



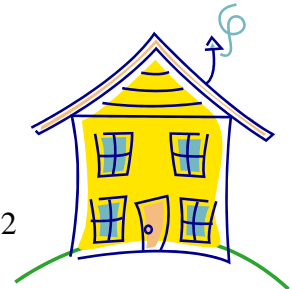
Those who have suffered, struggled, or felt completely alone know the power of a person who shows love in the name and spirit of Jesus. Genuine care, expressed at the right moment can have a permanent impact upon our lives. God has graciously poured out a variety of gifts to show His tender love and compassion for humanity. We consider these powerful expressions of God’s loving comfort in this chapter.

**Hospitality**  
**Mercy**  
**Exhortation**  
**Service**

*Bienvenido*

### The Gift of Hospitality

<sup>1</sup> Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.. Hebrews 13:1-2



### *Evidence that you may have the gift of hospitality*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Do new people seem to seek you out and enjoy your company?
- Do you enjoy meeting and getting to know new people?
- Do you enjoy giving without expecting anything in return?
- Does it bother you when you notice a newcomer sitting alone before or after a service with no one speaking to them?
- Do you enjoy making others feel at home in a new situation?
- Do you feel energized when asked to plan a social event?
- Do you experience a sense of satisfaction after opening your home to visitors?

***Perhaps you have the gift of hospitality!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to make others feel “at home,” welcome, cared for and part of the group.

***Origen:*** “given to love strangers”

***Purpose:*** To foster a welcoming atmosphere that attracts others and facilitates the establishing of positive relationships among God’s people.

**Texts and Examples: *God is Hospitable!***

***God himself receives strangers, people with some sort of “defect,” and those who are otherwise marginalized or rejected in society.***

*Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.”  
And let no eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.”*

<sup>4</sup> *For this is what the LORD says:*

*“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—  
<sup>5</sup> to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name  
better than sons and daughters; ...<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain  
and give them joy in my house of prayer.....for my house will be called  
a house of prayer for all nations.” Isaiah 56:5-7*

***Jesus’ scandalous hospitality; receiving everyone equally***

Biblical hospitality welcomes to the point of scandal. Jesus suffered intense criticism for the company he kept!

<sup>1</sup> *Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:1-2*

***Lydia prevailed upon the Apostle Paul to stay at her home***

<sup>14</sup> *One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us. Acts 16:14-15*



***Potential Pitfalls for those with the gift of hospitality***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful***

- To set appropriate boundaries
- To say “no” when a potential opportunity for hospitality could be harmful or even dangerous to the members of your household.
- Not to get burned out and feel that you are the only one who serves in this way
- Not to criticize those who are not as hospitable as you are for being “cold” or “unloving”
- Not to spend yourself serving others to the extreme that you neglect your own family and close friends.
- Not to confuse Christian hospitality with simply being friendly, social, or culturally correct.

***Review Questions:***

List some of the distinguishing marks of those with the gift of hospitality?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Define hospitality. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of hospitality? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List three ministries or roles in the church where someone could put this gift into practice.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List some potential pitfalls for a person with the gift of hospitality.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two people you know who you suspect have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



## The Gift of Mercy

*... if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.* Romans 12:8

<sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:15-16

### *Evidence that you may have the gift of mercy*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- When you hear someone is sick, do you feel an impulse to visit them?
- Is it hard for you to pass a homeless person in the street without stopping and helping them in some way?
- When you hear news of some sort of tragedy or suffering, are you moved to compassion?
- Do you find yourself attending funerals often, offering comfort to the bereaved?
- Does it come naturally to you to go the extra mile to help a needy person?
- Do you experience a special sense of satisfaction when you can cook for a lonely person?

**Definition:** *A special empathy and sincere compassion for the suffering and pain of others, which results in concrete works of support and charity.*

**Purpose:** *To bring relief to wounded people such that they are restored to health and productivity, giving testimony to others about God's love and power.*

***Examples of Christian mercy:***

- Christian hospitals
- Care for the elderly or handicapped
- Ministry to people with special needs
- Comfort for the bereaved
- Shelters and service to the homeless
- Visitation to hospitals and jails
- Mother Theresa
- The Salvation Army

***Texts: Read Luke 10:30-37 - The Good Samaritan***

***Mercy goes the extra mile to help another, refusing to make excuses and “be safe”***

– List some excuses we might use to avoid helping a victim in a situation such as the one described in this parable.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

***Read Matthew 25:35-45 - Acts of Mercy touch Jesus in a profound, even mystical, way***

*The Sheep and the Goats:* List the works of mercy mentioned in this parable.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



## *Potential pitfalls that come with the gift of mercy*

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- Not to be a “martyr!”
- To set appropriate boundaries. You cannot help everyone in every way!
- Not to “play God!” Jesus is the savior, not you!
- Not to neglect your own family or your own health.
- To live in joy. Do not focus only on the traumatic and sad side of human existence.
- To use discernment and sober judgment. People may seek to take advantage of your generosity.
- To be firm when necessary, even if others become angry with you.
- To use “tough love” in order to avoid forming unhealthy dependencies.
- To take authority to minister rather than involving your pastor in each situation.

### ***Questions***

Define the gift of mercy: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of mercy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

If you have this gift, why would it be important for you to participate in a small group?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some specific ways to use this gift in the ministry of the church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some people whom you believe have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List some potential pitfalls that come along with the gift of mercy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

How to say “no?” Share some advice for a sensitive-hearted person, with the gift of mercy, about how to say “no” to a need that is presented to him or her.

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## Gift of Exhortation

*<sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14*



### *Evidence that you may have the gift of exhortation*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Have others thanked you for your words of encouragement or challenge?
- Does motivating and encouraging others come naturally to you?
- Do you notice when someone becomes slack in their Christian walk and needs a good “pep talk” (or kick in the pants!)?
- Are you secure in yourself and have a healthy self-image?
- Are you willing to confront when necessary?
- Do you have good interpersonal skills?

**Definition:** *A special anointing to encourage, challenge, or warn God's people when discouraged or flagging in some way.*

**Purpose:** *To promote perseverance, integrity and morale among God's people through well chosen and anointed words.*

**Texts:** *Exhortation is needed when...*

**1. When a Christian begins to drift spiritually and become lukewarm.**

<sup>12</sup> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:12-13

**2. When a brother or sister begins missing services**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Has there ever been a time when you were drifting from God and someone challenged you to renew your faith? What happened?

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**3. A new believer, who needs encouragement in their decision to follow Christ and motivation to make a full commitment**

<sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

**4. When a Christian brother or sister becomes weary and discouraged**

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. Isaiah 50:4

5. *When the brothers and sisters grieve the loss of a dear friend or family member.*

<sup>10</sup> *He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.*

<sup>11</sup> *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.* 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Can you think of a time when you were tired or discouraged and someone encouraged you?  
Who? What difference did it make for you?

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***Potential pitfalls for the gift of exhortation***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- To be sincere and sober. Resist exaggerating when you give a word of encouragement.
- Use tact and balance when giving a word of warning or challenge.
- Set appropriate limits. Resist the temptation to try to control the lives and decisions of others.

***Questions:***

Define the gift of exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_

---

What is the purpose of the gift of exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_

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List some of the distinguishing characteristics of a person with this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some situations in which exhortation is needed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Service

*<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10*



### *Evidence that you may have the gift of service*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Do you naturally anticipate the needs of the people around you?
- Do you have a knack for finding out about needs before anyone else knows?
- Do you simply enjoy yourself when serving others?
- Do you jump in to help out when there is a need, even if it involves personal sacrifice?

**Definition:** *A special anointing to identify and fill the practical needs of others.*

**Purpose:** *To bring a general sense of love, belonging, care and brotherly affection to the community of faith and win unbelievers to Christ through practical demonstrations of God's love.*

**Note:** "Service" is different from the gift of "helps" (for our purposes)

- *The gift of helps* is the distinctive ability to work alongside others and support their efforts in ministry projects.
- *The gift of service* is more general in nature – the capacity to anticipate and meet the needs of others in Christian love.



## ***Texts and Examples***

### ***Jesus washed the feet of the disciples***

*<sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*  
John 12:14-15

### ***All Christian leadership is "service"***

*<sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*  
Mark 10:43-45

*<sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.* 2 Corinthians 4:5

### ***A shining example of the gift of service: Onesiphorus***

*<sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.* 2 Timothy 1:16-18

### ***Potential pitfalls for the gift of service***

***Watch out! If you have the gift of service, be careful...***

- To serve cheerfully and not reluctantly
- Not to serve to win the affection of others
- Not to grow resentful if your work goes unrecognized
- Not to be a "Martha" who becomes so busy serving that you neglect to rest, pray and spend leisurely time in God's presence.
- To say "no" when necessary
- Not to serve others so much that you neglect your own family
- To remember that when you serve others, you serve Jesus himself!



### ***Questions:***

Define the gift of service: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how the gift of service is different from the gift of helps. \_\_\_\_\_

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List some indications that one may have the gift of service.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think Jesus chose to use foot washing to demonstrate an ethic of service?

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List some warnings for a person who has this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some specific ways that someone could use this gift in the life of our church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two or three people whom you suspect have this gift.

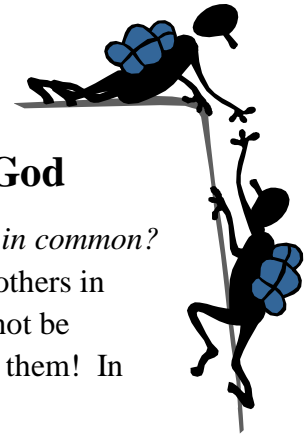
1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson #7: Gifts of Support for the Work of God

What do the prayer warrior in the night and the secretary at a desk have in common? Both may be moving in a spiritual gift that serves to provide support for others in ministry work! Like internal organs in the human body, these roles may not be visible or even attractive, but the very survival of the body depends upon them! In this chapter we consider this unusual, critical constellation of gifts.



**Intercession**  
**Helps**  
**Administration**  
**Giving**  
**Craftsmanship**

### The Gift of Intercession

<sup>23</sup> *As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you... 1 Samuel 12:23*

*I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, <sup>7</sup> and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7*

### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of intercession***

***Ask yourself the following...***

- Do feel an impulse to pray and fast for long periods of time?
- Does the Spirit sometimes reveal special requests for you to carry in prayer?
- Does God sometimes wake you to pray in the night?
- Do you sometimes experience an emotional agony when praying, even groaning?
- Do you regularly have testimonies of specific answers to prayer?
- Do you sometimes sense the presence of spiritual warfare and as a result pray through the night or fast until you feel a type of “breakthrough” or “release?”
- Does God sometimes burden you to pray for a specific person, and then you later discover that he or she was in need at that very time?

***Perhaps you have the gift of intercession!***

***Definition:*** *A special anointing to pray intensely and for long periods of time, guided by the Holy spirit, and resulting in specific answers.*

***Purpose:*** *To invoke the power of the Holy Spirit upon the ministry and provide spiritual “covering” from the attacks of the devil.*



## ***Biblical Intercessors:***

### ***1. Abraham intercedes for Sodom (Genesis 18)***

### ***2. Moses Intercedes for the Israelites***

<sup>31</sup> So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. <sup>32</sup> But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.” Exodus 32:31-32

### ***3. Moses prays for Joshua in battle v. the Amalekites***

<sup>11</sup> As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. Exodus 17:11

### ***4. Hannah prayed intensely for a baby***

<sup>12</sup> As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk. 1 Samuel 1:12-13

### ***5. Elijah prayed for drought and then for rain***

<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. James 5:17-18

### ***6. Daniel provided “cover” for angels in spiritual battle***

<sup>12</sup> Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Daniel 10:12-13

### ***7. Jeremiah pleaded for mercy for the people of Judah***

<sup>11</sup> Oh, that my head were a spring of water  
and my eyes a fountain of tears!  
I would weep day and night  
for the slain of my people. Jeremiah 9:1

### ***8. Ana and Simeon interceded for the redemption of Israel – Luke 2***

### ***9. Paul agonized in prayer for the spiritual formation of his churches***

<sup>1</sup> I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. Colossians 2:1



## ***Potential pitfalls for the gift of intercession***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful....***

- *Of spiritual pride.* Do not consider yourself better than other believers because of your prayer life.
- *To submit to spiritual authority.* The intercessor moves in a spiritually “charged” atmosphere, more exposed to the attacks of Satan. If he or she moves out from under the cover of spiritual authority, they are vulnerable to Satanic attack.
- *To care for your emotional and physical health.* Being out of shape or neurotic does not make your prayers more efficacious!
- *To share with other brothers and sisters.* Careful not to be a lone ranger.
- *To cultivate an organized and balanced life.* Keep a budget. Use a calendar...etc.

### ***Questions:***

Define the gift of intercession: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of the gift of intercession? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mention some indications that one may have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some Biblical examples of this gift in action.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Which is your favorite example above? Why?

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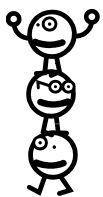
Mention some warnings for a person who has this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it especially important for an intercessor to be under the covering of spiritual authorities in a church?

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### **The gift of helps – A good armor bearer**

<sup>28</sup> *And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28*



#### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of helps***

***Ask yourself...***

- Do you enjoy helping your cell leader prepare the refreshments (without being asked to do so)?
- Do you jump in to help out during a church project or outing?
- Would you rather be “behind the scenes?” Does it make you uncomfortable when thanked in public?
- Do you find yourself often setting up and removing chairs for meetings?
- Do you enjoy “watching the back” of your pastor and other leaders?
- Do you feel comfortable recruiting others to help out for ministry projects.
- Do you have knack for “being in the right place” when there is a need?
- Do you have a type of “radar” to detect what kind of practical help someone in ministry might need, and then meet those needs before being asked to do so?

***Perhaps you have the gift of helps!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to work alongside others and support their ministry work.

***Purpose:*** Permit other Christians (generally leaders) to be more effective and fruitful in their ministry, helping them with practical and necessary tasks.

**Note:** The gift of helps is more specific than the gift of service.

*The gift of service* fills the general needs of others to show love and mercy.

*The gift of helps* supports others who serve in ministry to help them be more effective.

### ***Biblical “Helpers”***

***Jonathan’s Armor Bearer – Read 1 Samuel 14:6-14***

How did the armor bearer help Jonathan win the battle?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the armor bearer’s name? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Phoebe helped Paul***

<sup>1</sup> I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. <sup>2</sup> I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. Ro16:1-2

### ***Women supported Jesus***

<sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. Marcos 15:40-41.

### ***Potential pitfalls for the gift of helps –***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- To remember the value of your gift. Less visible does not mean that it is expendable.
- Not to focus so much on the task at hand that you forget the bigger picture.
- To remember that you cannot do it all. Sometimes you must say “no!”
- To be careful not to try to control those you help!
- To not feel “left out” if you are not able to help in a particular project.

***Questions:***

Define the gift of helps. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of helps? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

How is the gift of helps different from the gift of service (for our purposes)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List the indications that you have the gift of helps.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some pitfalls that come with this gift?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention someone you know whom you believe demonstrates this gift.

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is a way that someone with the gift of helps could support the pastor in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_.

How might a gift of helps be valuable in a cell group?

\_\_\_\_\_.

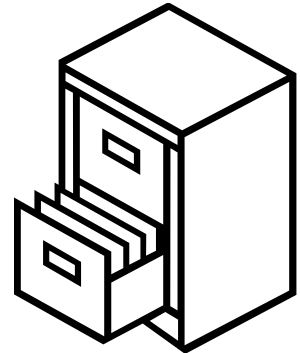


Mention several ministries or roles which would require someone with the gift of helps.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Administration

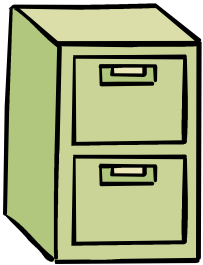
<sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Luke 14:28-30



### *Evidence that you may have the gift of administration*

*Ask yourself...*

- Do you enjoy taking time to plan and make specific goals?
- Do you like to learn new technologies?
- Do you use a calendar and make thorough lists each day?
  - Can you multi-task well?
  - Do you have a servant heart
  - Do you feel a drive to finish tasks through to completion?
  - Would you say you are detail oriented?
  - Is your desk kept clean and in order?
  - Do you keep your check-book balanced?



**Definition:** *A special anointing to coordinate and organize people and projects.*

**Purpose:** *To assure that the dreams, plans, goals and visions of the ministry become reality in an efficient and smooth manner.*



## ***Biblical Administrators***

### **Read Acts 6:1-7 – *The First Deacons***

Describe the conflict presented in this text.

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How does good administration help solve this crisis?

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### **Read Exodus 18:12-27 – *The advice of Jethro (Moses' Father in law)***

What problem is presented in this text?

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What is the solution?

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### ***Potential pitfalls for the gift of administration***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- Not to *hyper-focus* on the task at hand and forget to pay attention to the people involved
- Not to *use people's efforts* in a cold or impersonal way.
- Not to “*get lost in the details*” and forget the overall goals of the vision.
- Not to be *perfectionistic*.
- Not to be so *strict* in attention to the rules that you forget to have mercy.
- To be patient with those who are less organized than you are. Rather than giving into complaining and criticism, work towards improvements.

## *Questions*

List some signs that you may have the gift of administration.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List the potential pitfalls that come along with this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Define the gift of administration: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of the gift of administration? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mention some of the administrative issues a church faces.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some specific ways a person with this gift can serve in the church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Gift of Giving

...if it is giving, then give generously; Romans 12:8



## ***Evidence that you may have the gift of giving***

***Ask yourself...***

- Do you enjoy making secret donations to various causes?
- Do you “worry” about the financial needs that churches or missionaries have and make a point of finding out their situations?
- Do experience joy when giving?
- Do you seem to have a knack for making money?
- Do you feel personally implicated when you hear about some need in the kingdom of God?
- Does it come easily to you to give large sums of money?
- Do you manage your money well?
- Are you generous not only with your money, but also with your time?

***Maybe you have the gift of giving!***

***Definition:*** A special attention to the financial needs of the church; and the capacity to contribute cheerfully and generously to meet those needs.

***Purpose:*** To provide for the needs of the church to extend the kingdom of God on earth.

## ***Biblical “Givers”***

### ***1. The women and Jesus***

*<sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup> Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke 8:2-3*

### ***2. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus***

They donated a costly tomb and spices for Jesus’ burial. (John 19:38-42)

### ***3. Barnabus and the early believers***

*“... there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. <sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet. Acts 4:34-37.*

4. *The church in Macedonia* – **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

How does the Macedonian church provide a special example for us? What were the characteristics of their generosity?

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**Clarifications**

- *The gift of giving is not necessarily associated with personal wealth.* The poor widow gave “more” in God’s eyes than the wealthier contributors. (Luke 21:1-3)
- *This gift is not limited to financial contributions.* Dorcas gave out garments and coats to the indigent. (Acts 9:39)
- *Giving one’s self is as important as giving one’s resources.* The church of Macedonia first “gave themselves” to the Lord, and then donated to Paul’s ministry. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

**Potential pitfalls for this gift**



**Watch out! If you have the gift of giving, be careful...**

- Not to seek recognition and approval (as did Ananias and Saphira – Acts 5)
- Not to try to exert control over the church leadership because of your generosity.
- Of pride.
- Not to expect special treatment because of your giving.

**Questions**

Define the gift of giving: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the purpose of the gift of giving? \_\_\_\_\_

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Mention some Biblical examples of this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some clarifications regarding this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List some potential pitfalls associated with this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



## The Gift of Craftsmanship

**Definition:** *A special anointing to create and enhance the physical spaces through which the ministry takes place. (carpentry, decoration, floral arranging...etc.)*

**Purpose:** *To provide functional and attractive spaces through which the work of the Lord can be done most effectively.*

**Evidence that you may have this gift**

**Ask yourself...**

- Do you feel God's joy when you work with your hands?
- Are you skilled in construction or decoration?
- Do you tend to notice details in a physical space that need improvement?

**Perhaps you have the gift of craftsmanship!**

**Anointed Craftsmen: *Bezalel and Ohaliab* -- Read Exodus 31:1-22 and 35:30-35**

Describe the calling and anointing of Bezalel and Ohaliab.

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**Potential pitfalls for the gift of craftsmanship**

**Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...**

- Not to confuse natural skill for the spiritual gift
- Not to be perfectionistic.
- Not to forget the “why” behind what you are doing.
- To pray and seek God’s wisdom about how to improve physical spaces



**Questions:**

Define the gift of craftsmanship. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of the gift of craftsmanship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mention some specific ways this gift can be used in the church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention the names of some people you know who have this gift.

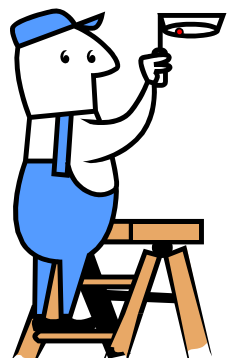
1. \_\_\_\_\_

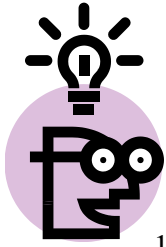
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you paint a wall....**

**... is it obvious that a Christian**

**Painted that wall?**





## Lesson #8 – Gifts of Supernatural Revelation

We believe that God has spoken definitively and clearly through the inspired writings of Holy Scripture, never to be altered nor “improved upon.” But while God no longer issues revelations that rise to the level of Biblical authority, we believe that He still speaks today. God is not silent! He continues to speak through the general revelation of nature (Psalm 19) and also through a variety of “revelatory” giftings. In specific ways, the Holy Spirit reveals information and messages to God’s people in order to advance the work of the kingdom on earth. Certainly an “art” rather than a “science,” this “revelation” can often mix with human imperfections. When cultivated and properly “tested” by pastoral guidance, however, this work of the Spirit can be invaluable to God’s people and the ministry.

**Wisdom**  
**Knowledge**  
**Prophecy**  
**Discernment**

### The Gift of Wisdom

*...he that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30b*

*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. 1 Corinthians 2:13*

#### ***Evidence that you may have this gift***

##### ***Ask yourself...***

- Do you sometimes “just know” how to reach a person in a specific, distinctive way?
- Do relevant answers “come to you” in moments of crisis?
- Do you enjoy solving problems?
- Do complicated situations (conundrums) present an exhilarating challenge to you, almost like “puzzles” to be solved?
- Are you able to “figure out” what God is doing through certain life events?
- Do people seek you out for advice?
- Do you have a well tuned “common sense” about people and life?
- Do you know how to “handle” different types of individuals and situations?

***Definition:*** *Supernaturally revealed understanding about how to proceed and speak in certain practical ministry situations.*



**Purpose:** *To understand the will of God...*

- *To make a decision*
- *To answer questions from unbelievers*
- *To give advice*
- *To win a person over*
- *To handle a complex situation*
- *To provide direction to the church in big decisions*
- *To solve a problem*

### ***Biblical examples of revealed Wisdom***

- ***Solomon and the two prostitutes*** – 1 Kings 3:16-28
- ***Jesus evades the traps of the Pharisees*** – Mt. 21-22
  - The question of taxes
  - The baptism of John
  - Marriage at the resurrection
  - Is the Christ the son of David...etc.
- ***Jesus promises the disciples they will have wisdom when called before judges***

<sup>12</sup> *“But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. <sup>13</sup> And so you will bear testimony to me. <sup>14</sup> But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. <sup>15</sup> For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. Luke 21:12-15*

- ***Peter and John use divine wisdom when preaching***

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13*

**Note: General wisdom is a promise for all!**

The book of Proverbs explains that wisdom “cries out in the street” and is available to all.

*“<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5*



## ***Potential pitfalls for the use of the gift of wisdom***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- Not to confuse the spiritual gift of wisdom with human intellectualism or academic preparation
- To remember from whence the wisdom comes and never neglect prayer
- To be humble and teachable, remembering that you are fallible and your understanding is limited.
- Not to assume you “have the answer” to any and every problem
- To use the wisdom God gives even if you lack academic preparation.
- Not to use your gift as an excuse to neglect preparation, planning and study

## ***Questions***

Define wisdom. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

The purpose of the gift of wisdom is to understand the will of God for.....

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

List some indications that you may have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between the gift of wisdom and academic knowledge?

\_\_\_\_\_

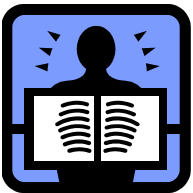
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Mention some examples of this gift in scripture.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some practical cases in ministry, (preferably yours), in which it would be necessary to use the gift of wisdom.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_



## The Gift of the Word of Knowledge

*“X-ray vision in the Spirit”*

***Evidence that you may have the gift of word of knowledge***

***Ask yourself...***

- Do certain thoughts sometimes “pop” into your mind, which convey information you would have no way of knowing by natural means?
- Do you sometimes know certain things about a person’s life or past which you would have no way of knowing by natural means?
- Do you sometimes feel an impulse to approach a person and speak to them, but you do not know why? When you do, you discover that it was a perfect evangelistic opportunity?
- At times when sharing the gospel or counseling a person, does God reveal something to you about the person which allows you to “cut to the chase?”
- Do you sometimes receive supernatural intuitions when praying?
- Do you sometimes “just know” the root issues of pain behind a person’s behavior without them ever telling you directly?

***Perhaps you have the gift of knowledge!***



**Definition:** A special anointing to receive divinely revealed information which you would have no way of ascertaining by natural means.

**Purpose:** To provide specific direction to minister with greater effectiveness.

**Texts and Examples:**

## The Ministry of Jesus



- **Jesus knew the "complicated" past (and present) of the Samaritan woman –**

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

<sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." John 4:16-18

- **Jesus knew the thoughts of the Pharisees and the disciples**

<sup>7</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>8</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking... Luke 6:7-8

## The disciples received divine knowledge in various situations

- **Peter knew the deceitful scheme of Ananias and Sapphira**

<sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Acts 5:3

- **Ananias (not the same person as above), knew what had happened to Saul on the road to Damascus (later Paul)**

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." Acts 9:10-12

- ***Cornelius was given the address of Peter and knew where to find him***

<sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.” Acts 10:5-6

- ***Peter knew that emissaries from Cornelius were knocking at the door below and that he was to accept their information***

<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.” Acts 10:19-20

- ***Philip knew precisely where to go, which resulted in a divinely orchestrated opportunity to share the gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch.***

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian<sup>[a]</sup> eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Candice (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Acts 8:26-29



### ***Potential pitfalls that accompany this gift***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- *To use the revelation you receive in a prudent and discreet fashion.* Not all information revealed is to be shared publicly, but in private, and with appropriate love and tact.
- *To be humble and recognize that you are fallible.* It is possible to confuse your own human thoughts with divine revelation.
- *Not to presume to control* the lives or decisions of others through this gift
- *Not to quickly accuse* others based on a “revelation,” but with no proof.
- *Don’t be a witch!* The revelation comes from the Holy Spirit, and is not a special power you have!

### ***Questions:***

Define the gift of “word of knowledge” \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some indications that perhaps you have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two examples of the use of this gift in the ministry of Jesus.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two examples of the use of this gift in the ministry of the apostles.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some warnings and potential pitfalls associated with this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of advice can you give to the person who thinks they are receiving divine knowledge, but are not completely sure if God is speaking, or their own thoughts?

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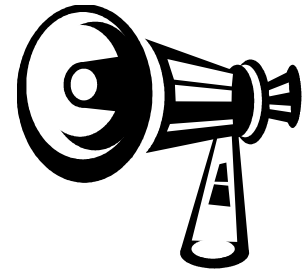
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## The Gift of Prophecy

*“<sup>d</sup> Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 1 Corinthians 14:1*



### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of prophecy***

#### ***Ask yourself...***

- Do messages sometimes pop into your mind during a worship service or a prayer meeting, and then someone says exactly what you were thinking?
- Do you sometimes have dreams that depict events that are going to occur?
- Have others been edified and blessed when you share messages that occur to you?

### ***Perhaps you have the gift of prophecy!***

***Definition:*** *A special anointing to receive supernatural revelation and communicate messages from the Holy Spirit.*

***Purpose:*** *To edify, exhort, and comfort the brothers through a spiritually inspired message.*  
1 Corinthians 14:3

### ***Examples:***

- ***Philip’s daughters*** – Acts 21:9
- ***Agabus***
  - Prophesied the arrest of Paul (Acts 21:10-11)
  - Prophesied a coming famine (Acts 11:28)

***An Old Testament Prophet (Capital “P”) is different from a New Testament Prophet (lower case “p”).***

### ***In the New Testament...***

- ***Prophecy is a generalized gift that many believers possess***

Not so under the Old Covenant. Only a few, chosen individuals occupied the spiritual office of “Prophet.”



<sup>28</sup> *“And afterward,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions. Joel 2:28*

- ***A prophetic message can be mistaken, and thus must be tested by others***

An Old Testament prophet, if genuine, could never err when speaking prophetically. The Prophet received direct divine revelation without ambiguity. Any so called “prophet” who gave a message that was demonstrably false was to be put to death as an imposter.

*A New Testament prophet can make mistakes* without being judged as a “false prophet.” The revelation is often not direct and unambiguous, but given through internal impressions or dreams that can be confused with human thoughts. For this reason a New Testament prophecy must be “tested” by those in authority.

- ***A New Testament prophet does not have the right to add to scripture.***

An Old Testament prophet did have authority to add their oracles to the scriptural canon. A New Covenant prophet does not have this authority, but must submit to the Biblical teaching. (2 Peter 1:20)

### ***Clarifications about the Gift of Prophecy***

- ***Love is the principal motivation*** - 1 Corinthians 14:1

- ***The prophet can control themselves and must prophesy in an orderly fashion***

<sup>29</sup> *Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.* <sup>30</sup> *And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.* <sup>31</sup> *For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.* <sup>32</sup> *The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.* <sup>33</sup> *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.* 1 Corinthians 14:29-33

- ***Prophecy must be balanced by the “testing” and evaluation of leaders. Prophetic messages must be taken seriously, but not given unquestioned credence.***

<sup>19</sup> *Do not quench the Spirit.* <sup>20</sup> *Do not treat prophecies with contempt* <sup>21</sup> *but test them all; hold on to what is good,* 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

- ***Not all prophecy predicts the future.***

- ***A prophet should use wisdom and discernment in how he or she handles revelations.*** Not all prophecy is meant to be shared publicly. Sometimes prophetic messages provide guidance in prayer.



- ***A prophet does not always know how to apply the messages he or she receives.*** We must be careful in how we interpret and apply the revelation to the lives of others.
  - *Agabus* received a message that Paul would be imprisoned if he went to Rome, and all gathered pleaded with him not to go. But Paul did not allow others to make his decisions for him. In spite of this message, Paul pressed on to Rome, knowing that this message served to prepare him for what was to come, and not to guide him to avoid this fate. (Acts 21:10-11)
  - *Caiaphas* prophesied about the death of Jesus, and took this message as God’s approval for his evil plan to crucify Jesus. (John 11:51-53)



### ***Potential pitfalls related to the gift of prophecy***

***Watch out! If you have the gift of prophecy, be careful....***

- *To submit to the authority and directives of the pastor or leader who presides over the gathering.* He or she is responsible to direct the service. If asked not to share the message at that moment, for whatever reason, the responsibility for this decision lies with them, and not you!
- *To submit to the care and authority of your pastors in general.* The prophetic temperament tends to be super-sensitive and given to violent fluctuations. Without pastoral covering, the prophet is vulnerable to severe Satanic attack and could suffer emotional complications.
- *To discern the appropriate moment* to share a message that the Lord has revealed. Not every message is to be shared publicly.
- *To be humble. You are an imperfect human being.* Even the most attuned prophetic minister can confuse his or her own thoughts with divine revelation.
- *Not to try to control others.* Prophecy usually serves to confirm decisions and callings that others have already made or received from the Lord. The prophet should not usually attempt to tell the recipient of the message what to do, since he or she does not know the will of God for that person nor the full interpretation or application of the revelation. (Joseph in Egypt is one exception to this general principle. He not only interpreted Pharaoh’s dream, but gave divinely inspired advice, utilizing prophetic wisdom.)
- *Not to say anything that contradicts or adds to scripture.* The prophet should be immersed in the study of scripture and never venture beyond the plain meaning of the word of God in favor of “revealed” interpretations. Joseph Smith, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, presumed to add his own revelations to the Bible, resulting in the “Book of Mormon” and the cult of Mormonism. Other cults tend to have magazines to be read along with scripture and considered equally authoritative to the Word itself.

**Questions:**

**True or False**

1. Prophecy always predicts the future. \_\_\_\_\_
2. When someone delivers a prophecy, the Spirit takes control of the person and they cannot stop themselves. \_\_\_\_\_
3. If a prophet receives a revelation that another brother is in sin, they ought to proclaim this message publicly, since it is a word from God. \_\_\_\_\_
4. If someone has the gift of prophecy, we should believe everything this person says. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A person with the gift of prophecy has authority to write inspired messages that could be included alongside the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If the pastor asks a prophetic minister not to deliver a message in a particular context, the prophet ought to speak anyway, obeying God rather than men. \_\_\_\_\_.
7. If someone questions a prophetic word, they must be squelching the Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The prophet knows the will of God for another person most of the time. \_\_\_\_\_.

List some significant differences between Prophets under the Old Covenant and prophetic ministry under the New Covenant.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

List some words of counsel and warning for a person with the gift of prophecy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Discernment

<sup>1</sup> *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1*

### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of discernment*** ***Ask yourself...***



- Is your spirit extremely sensitive to spiritual things?
- Are you able to detect insincerity easily and quickly?
- Are you naturally perceptive and insightful?
- Can you sense evil presences in certain places, objects or people?
- Do you sometimes have a physical reaction when in the presence of demons?
- Can you “see” the potential in others quickly, and later find that your initial impressions were correct?

***Definition:*** *A special anointing to perceive demonic or angelic presences, as well as to “read” the motivations and “source” behind the actions and words of others.*

***Purpose:*** *To prevent confusion and false teaching from infiltrating the church and provide guidance in spiritual warfare and deliverance.*

### ***Texts and Examples***

***Discernment is a type of spiritual revelation, and not merely human insight or “intuition”***

<sup>14</sup> *The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 1 Cor. 2:14-15*

**Read Matthew 16:21-23. *Jesus discerned the spiritual source of Peter’s words to him***

How do we observe Jesus’ discernment in this interaction?

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**Read Acts 16:16-18. Paul and the demonized child**

How do we observe Paul's discernment on display in this case?

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***Potential pitfalls that accompany the gift of discernment***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- *To be humble.* Always remember that your discernment is not 100% reliable.
- *Not to accuse others easily.* Share criticisms, concerns, or discernment of sinful attitudes with others tactfully and in proper order.
- *Of paranoia!* Careful not to find a demon around every corner! Remember that the Apostle Paul ate meat offered to idols without qualms.
- *Not to become cynical* and untrusting of people in general; “sizing up” others with suspicion.
- *To submit to spiritual authority.* You are responsible to share your impressions with spiritual authorities, but the leaders are entrusted the responsibility to take action, or choose not to.

***Questions:***

List some indications that you may have the gift of discernment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Define discernment. \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the purpose of the gift of discernment. \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some potential pitfalls for the person who has this gift?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

A case: You discern something negative in an invited preacher. What should you do?

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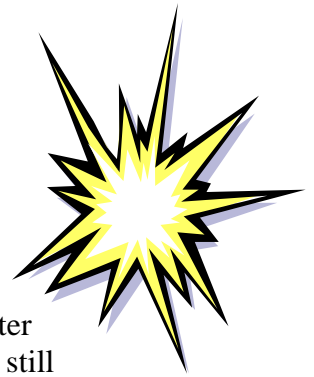
Imagine a person is behaving strangely when receiving ministry, groaning and writhing. Why must discernment be used during this session of ministry?

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## Lesson #9 – Gifts of Signs and Wonders



We worship “the God of wonders.” The same Almighty God who created the heavens and the earth; who separated the waters of the Red Sea; who brought water from a rock; cast out demons, healed the sick and raised the dead - *that God* - is still alive and well in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We believe that the risen and enthroned Lord Jesus Christ has poured out His Spirit on the church and invested her with authority to continue the miraculous work he began during his earthly ministry. These miracles should serve as “signs” to point humanity to the living God, and teach us to fear Him. God chooses some believers to move in this miraculous anointing of the Holy Spirit with exceptional power and regularity. We will consider this amazing, controversial, and *under-utilized* constellation of gifts in this chapter.

**Faith**

**Miracles**

**Healings**

**Tongues and Interpretation**

**Exorcism**



### The Gift of Faith

*“Faith does not operate in the plane of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where human power ends.”* George Mueller

*Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done.”<sup>22</sup> If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, Mt. 21:21-22*

<sup>20</sup> *He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”* Matthew 17:20-21

<sup>1</sup> *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1

### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of faith***

#### ***Ask yourself...***

- Do you have a child-like trust in God – almost “gullible?”
- Does a positive and optimistic attitude come naturally to you, even in the midst of negative circumstances?
- Do you easily believe God’s promises?
- Do you inspire others to trust in God in radical ways?
- Do you like to take risks in the Lord and then watch Him “come through in the clutch?”
- Do you feel confident and even “sure” when you pray for healing or financial provision?
- Do you pray specifically and then celebrate God’s amazing answers?

**Definition:** *An exceptional anointing to believe that God will move in specific and practical ways, in spite of circumstances to the contrary.*

**Purpose:** *To help God's people to see beyond their human circumstances and trust in God to do the impossible.*

**Clarification:** **The gift of faith is not the same as general Christian faith.**

- **Christian faith trusts God for salvation.**

<sup>6</sup> *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* Hebrews 11:6

<sup>8</sup> *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—* Ephesians 2:8

- **The gift of faith is a certainty that God will move in a particular situation.**

### **Examples**

#### ***Peter and the healing of the lame beggar***

<sup>8</sup> *In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked.* <sup>9</sup> *He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed* <sup>10</sup> *and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.* Acts 14:8-10

#### ***Abraham and Sarah conceive Isaac miraculously***

**Read Romans 4:16-25.** How do we observe the gift of faith in the life of Abraham?

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### ***Potential pitfalls associated with the gift of faith***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- Not to use “faith” as an excuse to improvise in life, neglecting the type of planning and practical preparation taught in the book of Proverbs
- Not to scold others for not having sufficient faith when going through an illness or some sort of trial

**Questions**

What are some indications that someone may have the gift of faith?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between Christian faith in general and the specific gift of faith?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some potential problems for a person who has this gift?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some situations in the ministry of the church when this gift must be exercised.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever observed this gift in action? What happened?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Gift of Miracles

<sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:12-14

### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of miracles***

#### ***Ask yourself...***

- Have you seen God heal people dramatically and consistently in response to your prayers?
- Do you simply expect that God will do miracles?
- Have you on certain occasions asked God to do extraordinary things and seen vivid, clear responses? (calm a storm; fix a car; multiply oil; raise a dead person?)
- Do you sometimes feel led to “command” someone to be healed in Jesus’ name rather than request it in prayer?



### ***Perhaps you have the gift of miracles!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to perform supernatural acts by the power of God.

***Purpose:*** To change or alter the normal course of nature to convince others of the truth of the gospel and extend God’s fame and glory in the world.

### ***Miracles also can serve to validate an apostolic ministry -***

*2 Cor. 12:12; Rom 15:18-19; Matt 10:7-8; Lu. 4:16-21; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor. 2:1-5*

<sup>12</sup> I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. 2 Cor. 12:12

### ***Examples:***

- *The plagues upon Egypt – Exodus 7-12*
- *The destruction of the walls of Jericho – Joshua 6:1-21*
- *Daniel in the Lion’s den*
- *Jonah swallowed by a great fish- Jonah 1:17*
- *Jesus changes the water into wine – John 2*
- *Jesus calmed the storm – Mark 4:35-41*
- *Jesus walked on the water – Matthew 14:22-32*
- *Jesus multiplied the loaves and the fishes – Mark 5:21-43*
- *Jesus raised the dead – John 11:1-44*
- *Peter and Paul raised the dead – Acts 9:40-42; 20:7-12*
- *People experienced healing and deliverance through exposure to the shadow or a cloth that belonged to the Apostles – Acts 5:15; 19:11-12*





***Potential pitfalls associated with the gift of miracles***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- Not to see yourself as some sort of “guru” or superhero! Spiritual pride can be fatal.
- Remember that the power comes from God, and not you.
- Not to make a spectacle of God’s power – putting on a “show” to promote yourself
- Not to manipulate and control others based on your “special spirituality.”
- Not to use this power for financial gain
- Not to exaggerate testimonies of past miracles
- Not to shove people over when praying for them
- Not to become addicted to that which is “spectacular” and neglect the day to day details of faithfulness to the Lord

***Questions:***

Define the gift of miracles \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What are some purposes of the gift of miracles?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

List some Biblical examples of this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some potential pitfalls associated with this gift?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Healings

<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. James 5:14-15



### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of healings***

#### ***Ask yourself...***

- Have people been healed when you pray for them?
- Do others seek you out to pray for healing?
- Does it come easy to you to believe that God will answer a request for healing?
- Can you sometimes discern when emotional and even spiritual problems (ie. Demons) are associated with a health problem
- Do people share about profound emotional new beginnings they have experienced through your influence in their lives?

#### ***Perhaps you have the gift of healing!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to minister physical or emotional healing by the power of God.

***Purpose:*** To express the holistic love of God for humanity (emotional, physical and spiritual) and to extend the fame and Glory of Jesus on earth.

### ***Healings proclaim the presence of the Kingdom***

<sup>20</sup> When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’” <sup>21</sup> At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Luke 7:20-22

In this text, what is the purpose of miracles of healing?

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## ***There are many varieties of healing!***

1 Corinthians 12:9 refers to “gifts of healings” (plural). This indicates that this gifting is multiform in nature, expressing itself in a variety of ways to cure a variety of ailments.

**1. Deliverance of those who are demonized** – Sometimes Jesus cast out demons associated with sickness. He “rebuked” certain illnesses.

<sup>25</sup> *When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”* Mark 9:25

**2. Forgiveness of sins** – Sometimes Jesus discerned and addressed sins associated with an illness.

*Paralytic – “Take heart son, your sins are forgiven...”* – Mark 2:1-12

He warns the paralytic with a sinful attitude –

<sup>14</sup> *Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”* <sup>15</sup> *The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.* John 5:14-15

**3. Sickness and emotional pain** - At times Jesus discerned and addressed emotional trauma associated with an illness.

*He touched the leper* – Mark 1:40-42

*He looked for the woman with the flow of blood and called her “my daughter”* – Mark 5

**4. Healing as a prophetic sign** - Sometimes Jesus used healing to teach a message. For example, physical blindness sometimes reflected spiritual blindness. Similarly, the priest Eli’s blindness reflects his spiritual insensitivity. (1 Sam. 4:15) Jesus teaches about himself as he heals: (John 9) *“while I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

## ***Potential pitfalls associated with the gift of healing***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- To remember from whence comes the power to heal.
- Not to make people feel guilty if they are not healed – as if their lack of faith or hidden sin is blocking the healing.
- To remember that sometimes God chooses not to heal.
- Not to use certain phrases or actions as types of magic formulae to invoke healing
- Not to minimize the value of doctors and medical science
- To be patient and persevering in prayer even if healing does not occur immediately
- To work with others, especially counselors, doctors, pastors, those with the gift of discernment, and those who minister deliverance



## ***Questions***

Define the gift of healings: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gifts of healings? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some different types of healing?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention an example of Jesus healing not only the body, but the spirit and/or emotions as well.

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some warnings for the person who has this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***True or False?***

If a person takes medicine, they must not have sufficient faith. \_\_\_\_\_

If a person is sick and is not healed right away, they must have a hidden sin. \_\_\_\_\_

If a person is sick, there could be a demon associated with the illness. \_\_\_\_\_

If a person prays and does not experience healing, they must not have enough faith. \_\_\_\_\_.

A sickness can have emotional roots. \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Gift of Tongues

*“I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding.” 1 Corinthians 14:15*

**Definition:** *A special anointing to pray, worship or prophesy in a language which is unknown to the speaker.*

**Purpose:** *To intercede and glorify God with one’s spirit.*



### Clarifications

- ***As with all gifts, love is fundamental.***

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1*

- ***The most common use of this gift is to communicate with God and edify one’s self***  
The spirit of the believer communicates directly with the Spirit of God in a manner which transcends the intellect.

*<sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer,<sup>1</sup> say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.*

*<sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. 1 Corinthians 14:14-19*

- ***The use of the gift of tongues is usually not associated with emotional sensations or “ecstasy.”***
- ***The one who speaks in tongues has control of him or herself and can choose when, where and how to exercise this gift.***
- ***As with all the gifts, one must practice and develop this gift.***
- ***One must use this gift in an orderly and respectful fashion***  
(1 Cor. 14:26-28; 1 Cor. 14:5-8) In a public gathering one should only speak in tongues using an audible voice if the speaker believes that the message is meant to be interpreted into a prophetic message for the benefit of the community. Otherwise the person ought to pray in tongues in a quieter voice or whisper. During periods of generalized “crying out” to the Lord, however, speaking of tongues can be appropriate, as long as the speaker is not calling attention to themselves and distracting others from prayer.

- ***This gift is more general than many others...***

Tongues seemed to be a frequent manifestation when new believers received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the early church. (Acts 10:45-46; 19:6)

- ***Tongues is generally imparted through the laying on of hands***, but not necessarily.

Each person experiences the Spirit in their own way.

- ***The language being spoken is usually unknown.***

On the day of Pentecost the disciples were given the miraculous ability to speak in foreign languages that were known to the pilgrims who had gathered in Jerusalem. In the majority of the cases in the New Testament, however, and in the experience of the modern church, the languages being spoken are unknown and only translated by the miraculous revelation of the Holy Spirit.

- ***What about the argument that this gift is no longer present in the church today?***

Some Christians use the verse in 1 Corinthians 13, “*When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away,*” to argue that all miraculous gifts, including tongues, (the imperfect) have passed away now that the Biblical canon (the perfect) has come. We do not concur with this interpretation. Rather, we believe that the “perfect” state of affairs referred to in this text has to do with the mature knowledge of God that believers will experience when we see Him face to face in our heavenly resurrection. Obviously, in the new heaven and new earth there will be no need for healing, for there will be no illness. There will be no need for prophecy, since our understanding of God’s will shall not be lacking, as it is now ....etc. Until *that time* of perfection, however, we need these gifts in order to serve God more effectively.

### ***Pitfalls associated with the gift of tongues***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- *Not to think that this gift is the only manifestation of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.*
- *Not to over-emphasize this gift and insist that everyone speak in tongues. “Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?” 1 Corinthians 12:30*
- *Not to speak in tongues loudly during a worship service, unless....*
  - It is during a time of general “crying out” to God, and even then, to do so in a way that joins the overall expression without distracting others.
  - You believe the message in tongues is meant to be translated for the edification of the entire gathering
- *Not to try to “teach” others how to speak in tongues by having them use gibberish.*  
While we do believe that a person needs to “step out in faith” to begin speaking, we need not fabricate this gift to “jump start” the Spirit.

**Questions**

Define the gift of tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of this gift? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

How do we address the argument that 1 Corinthians 13 teaches that spiritual gifts have ceased because “the perfect” canon has arrived?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**True or False:**

If someone does not speak in tongues, they do not have the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_

When a person speaks in tongues they always experience intense emotion. \_\_\_\_\_

When a person speaks in tongues, this language is always a known language in the world. \_\_\_\_\_

The person who speaks in tongues loses control of themselves and cannot stop, let alone adjust the volume. \_\_\_\_\_

It is impossible to receive this gift without the laying on of hands. \_\_\_\_\_

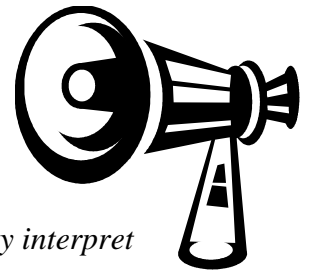
When a person begins to speak in tongues, they enter into a type of trance in which the Spirit takes control of their tongue and moves it for them. \_\_\_\_\_.

The gift of tongues is exclusively meant for intercession. \_\_\_\_\_

It is not Biblical ever to speak in tongues during a service. \_\_\_\_\_

Those who speak in tongues are more spiritually mature than those who do not. \_\_\_\_\_





## The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues (*A type of prophecy*)

<sup>13</sup> For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. 1 Corinthians 14:13

**Definition:** A special anointing to interpret a message from God that has been expressed originally in tongues.

**Purpose:** Serves the same purpose as prophecy – to edify, exhort and comfort God’s people.

### **Evidence that you may have the gift of interpretation of tongues:**

**Ask yourself....**

- Do you sometimes have a sense of what you are saying when speaking in tongues?
- Do you feel the presence of God in a special way when someone speaks in tongues?
- Has the following ever happened to you: Someone speaks a public message in tongues, clearly expecting God to provide an interpretation for the group? The beginning of a message pops into your mind, but you hold back, unsure if the message comes from God, rather than from your own thoughts. Then someone else speaks up and delivers the exact same message!

**Perhaps you have the gift of interpretation!**



### **Warnings: Potential pitfalls that come with the gift of interpretation**

**Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...**

- *To remember that you are fallible!* One must always recognize that your interpretation can be partially (or entirely) incorrect.
- *Submit to spiritual leadership.* Do not be offended if the pastor or presiding leader offers correction to your interpretation or waits for another message to complete it.

### **Questions:**

What is the purpose of the gift of interpretation of tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Mention some warnings for the person with this gift to keep in mind.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

# The Gift of Exorcism

*And Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases.” Luke 9:1*

**Definition:** *A special anointing to cast demons out of or away from another individual.*

**Purpose:** *To minister healing and freedom to God’s people who suffer from demonic oppression, promoting the advance of God’s kingdom.*

## **Evidence that you may have this gift**

- Can you discern when a person’s problems have a demonic component?
- Have you felt certain that someone has participated in occult activity, and then had this suspicion confirmed?
- Do you feel at ease guiding a person through a process of renouncing and confessing associations with the demonic?
- Do you feel comfortable taking authority over evil spirits in the name of Jesus; witnessing vivid results?

*Perhaps you have the gift of exorcism?*

## **Some Clarifications**

### ***Spiritual warfare is a reality we inhabit!***

- **Genesis 3:15** – As a result of the curse on human sin, a state of “enmity” exists between the seed of the woman (Jesus) and the seed of the serpent (Satan). We know that one day the serpent will strike the heel of this descendant (at the cross), but this individual will prevail, crushing the serpent’s head. Humanity lives “in the crossfire,” so to speak, of this spiritual battle that rages throughout the centuries.
- **John 10:10** – Jesus said that “*the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.*”
- **Jesus regularly cast out demons from people**, both in the open air as well as within the walls of the synagogue.
- **Jesus conferred authority to preach, heal and cast out demons upon the disciples.** (Luke 9:1) They exercised this gift regularly both during the human ministry of Jesus as well as after Pentecost, as recorded throughout the book of Acts.

### ***There are various degrees of “demonization.”***

- **Some suffer almost complete domination** by multiple demonic beings (The Gadarene Demoniac – Mark 5)
- **Some illnesses are inflicted by demonic malevolence.** Jesus said the following of a woman stooped over with scoliosis:  
*Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?* Lu 13:16
- **Some levels of demonization can be subtle and go largely unnoticed.** In Jesus’ ministry some demons manifested in people who otherwise “blended into the crowd” in the synagogue. When in the presence of Jesus, however, they were “flushed out” and forced to make their presence known. (Mark 1:23-24)

### ***Demonic contamination can come through a variety of means.***

- Occult practices – Acts 19
- Generational “inheritance”
- Bitterness and un-forgiveness. *“Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold.”* Ephesians 4:26-27
- Sexual “transference” (Mary Magdalene delivered of 7 demons; “one flesh” union.)

### ***Deliverance and Christian counseling go together***

- **Deliverance from demons, in the absence of repentance and Christian growth, can be counter-productive.** A person can end up being “seven times” more demonized if his life (house) is clean and swept, but *empty!* (Matthew 12:43-44)
- **We must specifically renounce our associations with Satan,** as if breaking legal contracts. The word “satan” means “accuser” in Biblical Hebrew, reflecting the legal role that the evil one plays in his battle against believers. Jesus’ blood likewise functions in a legal way, taking away the accuser’s case. In light of the enemy’s use of spiritually legal means to act in peoples’ lives, the early church required new converts to “renounce Satan” as a matter of course before their baptism.
- **Deliverance should (normally) not be administered “Rambo style,”** but rather in dialogue with the person involved, guiding them through a process of personal change.



### ***Pitfalls that accompany the practice of this gift.***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- **To stay humble and submitted to spiritual authority!** Do not become an arrogant “ghost buster” who believes he has magical power! Deliverance ministers move in a charged environment of spiritual warfare. If they stray from spiritual authority and become proud, they are vulnerable to profound demonic reprisals. Comparison: A soldier who wanders in the battlefield as a “lone ranger.”
- **To protect the dignity of those to whom you minister.** Be extremely careful not to allow a person to become publicly debased in the process of their deliverance. Such experiences can traumatize and shame the individual involved, driving them away from the Christian community.
- **To pay attention to follow up!** The delivered person must grow in Christ to prevent “re-contamination.” Consider the parable of the swept house, which later is contaminated by seven worse demons.
- **Not to make a spectacle of your ministry.** Deliverance is an extremely intimate and sensitive matter, and not to be used as a “show” to bolster your own spiritual ego.
- **To walk in holiness.** Your own inconsistencies allow “chinks” in your armor that the enemy can capitalize upon in spiritual battle.
- **To stay “heaven centered.”** When the disciples rejoiced that demons submitted to them in Christ’s name, Jesus warned them not to delight in this authority, but rather in the fact that their names were written in the Book of Life. (Luke 10) Thus we see the principle that we should not become overly focused on spiritual evil as we do this ministry, but rather on Jesus and our heavenly hope.

### **Review Questions**

How can you respond to the argument that Spiritual Warfare is not a Biblical concept?

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Mention some different ways, or degrees to which, a person can be demonized?

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How do counseling and deliverance go together?

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Mention some guidelines and warnings for one who practices this ministry.

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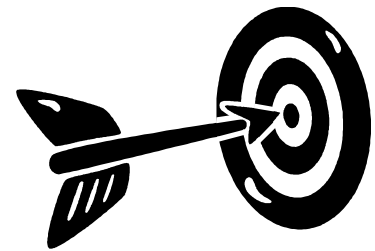
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## Lesson #10 – Gifts of Leadership – to equip the saints!

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12

Some gifts do not merely manifest through people – *but as people!* God gives certain types of leaders to His Church in order to equip His people for the work of the ministry. These individuals tend to possess a variety of gifts that complement one another and allow them to exercise a particular type of leadership in the Body of Christ. We believe in “the priesthood of all believers;” that every Christian is called to ministry. Thus, these leaders not only do ministry, but mobilize all of God’s people – a royal priesthood – to exercise their own ministry!

**Leadership**  
**Teaching**  
**Worship**  
**Pastor**  
**Apostle**  
**Missionary**  
**Evangelism**



### The Gift of Leadership

“...if it is to lead, do it diligently;” Romans 12:8

“Leadership is influence.” - John Maxwell

***Evidence that you may have the gift of Leadership-  
Ask yourself...***

- Do you naturally motivate others to become involved in ministry projects?
- Are you often asked to serve in leadership roles?
- In situations of confusion, do you feel obliged to step in and provide direction?
- Do you think about the “Big Picture?”
- Do you feel comfortable making decisions?
- Do you feel an urge to “change the world?”
- Are you unafraid to take a risk?
- Do speak with conviction and confidence.
- When you take on a project, do you see it through to completion?

***Perhaps you have the gift of leadership!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to influence and mobilize others to complete a mission in the kingdom of God.

***Purpose:*** To direct and multiply the effectiveness of the efforts of others to advance specific goals in the kingdom.

## ***Christian leadership is different from leadership in “the world”***

- ***Christian leadership is based in the calling of God, and not human competence or a dominating temperament***

**Example:** *The call of David* was based on his heart more than other considerations

<sup>7</sup> *But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* 1 Samuel 16:7

- ***Christian leadership requires giving an example of the values of the Kingdom of God, especially integrity***

**Example:** *Paul* made an effort to live “above reproach”

<sup>7</sup> *For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup> We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.* 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

- ***Does not depend on a particular temperament***

Various types of personalities and temperaments can lead others in distinctive ways. Some of the greatest leaders are “phlegmatic” in temperament and serve reluctantly, out of a sense of duty.

- ***Expresses itself first and foremost through service***

**Example:** *Jesus washed the feet of the disciples*

*“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.* John 13:13-14

*Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mk 10:42-45

## ***Potential pitfalls related to the gift of leadership***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***



- Not to be bossy!
- Not to be brusque as you tackle a project; forgetting courtesy and diplomacy
- Not to be so “task oriented” that you step over others to achieve a goal
- Not to underestimate the importance of more “low key” methodical approaches

- To submit to spiritual authorities over you, even if they are less competent than you are
- Not to abuse your power to “get your own way” at the expense of relationships
- To be humble and gentle, as was Moses!

**Questions**

There are many ways to serve as a leader in any church context. Every ministry has various “layers” of leadership. Mention some different ways to serve as a leader in your church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Define the gift of leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Mention three distinctive qualities of Christian leadership.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some potential pitfalls for a person who possesses this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention someone you know, (besides pastors), whom you suspect have this gift.

\_\_\_\_\_.



## The Gift of Teaching

*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and **teaching** everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.*  
Colossians 1:27-28

<sup>19</sup> *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing ....<sup>20</sup> and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*  
Mat. 28:19-20

### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of teaching***

***Ask yourself...***

- Do you enjoy studying the word and sharing the insights you have learned?
- Are you able to organize your thoughts in a clear and concise fashion?
- Do you express yourself well before groups of people?
- Do people enjoy your teaching and want more?

### ***Perhaps you have the gift of teaching!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to communicate the truths of scripture in a clear, interesting and memorable way which impacts the daily lives of your listeners.

***Purpose:*** To instruct and equip God’s people to live a mature and productive Christian life.

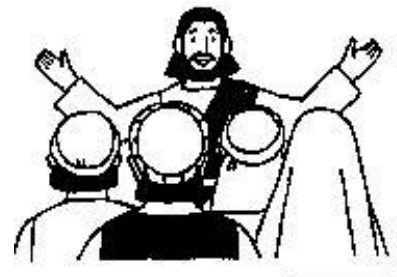
### ***How did Jesus Teach?***

- *Sermons* (eg. Sermon on the Mount)
- *Biblical exposition* – (Conversation on the road to Emmaus)
- *His own example as a model to follow*

Name a moment when Jesus “taught” by providing a clear example to follow.

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- *Observations on life experiences*
  - The generous widow
  - Placing a child before the disciples
- *Miracles as “object lessons”*
  - Multiplying the loaves and the fishes – “*I am the bread that came down from heaven....*” (John 6)
  - Healing the blind man – “*I am the light of the world.*”
  - Raising Lazarus “*I am the resurrection and the life...*”
- *Parables* – comparing spiritual truths to daily life



**Let's play "name that parable!"**

A parable based on family life. \_\_\_\_\_.

A parable based on the workplace. \_\_\_\_\_.

A parable based on money. \_\_\_\_\_.

A parable based on nature. \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Holy Spirit is our constant "teacher."**

*<sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26*



**Potential pitfalls related to the gift of teaching**

**Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...**

- Not to presume to teach if your life is in disarray spiritually.

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. James 3:1*

- To adapt your teaching to the practical needs of your hearers
- To resist esoteric "rabbit trails" that do not enrich the teaching
- Not to become enamored of being before others
- Not to neglect to cultivate spiritual anointing in your teaching through fasting and prayer
- To adapt your teaching to the age and culture of the audience
- If you teach children, not to underestimate the importance of thorough preparation, fasting and prayer.
- Not to consider teaching children as in any way less important than teaching adults.
- If you teach children, not to treat other adults as if they were children

**Questions:**

Define the gift of teaching.

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What is the purpose of the gift of teaching?

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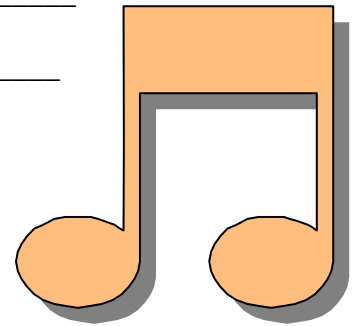
List the variety of Jesus' teaching techniques.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some specific ways this gift can be put to use at Lion of Judah.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Worship Arts



### *Evidence that you may have the gift of worship arts*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Do you feel passion to express yourself in praise and worship in God's presence?
- Do you possess artistic or musical skill?
- Do people tell you that they feel God's presence when you sing or play an instrument?
- Do worship leaders recognize your talent and spiritual sensitivity and ask you to join worship teams?

### *Perhaps you have the gift of worship arts!*

**Definition:** *A special anointing to enrich the worship of God's people through song, musical instrument, dance, or some other artistic expression.*

**Purpose:** *To use artistic creativity to stimulate and guide God's people to glorify God in a Spirit filled worship experience.*

### *Testimony of a Worshiper*

A certain associate pastor once provided transportation for Marco Barrientos, a famous Mexican worship artist, who had led a lengthy worship experience that evening. Realizing the exhaustion that Brother Marco must have felt, the young pastor put some soft jazz on the radio as they traveled in silence, but then noticed that his guest was humming a worship song to himself right there in the passenger seat. He turned down the music in as discreet a manner as possible, and enjoyed the personal concert God had orchestrated for him that night. Brother Barrientos' team members say they "can't shut him up!" He sings in the shower, at meals, and as he walks along the street. Not a performer, he worships in "spirit and in truth!" Let it always be so.



### *Texts and Examples -- Read Psalm 150*

Mention some different ways to worship God mentioned in this Psalm.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



### *Potential pitfalls associated with the gift of worship arts*

*Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...*

- To distinguish between human talent and spiritual anointing
- Not seek attention, applause, nor adulation from "the crowd"
- Not to view the congregation as "an audience" to be entertained, but worshipers to be stimulated and guided.
- To worship *with* the congregation, and not *for* them.
- To remember that artistic talent does not guarantee spiritual maturity.
- Not to be overly sensitive to suggestions or criticisms.
- To submit to the directives of the leader who presides over the service (about volume, duration of songs, etc.)
- Not to be a perfectionist! Quality matters, but the heart is always more important.
- To view God as the one who receives your ministry.
- Not to view your ministry as a "gig" but a spiritual offering.
- To be sure to attend sermons and to worship, even when not serving in a formal role.
- To be exceptionally careful with the ministry of worship dance, which can so easily have sensual overtones.



**Questions:**

Define the gift of worship arts. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of the gift of worship arts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mention some different ways to use the gift of worship arts in the church. Be specific.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some warnings for a person with this gift to consider.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**The Gift of Pastor**

*Evidence that you may have the gift of pastor*

*Ask yourself...*



- Do you enjoy helping others grow in their relationship with Christ
- Do you possess the gift of exhortation and teaching?
- Do people tend to seek you out for spiritual counsel and support?
- Do you have good interpersonal skills?
- Do you express yourself soberly and know how to listen to others?
- Are you discreet and able to keep a confidence?
- Do you sincerely love God's people?
- Do people easily trust you and open up to share private issues?
- Do you generally maintain a stable and balanced life?
- Are you patient with human struggles and failures in the long process of change?
- Do you have an eye for how God is working in peoples' lives at certain key moments, such as illnesses and bereavement, and also positive moments such as weddings and graduations?

## ***Perhaps you have the gift of pastor!***

***Definition:*** A special anointing to assume responsibility for the spiritual growth of a group of believers.

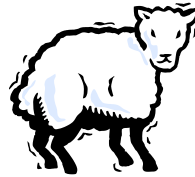
***Purpose:*** To provide care, direction, spiritual nurture, discipline and teaching that promote Christian maturity in a group of believers.

***Note:*** ***This gift is not only for formal pastors over a church, but small group leaders, discipleship teachers, certain types of ministry leaders, and counselors.***



## ***What does a pastor do?***

- *Watch over and feed the flock* (Juan 21:17; Acts 20:28; 1 Pedro 5:2)
- *Guide* (Isa. 40:11; John 21:16)
- *Protect* (Acts 20:28-29)
- *Teach* (1 Timothy 3:2; Ephesians 4:11)
- *Comfort* (Ps. 23:3)
- *Exhort (encourage)* (Titus 1:9)
- *Equip* (Ephesians 4:12-13)
- *Provide a good example* (1 Peter 5:1-3)
- *Give one's self* for the well being of others (John 10:11)



## ***Potential pitfalls associated with the gift of pastor***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- *Not to seek to "please" everyone and be universally liked.*
- *Not to be possessive, but rather "let people go" when God calls them to make changes.*
- *To set appropriate limits. You are not the Christ!*
- *To care for your own mental, emotional and spiritual health.*
- *Not to attempt to solve everyone's problems*
- *Not to be "parental!" Adults are responsible for their own decisions*
- *Not to neglect personal prayer and the study of God's word!*
- *To refer!!* Do not try to "play psychologist" or "social worker." While any pastor will certainly address psychological health and provide practical guidance, he or she should not exchange the spiritual calling of pastor for the role of certain specialized professionals.



## ***Question***

Define the gift of pastor. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of this gift?

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List some characteristics of the person who has this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Excluding the official roles of head pastor and associate pastors, what are some other ways to exercise this gift in your church?

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What does a pastor do?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_



## The Gift of Apostleship

### *Evidence that you may have the gift of apostleship*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Do you possess an exceptional and universally recognized gift of leadership?
- Does the Lord use you to do miraculous signs? (2 Corinthians 12:12)
- Do other pastors and leaders seek out your counsel and guidance?
- Has the Lord broken you in profound ways? (1 Cor. 4:1-21; 2 Cor. 12:1-10).
- Do you easily see the “big picture?”
- Do you have a vision for revival that drives you to seek the extension of the kingdom beyond your local congregation?

*Definition:* A special anointing to provide spiritual leadership over a number of pastors and Christian leaders to promote the extension of God’s kingdom at a regional, national or international level.

*Purpose:* To promote the extension of God’s kingdom at a regional, national, or international scale through strategic and generalized leadership.

**Note:** There is a difference between the first 12 Apostles (Capital “A”) and other apostles (lower case “a”) who still minister today

**Authority to write Scripture:** The original twelve Apostles knew Jesus in the flesh and possessed unique authority to write scripture. Modern day apostles do not have this authority and cannot legitimately contradict or add new writings to the authoritative canon of scripture. Joseph Smith, who lived in New York State in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, wrote down his visions, which became the “Book of Mormon” the basis for the modern day cult of Mormonism. This provides an excellent example of “false apostleship.”

### *Potential Pitfalls associated with the gift of apostleship*

#### *Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...*

- Not to abuse your authority
- Not to become corrupted by money or fame
- Not to promote your own reputation. Let God validate your ministry.
- To stay humble (or the Lord will provide a “thorn in your flesh” to do the job!)
- To cultivate a “confidant” with whom you can share your private struggles
- To use discernment in your connections with other spiritual or political leaders, who may seek to take advantage of your ministry for ulterior motives
- To set appropriate limits. You are not the Christ!
- Not to be a Super-Star! (like the false, “super apostles” in Jesus’ day)
- Not to found a “personality cult!”





**Review Questions:**

Define the gift of apostleship?

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What is the purpose of the gift of apostleship?

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List some characteristics of a person with this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the primary difference between the authority of the 12 Apostles and modern day apostles.

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**The Gift of Missionary**

*<sup>20</sup> It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Romans 15:20*

***Evidence that you may have the gift of missionary***

***Ask yourself...***

- Do you adapt easily to different cultures (and enjoy the learning process?)
- Do new languages come easily to you?
- Would you describe yourself as a flexible person?
- Are you at ease being the only ethnically different person in a large group?
- Do people of other cultures seek out your friendship?
- Are you creative in adapting your presentation of the gospel in culturally different contexts?
- Do you enjoy a good adventure or would you prefer a predictable routine?



**Perhaps you have the gift of missionary!**

**Definition:** A special anointing to minister effectively in other cultures.

**Purpose:** To extend the kingdom of God internationally.

**Varieties of Missionary Service**

- **It is possible to be a “home missionary”** – A missionary can minister to the needy or culturally different in one’s native city or country.
- **It is possible to be a missionary supporter;** using the gift of helps to provide administrative or financial support.
- **It is possible to be a missionary with a “secular” profession (Tent-maker)**
  - Allows them to be self-sustaining, flexible, and not dependent on support
  - Allows the missionary to become more deeply integrated into the new society



**Potential pitfalls for the gift of missionary**

**Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...**

- *To adapt your methods to each cultural context.* Paul did not preach the same way in Athens as he did in Jerusalem. The pagan intellectuals needed the gospel explained differently than devout Jews.
- *Not to confuse discipleship for imperialism.* Careful not to seek to change people to adapt to your own cultural sensibilities, which may not be rooted in scripture.
- *To be humble.* Do not try to “civilize” the “uncultured” pagans to your way of life.
- *To be wise in your ways of serving the needs of the people, not creating unhealthy dependencies.*
- *To respect and cultivate local, indigenous leadership.*
- *Not to use missions as an excuse for tourism.*
- *Not to underestimate the ministry of the local believers.*
- *To teach to fish, rather than simply provide fish when trying to help others!*

**Questions:**

Define the gift of missionary. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of missionary? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some different ways one could serve in missions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some warnings for a person with this gift to consider?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Evangelism

*“...he that winneth souls is wise.”* Prov. 11:30

### *Evidence that you may have the gift of evangelism*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Do you feel an exceptional concern for the salvation of unbelievers?
- Do you find yourself talking about your faith just about every day? (with the hairdresser; with co-workers; with random people in the elevator ...etc.)
- Do you enjoy meeting new people?
- Do you easily earn the trust of others?
- Do you find it easy to direct the conversation naturally towards spiritual topics?
- Have you led others to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior?
- Do you enjoy helping other believers “break the ice” and learn to share their faith?

#### *Perhaps you have the gift of evangelism!*

**Definition:** *A special anointing and wisdom to win souls to Christ and mobilize and train believers in evangelism.*

**Purpose:** *To help unbelievers to know Jesus and to mobilize the church in the work of proclaiming the gospel effectively to unbelievers.*



**Note: *There are many forms of evangelizing!***

- *Service* – Demonstrating the gospel by doing acts of kindness
- *Invitations* – Bringing people to church
- *Testimonies* – Sharing what God is doing in your life
- *Intellectual dialog* – Answering intellectual questions
- *Miraculous signs* – Praying especially for healing
- *Friendship* – Simply being friends with unbelievers
- *Food!*

*Not every evangelist need be super-extroverted! There are many ways to win souls!*

**Example: *Philip the Evangelist*** (Acts 21:8)

**Read Acts 8:4-8 – an evangelist in Action**

Philip fled persecution, and made the most of the situation by preaching the gospel in new places. What does this teach us about the evangelistic heart and journey?

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The Samaritans were hated by the Jews, but Philip was the first to preach the gospel to them. What does this fact illustrate about an evangelist's heart?

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How do we observe the power of the Holy Spirit in Philip's evangelism?

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**Read Acts 8:26-40 –Evangelism and the gift of knowledge**

How do we observe the gift of evangelism and the gift of knowledge combine in this story?

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***Potential pitfalls for the gift of evangelism***  
***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- *Not to criticize believers* who are not as motivated as you are. Your responsibility is to encourage and motivate them, not scold them.
- *To be patient.* Winning souls is a long process at times which requires wisdom, perseverance, and a long-term perspective.
- *To work with others.* Perhaps you will sow and another will reap.
- *To adapt your approach to the personality and culture of the person.* A direct style may not function with every person.

***Questions:***

Define the gift of evangelism. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Which is your favorite way to share your faith?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

True or False. An evangelist must be outgoing and extroverted? Explain.

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