

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Part 3 – How To Be A Good Steward of Your Spiritual Gift

Romans 12:7,8; 1Pet 4:10,11

Introduction:

- Must you know your spiritual gift to be a good steward of it?
 1. I taught God's word for _____ years before realizing that I had the gift of teaching.
 2. All believers will operate their gift before i_____ it
- How can you be a good steward of your gift? – we have characteristics of all six gifts.

How Are You Serving?

- The gift of SERVICE – only **some** have this gift, but **all** believers have the characteristic of service.
 1. Example – Acts 6:1-4
 - a. The apostles overlooked some w_____ in the daily distribution of food.
 - b. Qualified men were chosen to take charge so that the apostles could focus on p_____ & the w_____.
 2. Definition - the spiritual ability to assist the leadership by relieving them from the burden of p_____ tasks.
 3. Are you taking opportunities to do physical tasks within the church?
 - a. Do not use the excuse: “That is not my spiritual gift”
 - b. All believers are to respond to opportunities to do physical tasks.
- The gift of TEACHING – only **some** have this gift, but **all** believers have the characteristic of teaching.
 1. Definition – the spiritual ability to e_____ God's word in an understandable way.
 2. Are you taking opportunities to explain God's word?
 - a. Do not use the excuse; “That is not my spiritual gift”
 - b. If there is opportunity to s_____ what you have learned from God's word, do so!
- The gift of EXHORTATION – only **some** have this gift, but **all** believers have the characteristic of exhortation.
 1. The Greek word is very broad in meaning – literally means, *called alongside*.
 - a. Jn 14:26 uses the noun form of this word as a title for the Holy Spirit (variously translated as H_____, Comforter, Advocate, Counselor)
 - b. The word pictures one coming to another's aid and h_____ them in some way.
 2. Definition – the spiritual ability to encourage others to godly action with God's word.
 3. Examples
 - a. One who focuses on biblical c_____
 - b. One who focuses on e_____
 4. Are you taking opportunities to encourage others to take godly action, encouraging them with God's word?
 - a. Do not use the excuse: “That is not my spiritual gift”
 - b. If the opportunity arises, take it:
 - 1) To give biblical c_____ to a believer
 - 2) To give the g_____ to an unbeliever
- The gift of GIVING – only **some** have this gift, but **all** believers have the characteristic of giving
 1. Definition – the spiritual ability to sacrifice personal possessions for God's work.
 2. This gift is not given only to the w_____ (story of R.G. LaTourneau)
 3. Are you taking the opportunities to give to God's work?
 - a. Do not use the excuse: “That is not my spiritual gift”
 - b. A local church's m_____ plan is an opportunity to give.
- The gift of LEADING – only **some** have this gift, but **all**

believers have the characteristic of leading.

1. Four kinds of leaders are listed in Eph 4:11 – (1) apostles, (2) prophets, (3) evangelists, and (4) p_____ - teachers
 - a. The c_____ has been built on the f_____ of the apostles & prophets (Eph 2:20)
 - b. This leaves evangelists and pastor-teachers as the leaders of today's churches to e_____ believers for ministry (Eph 4:12)
 2. Definition – the spiritual ability to equip a g_____ of believers for godly purposes.
 3. Examples
 - a. Focusing on directing a youth group in godliness.
 - b. Focusing on equipping believers to w_____
 4. Are you taking opportunities to lead?
 - a. Do not use the excuse: “That is not my spiritual gift”
 - b. You may be the person to m_____ another person
- The gift of MERCY – only **some** have this gift, but **all** believers have the characteristic of mercy.
1. Definition – the spiritual ability to i_____ with the emotions of those who are hurting.
 - a. This differs from exhortation in that there is no counseling done to move them out of their situation.
 - b. A person who has just lost a loved one needs emotional support, not counseling.
 2. Are you taking opportunities to show mercy?
 - a. Do not use the excuse: “That is not my spiritual gift”
 - b. Would you leave in emotional devastation
 - 1) Your spouse?
 - 2) Your best friend?
 - c. Then don't leave your fellow-believer in emotional devastation

Conclusion – How can you be a good steward of the gift God has given you even when you do not know what gift you might have?

1. Take opportunities to prayerfully serve each other:
 - a. In w_____ or speaking God's word (1Pet 4:11) – teaching, exhortation, leading
 - b. In d_____ or doing God's work (1Pet 4:11) – serving, giving, showing mercy
2. Assignment:
 - a. Go through the list of the six gifts and write one action you have done in the past year in relation to the church (e.g. teaching – I helped another person understand a bible passage)
 - b. If you leave anything blank, see if you are making excuses and vow to take opportunities
 - c. Circle the area(s) that you seem to do often.
 - d. Go through the church ministry list and determine where you could serve and hand it in to the pastor.
3. Will you be a good steward of the gift that God has given you?