

## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (ORGANIZED BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

### Part XI: Pneumatology (Doctrine Of The Holy Spirit)

#### D. The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

#### 2. The Permanent Spiritual Gifts

##### I. Introduction

- A. As we learned some spiritual gifts were temporary, other spiritual gifts are permanent for the church.
- B. If this is so, the believer may not know the **identity** of his **own** gift, and may then wonder what he should be doing to serve Christ effectively.
- C. A study in the permanent spiritual gifts provides answers to these concerns (as follows):

##### II. The Permanent Spiritual Gifts (I am indebted to Ryrie's, The Holy Spirit among other works)

- A. Every believer has at least one supernatural gift from God, 1 Peter 4:10.
- B. These gifts are enablings for supernatural spiritual service which exist in two major classifications:
  - 1. One may have a "starter" gift enabling others to mature for effective service, Eph. 4:11-16.
  - 2. One may have a "sustainment" gift that responds to the starter gifts to edify others, Eph. 4:13-16.
- C. These gifts are to be developed by the believers who possess them, 2 Timothy 1:6-7.
- D. We can list the "starter" gifts from Scripture as follows:
  - 1. [Apostle (Eph. 4:11) - though the **office** of apostleship is long since passed off the historical scene, some believe the **gift** of being able to plant missions, churches, etc. is an apostle ("sent one") **gift** for today, cf. Bible Knowledge Commentary, N. T., p. 634-635.]
  - 2. Evangelist (Eph. 4:11) - This gift equips one to witness very effectively to the unsaved.
  - 3. Pastor-teacher (Eph. 4:11) - A pastor-teacher (one article for both nouns in Eph. 4:11) is able both to shepherd others (guide, protect, provide) as well as to teach them God's Word.
  - 4. Pastor (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4) - Usually applied to the role of elder, one thus gifted tends to guide, counsel and protect others whom he oversees in a very practical way.
  - 5. Teacher (Romans 12:7) - A spiritually gifted teacher can explain the harmony and detail of God's revelation to other believers.
- E. We can list the "sustainment" gifts existing today as follows:
  - 1. Ministering (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:12) - This gift is the ability to serve the needs of other believers and equip them to be more efficient in their own service for God.
  - 2. Exhortation (Rom. 12:8) - This gift is used to motivate others to apply God's truth to action!
  - 3. Discerning Spirits (1 Cor. 12:10) - This gift is the unusual ability to tell if one is speaking by the Holy Spirit's leading or by an evil demonic enabling.
  - 4. Showing Mercy (Romans 12:8) - This gift focuses on helping those who struggle with spiritual defeat.
  - 5. Giving (Romans 12:8) - Though all believers are told to give to the Lord's work (1 Cor. 16:1-2), some are given unusual desires and capacities to give relatively greater amounts on a more consistent basis.
  - 6. Administration (Romans 12:8 "ruleth" KJV; 1 Cor. 12:28 NIV) - This is the gift to rule others and have others willing to follow such oversight in an organizational setting.
- F. The believer can discover an **area** of **expertise** God has for him in **USING** his **gift** (as follows):
  - 1. The expertise of **faith** (1 Cor. 12:4-6; 12:9a) - The believer with this expertise excels in trusting God for unusually challenging achievement regarding his particular gift, whatever that gift may be.
  - 2. The expertise of **knowledge** (1 Cor. 12:4-6; 12:9a) - The believer is given an unusual ability to glean deep facts from Scripture in his teaching, preaching, guiding, etc. type of ministry of the Word.
  - 3. The expertise of **wisdom** (1 Cor. 12:4-6; 12:9a) - The believer may have an unusual capacity to **apply** Scripture to life's circumstances, something of great value in using his unique gift of Christian service.
- G. To discern one's particular **gift** and **area** of **expertise** in **using** that gift, here is Biblical guidance:
  - 1. As God nowhere commands one know his gift, but suggests the gifts are already recognized (cf. 1 Cor. 12:29-30 with rhetorical questions expecting a negative answer), a believer can gain **feedback** from **godly fellow believers** in discerning his spiritual gift, cf. also 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6.
  - 2. One's **own** evaluation as to how God has **led** him to date in his life and service, and how God has used him to bless others provides such a spiritual gift identification, cf. Romans 15:17-19; 1 Cor. 9:1-2.
  - 3. Finally, even if a believer is not sure about the specifics of his gift, **if** he follows God's leading in his life, **God** will **cause** him to **use** his gift the **way** he should! (Mk. 1:17; Gal. 2:1-2, 9; Phil. 2:12-13)