

Seven Gifts of the Father

Romans 12:6-8

There are three separate lists of gifts in the New Testament [and there is the composite list in 1Cor.12:28].

1. The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit 1Corinthians 12:8-10. These gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to believers (v.4) and the manifestation of the Spirit through these gifts is for the profit of all.
2. The five ministry [ascension] gifts Ephesians 4:11 are given by Jesus Christ to the church to bring the church to maturity.
3. The seven creational [motivational] gifts of Rom.12:6-8 are given by the Father at creation to all His human creatures. While Paul speaks of these gifts as differing according to grace, this manifestation of the grace of God is *"poured out on the just and the unjust alike"*. In other words, these gifts are received at birth and in every human community, people function in these various gifts, ministering to one another in their lives. Once a person is saved and functioning in the body

of Christ, the creational gifts play a key role in causing the body to function properly.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 illustrates the three gift areas as follows:

1. v.4 *"there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit"*; this can refer to the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1Cor.12:8-10, which are distributed by the Holy Spirit to each member of the body v.11.
2. v.5 *"there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord"*; this can refer to the five ascension gift ministries given to the church by Jesus in Eph.4:11.
3. v.6 *"and there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all"*; this can refer to the gifts listed in Rom.12:6-8 and they are given by God the Father.

Gifts given by the Father – creational gifts

Rom.12:4 *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function."*

Each member has a different function or as 1Cor.12:6 says, *there are diversities of activities [operations]*". These gifts are natural gifts, given at birth/creation. Even unsaved people function in one or more of these gifts.

- these gifts are different in function and expression to the gifts of the Spirit in 1Cor.12 and
- both lists are different in function and expression to the ministry gifts of Eph.4:11.

For example, *prophecy* is listed in Rom.12 and 1Cor.12 and the *ministry of the prophet* is listed in Eph.4. Each of these expressions of prophetic gifting are very different, although it is possible for the same member of the body of Christ to have received all three gifts.

The gift of *teaching* is in Rom.12 and the *ministry of the teacher* is in Eph.4. These teaching gifts are very different in function and expression.

A Study of the seven gifts of the Father

1) PROPHECY

What does it mean to prophesy using this gift?

This creational gift is a 'natural' gift of insight; someone who has very good judgment [discernment] of a particular situation, person or problem. In other words, this is someone who is able to speak wisdom and give good advice, not by the gift of the Spirit, nor out of the ministry of a prophet, but through this natural gift. Some people are naturally prophetic; they have insight because God gave them this gift.

➔ Rom.12:6 *"Prophecy in proportion to your faith"*; if you believe you have

been given this special insight, then share it with the relevant people.

2) MINISTRY or SERVICE

Some people find it easy to serve, to minister to the needs of others. People with this gift see something that needs to be done and they do it. This gift is personified in the ministry of the deacon in the Scripture and may be similar to the gift of “helps” listed in 1 Cor.12:28. Many of us need to be asked to serve but there are some who naturally serve.

→ Rom.12:7 *“Let us use it in our ministry [KJV let us wait on our ministry]”*; there is a gift that enables us to serve [minister to] others.

3) TEACHING

Someone who naturally likes to explain things to others, a desire to impart knowledge. Many people who choose teaching as a career, whether it be school-teaching or other areas of teaching in the work force, have this motivational gift in their lives from God, and they will make good teachers.

→ Rom.12:7 *“he who teaches, in teaching”*, again, if you have a gift [a motivational desire] of teaching, recognize it and use it to teach. It may mean teaching children or new Christians’ class in the church.

4) EXHORTATION

To exhort is to encourage, building up another person. The word means: *“to come*

along side, to comfort, to give consolation or encouragement’. We all need to be encouraged. Do you know someone who exercises this gift and is always encouraging others? We can all practice this gift by grace.

Barnabas’s name means *‘son of encouragement’* (Acts4:36) and we see Barnabas exercising this gift in encouraging Saul [Paul] into the ministry (Acts 9:27; 11:25).

→ Rom.12:8 *“he who exhorts, in exhortation”*; use the gift God gives to build others up – we all need plenty of encouragement.

5) GIVING

This is the same word as used in Rom.1:11 *“I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift”*. It has the sense of *giving, sharing, imparting something* to others. Some people are naturally generous; some people always want to give a gift. Some members of the body can be relied upon to always be giving to others. It is not only in financial giving, as people without finance who have this gift will always find something to give.

→ Rom.12:8 *“he who gives, with liberality [KJV simplicity]”*; Jesus has promised us *“Give, and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”* Luke 6:38

6) LEADERSHIP

Some people are natural leaders. A leader sees what needs to be done and knows how to appoint people to various tasks, giving good oversight. In any group or work situation there needs to be a leader. Thank God for this gift as every group of people need those who will give leadership and make decisions.

→ Rom.12:8 *“he who leads [KJV rules] with diligence”*; a leader is to be hardworking in his or her role.

7) MERCY

The gift of mercy is to show pity to the person in need; to be compassionate; to come alongside a person to help them in their time of need, especially when they are judged as not deserving it. It means to be merciful to others.

→ Rom.12:8 *“He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness”*; not out of a sense of duty but with kindness and cheerfulness.

CONCLUSION

Every person has at least one of these gifts that motivate behaviour, often influencing the area of work or career that they embark upon. For example, people with a gift of mercy will often work in a caring profession such as nursing. Every family and every community of people and every fellowship of God’s people need all of these gifts released and functioning. In the body of Christ, we are to help the saints identify areas of gifting according to Rom.12:6-8 and encourage them in the exercise of these gifts. This will be

fruitful in the growth and effectiveness of the body. However, once we are born-again, we can draw on the grace to function in any one of these seven gifts, even if it is not our natural gifting.

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