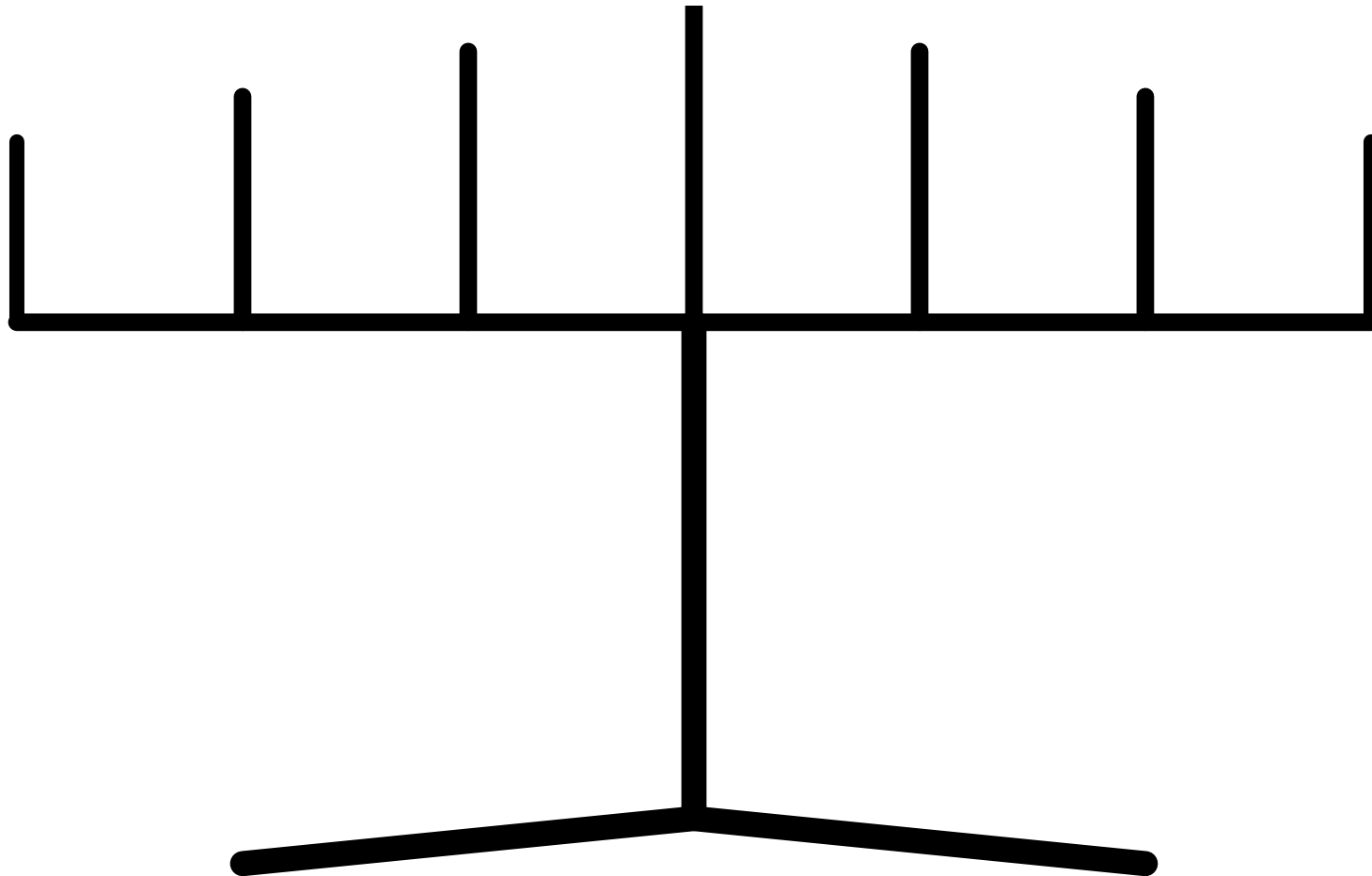


This continues our discussion from last week of four motivational gifts. This week we considered the last 3 and some understandings about the use and misuse of the gifts and what it looks like when people are using or misusing their gifts within the body of Christ. - Pastor Russ

The Balanced Spiritual Gifting Menorah

Exhorter Prophet Service Giving Administration Mercy Teacher



As a Menorah is balanced from one side to the other by equal candle holders, so spiritual gifts are balanced in the Kingdom by another gift that corrects the weaknesses of a mistused gift and strengthens a properly used motivational gift. The only gift that seems to not require balancing is the gift of giving.

What Are the Characteristics of the Gift of Teaching

Gift of Teaching

Characteristics

Misuses

One Biblical Example

Luke

Guidelines for the gift of teaching - Rom.12:11

Dilligent research

Fervent spirit

Serving God

Basic Principle does the teacher need most to exercise?

Meditation

(essential pre-condition to be able to become mighty in spirit)

Teachers need to verify information
(Luke 1:4)

Check out teachers
(Luke 1:3)

Rely on established sources
(Acts 17:11)

Present truth systematically
(Luke 1:3)

Gather many facts
(Acts 1:1)

Require thoroughness

Uneasy with subjective truth
Scripture to experience & not vice versa

Loyalty to established teachers
(II Tim 4:11)

Clarify misunderstandings
(Acts 2:23)

Becoming proud of knowledge
(I Cor 8:1)

Despising lack of credentials

Depending on human reasoning

Criticizing practical applications

Showing off research skills

Rejecting scriptural presuppositions

Putting intellect above the Holy Spirit

Taking teachings to extremes

Arguing over minor points

Gift of Exhortation

Characteristics

Misuses

One Biblical Example

Paul

Guidelines for the gift of exhortation - Rom. 12:12

Rejoice in hope

Patienttribulation

Constant readiness for prayer

Basic Principle does the exhorter need most to exercise?

God's Design

(Allows the exhorter to understand and explain God's sovereignty)

Committed to spiritual growth
(Gal 4:19; Col 1:28)

Able to see root problems
(I Cor 3:1)

See steps of action
(II Tim 2:22-23)

Raise hope for solutions

Turn problems into benefits
(II Cor 1:1-7)

Desire to be "transparent"
(I Tim 1:19, I Cor 9:22)

Gain insight through experience

Urgency to act on clear steps
(Acts 18:4; 26:28)

Desire to share face to face
(I Thes 2:17; 3:10; II Tim 1:4, I Thes 2:11-12)

Keeping others waiting for them

Looking to themselves for solutions

Being proud of visible results

Starting projects prematurely

Treating people as projects

Sharing private illustrations

Presenting truth out of balance

Setting unrealistic goals

Giving up on uncooperative people

Gift of Mercy

Characteristics

Misuses

One Biblical Example

John

Guidelines for the gift of mercy - Rom. 12:15

Weep with

Rejoice with

Basic Principle does the gifting of mercy need most to exercise?

Moral Freedom

(essential pre-condition to protect from improper relationships with those needing mercy)

Deeply loyal to friends
(Luke 9:54)

Need for deep friendships
(Jn 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20)

Empatize with hurting people
(I Jn 1:2-4; 3:2-3; 4:18; 5:13-14)

Decisions based on benefits
(Acts 4:13)

Deeply sensitive to loved ones

Attact people in distress

Desire to remove hurts
(I Jn 3:11,15)

Measure acceptance by closeness
(Mark 10:35-37)

Attracted to prophets
(Luke 22:89; Acts 3:1-11; 4:13-19; 8:14)

Taking up offenses

Becoming possessive

Tolerating evil

Failing to be firm

Leaning on emotions vs. reason

Defrauding opposite sex

Reacting to God's purposes

Failing to show deference

Cutting off insensitive people

Print out and mark the questions below that you find true in your own experience. Add up the total in each group and write it to the right of the group. The one or two with the highest number will indicate where you need to explore further which is your basic spiritual motivation under the Holy Spirit

WHICH ONE OF THESE SEVEN PERSONS BEST DESCRIBES YOU?

PERSON NUMBER 1

- You want to make sure that statements are true and accurate.
- You desire to gain as much knowledge as you can.
- You react to people who make unfounded statements.
- You check the credentials of one who wants to teach you.
- You use your mind to check out an argument.
- You enjoy spending hours doing research on a subject.
- You like to tell others as many facts as you can on a topic.
- You pay close attention to words and phrases.
- You tend to be silent on a matter until you check it out.
- You like to study material in a systematic sequence.

PERSON NUMBER 2

- You can visualize the final result of a major undertaking.
- You enjoy coordinating the efforts of many to reach a common goal.
- You can break down a large task into achievable goals.
- You are able to delegate assignments to others.
- You see people as resources that can be used to get a job done.
- You are willing to endure reaction in order to accomplish a task.
- You require loyalty in those who are under your supervision.
- You remove yourself from petty details to focus on the final goal.
- You can encourage your workers and inspire them to action.
- You move on to a new challenge once a job is finished.

PERSON NUMBER 3

- You see actions as either right or wrong
- You react strongly to people who are not what they appear to be
- You can quickly detect a person's character
- You feel a responsibility to correct those who do wrong
- You separate yourself from those who refuse to repent of evil
- You explain what is wrong with an item before you sell it
- You let people know how you feel about important issues
- You enjoy people who are completely honest with you
- You are quick to judge yourself when you fail
- You are willing to do right even if it means suffering alone for it.

PERSON NUMBER 4

- You can sense when people have hurt feelings
- You react to those who are insensitive to other's feelings
- You are able to discern genuine love
- You desire deep friendships in where there is mutual commitment
- You seem to attract people who tell you their problems.
- You find it difficult to be firm or decisive with people.
- You tend to take up offenses for those whom you love.
- You need quality time to explain how you feel. .
- You want to remove those who cause hurts to others.
- You often wonder why God allows people to suffer.

PERSON NUMBER 5

- You motivate people to become what you see they could be.
- You like to give counsel in logical steps of action.
- You can usually discern a person's level of spiritual maturity.
- You enjoy working out projects to help people grow spiritually.
- You sometimes raise expectations of results prematurely.
- You dislike teaching which does not give practical direction.
- You like to see the facial responses of those whom you counsel.
- You often take "family time" to counsel others.
- You enjoy giving examples from the lives of others.
- You soon give up on those who do not follow your counsel.
- You find it hard to follow through on the project you have started.
- You identify with people where they are in order to counsel them.

PERSON NUMBER 6

- You notice the practical needs of others and enjoy meeting them. 0 You enjoy serving to free others for more important things.
- You are willing to neglect your own work to help others.
- You sometimes go beyond your physical strength in serving others.
- You. can remember the likes and dislikes of others.
- You can usually detect ways to serve before anyone .else can.
- You will even use your own funds to get a job done quickly.
- You do not mind doing jobs by yourself. .
- You do not want public praise, but you do need t feel appreciated.
- You find it difficult to say "no" to those who ask for help.
- You like to put "extra touches" on the jobs you do:

PERSON NUMBER **7**

- You are very frugal with money for yourself and your family. .
- You enjoy investing money in the ministries of other people.
- You have an ability to make money by wise investments.
- You desire to keep your giving a secret.
- You react negatively to pressure appeals for money.
- You like to encourage others to give with your gifts.
- You want the ministries you support to be as effective as possible. [J You enjoy giving to needs which others tend to overlook
- You sometimes fear that your gifts will corrupt those who get them. . 0 You desire to give gifts of high quality.
- You enjoy knowing that your gifts were specific answers to prayer.

Some considerations to help you understand the uniqueness of your motivational gifting in the Lord and the benefits in the Body of Christ for ministry to others.

Body Analogy using Perceptors to understand the workings of Spiritual Gifts

- 1 - Heat perceptors
Send warning to brain when heat reaches a certain level of tolerance
When God's anger burns against His people a Prophet sends messages
2. Touch perceptors
The slightest touch causes these sensors to respond
When a person "taps" another he usually is seeking to have a need met.
The Server responds in such situations
3. Balance perceptors
If the body leans too far out of balance these sensors call for muscle response to correct the situation
When doctrine is out of balance the Teacher is instantly alerted and calls for supportive documentation and correction.
4. Stretch perceptors
Register the stretching taking place when the skin is in growth or use.
The Exhorter is alert to the spiritual growth and progress that a person is making.
5. Cold perceptors
When something is drawing warmth from the body to itself the cold perceptors work.
A Giver would respond to those who are cold and hungry
6. Pressure perceptors
Deep pressure in the body triggers these perceptors which cause us to move from pain and the source of pressure
Organizers realize when too much pressure is building up on a few people and will delegate the load to others to avoid serious consequences.
7. Pain perceptors
When damage is occurring, these signal the body. While other sensors can be ignored, these can't.
Mercy feels the pain of others and will work tirelessly to remove the cause of pain.

Reactions are Revealing

Someone spills a glass of milk

- Prophet - That's what happens when you're not careful - to correct the problem
- Server - Ok, let me help you clean it up - to fulfill a need
- Teacher - The reason that it fell is that you set it too close to the edge and where you could easily knock it off with your arm when reaching for something. -
To discover why it happened
- Exhorter- Next time, let's use mugs - motivation to correct the future
- Giver - I'll be happy to replace the glass and the milk - To give to a real need
- Mercy - Don't feel badly - It could happen to anyone - Relieve embarrassment
- Organizer - Jimmy - get the mop, Sue, help pick up the glass, Mary, get the trash can, and I'll go get another glass

Someone is in the hospital

Prophet - What is God trying to tell you through this illness? Is there some hidden problem or needed area of change?

Server - Here's a little gift! Now I brought your mail, fed your dog, watered the plants and washed the dishes. Is there anything else I can do?

Teacher - I did some research on your illness and I believe I can explain what's happening

Exhorter - How can we use what you are learning to help others in the future?

Giver - Do you have insurance to cover this kind of illness?

Mercy - I can't begin to tell you how I felt when I learned you were so sick. How do you feel now?

Organizer - Don't worry about a thing. I've got some people at church to cover your class, and do the greeting before church next week. John will also make certain the church building is closed up properly this week.

Use of the Gifts in the Church

Prophet - messages exposing sin, proclaiming righteousness and warning of judgment to come.

Server - practical assistance to every member of the church to encourage them and help them fulfill responsibilities

Teacher - in depth Bible studies with special emphasis on the precise meaning of words.

Exhorter - Personal counselling and encouragement for every member to assist them in applying Scripture to daily living

Giver - Generous programs of financial assistance to missionaries and other ministries.

Mercy - Special outreach and concern for the precise and varying feelings of individuals with a readiness to meet their needs.

Organizer - Smooth running organization through the church so that every ministry is carried out decently in and order.

How to use Irritations to Identify your Motivational Gift

1 What Disappoints me most in other Christians?

2. Recognize that how you see others is revealing about your gifting

They compromise with the world - **Prophet**

They fail to demonstrate true Christian concern - **Server**

They use more experience than sound doctrine in teaching - **Teacher**

They are not growing to spiritual maturity - **Exhorter**

They are not trusting and obeying God for their finances - **Giver**

They are not accomplishing any major goals - **Organizer**

They do not have genuine love for each other - **Mercy**

3. Determine what you can do to resolve the problems you see

Explain your understandings to God

Dedicate self to be part of the solution

Ask God for wisdom in studying, and memorizing scripture on a daily basis

Take advantage of every little opportunity that He gives to you

Constantly evaluate your results in light of the Word and Godly fruit

Remember this. If you are in Christ, you have a motivational gift. That motivational gift can either be used or abused. The use benefits the body of Christ and you. The abuse works against you and against Christ's purposes in you. What you use will grow, to be a bigger and bigger blessingwhat you don't use will grow to be a bigger and bigger problem. Seek to use your gifting to the fullest....it's God's gift to and in you. - Pastor Russ