

Key Text: 1 Peter 4:9-11

“Each of you as a good manager must use the gift that God has given you to serve others.”

WHAT ARE MINISTRY GIFTS?

Gifts are defined as “actions” or “things” which are “Voluntarily” transferred from one person to another without direct-compensation and which are understood as a present or an offering? The word “ministry” further qualifies these particular gifts as real HELPS & SERVICES to the Body of Christ. So it is that **Ministry Gifts are the tangible services or things given to other Christians which are needed for growth in Christ-likeness and complete faith.** (see *Ephesians 4:7-16. Emphasis on Vs 11 & 16*).

When you have a physical need and a fellow Christian helps to meet that need...you just experienced a ministry gift. When you are being taught something from the Bible that you have never known or understood...you have just experienced a ministry gift! Ministry gifts range from very small actions or services that we can call, “good deeds” or they can be very public actions like preaching or teaching.



GOD GAVE MANY GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

The first gift a Christian might think of receiving from God is Jesus. We are told that God so loved the world that He gave Jesus as a sacrifice for sin. (*John 3:16*) Salvation is just one of the many good gifts that God has given to us. The Bible also states that every good gift enjoyed by us comes from God. (*James 1:17*) **Ministry Gifts are just another way for God’s love to be expressed through a person and in the name of Jesus.** (*Matthew 25:35,36*) The gift of grace continues to pass through people to every member of the Body of Christ.

There are two categories of ministry gifts in the Bible. The first is called **Ascension-Gift Ministries** because Christ gave these five ministries to the church after He had ascended. The second category is referred to as **Body-Gift Ministries** because they involve each believer in giving and serving other believers. The five Ascension-Gift ministries are **Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher, and Evangelist**. These five gifts have a clear purpose. They are for the growth of individual believers, the training of believers for ministry and the building up the Body of Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:27-31** lists some Body-Gift Ministries, but this list is not exhaustive and many more are mentioned throughout the Bible.

Body ministries include **Helps, Leadership, Giving, Hospitality, Counseling, Healthcare, Visitations** and much more. The amount of body ministries is not limited to five ministries and they are as numerous and diverse as the body of Christ itself. Everyone has

been given a measure of grace from Christ that is supposed to be given to other believers. Without these gifts, the Body of Christ would never grow or become mature. This also means that each person plays a vital role in the Body of Christ. The health of the entire body depends on YOU knowing and GIVING your ministry gifts to others. **THERE ARE NO INACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST...USE WHAT YOU’VE GOT!** (*1 Pet. 4:9-11; Matt. 25:15; Romans 12:4-8*)



BECOME A BONDSERVANT OR LOVE-SLAVE

“Does motivation even matter...who cares?”
Is this attitude right? Many apostles and believers referred to themselves as “BONDSERVANTS”. This is the word “Doulos” or SLAVE. It tells us why they chose to give their ministry gifts. Spiritually speaking, it shows that the apostles recognized a debt of love to Christ for the sacrifice He made for their sin. They felt that His blood purchased their life so that it could only be used for God-honoring purposes; an idea compared to a bondservant. (1 Corinthians 6:20) A “Doulos” gives a ministry gift to God out of a “LOVE-DEBT”. It is and should always be a believer’s love that compels the ministry gift; not recognition, money, competition or manipulation. (2 Corinthians 5:14; Phil. 2:7; Col. 1:7; 3:23-24; 2Tim. 2:24; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; Jude 1)

GIFTS = GROWTH / NO GIFTS = NO GROWTH

“He makes the whole body fit together and unites it through the support of every joint.

As each and every part does its job, He makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” ~ Ephesians 4:16

What happens if you choose **NOT** to serve? What if you do not use your time & your abilities to serve other believers inside the Church? The Church will go without a need being met that was intended to be met by you. Or a particular service will never get started because nobody is there to start it. Maybe you’re too busy, or you don’t know how to get started. Maybe you’re already doing so much good somewhere else in your life and there’s nothing left over for the people in your Church...WHAT’s the problem with that? (Prov. 3:27; James 2:16; Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 13:16) Whatever your particular set of gifts are...The Bible is clear about your responsibility to USE your gifts in serving the Body of Christ. (Galatians 5:13...serve one another!)

THE CHURCH IS DYING FOR YOUR MINISTRY GIFT

5 ASCENSION-GIFT MINISTRIES

These five gifts are designed to work “until” the Church is unified and mature at which time Christ will return. These ministry gifts do not replace the priestly duties of all believers. Nor do they have more importance than others which leads only to a hierarchy of better and lesser ministries. Every person needs the other ministries in order to be healthy and grow. (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 2:5,9,10; 1 Corinthians 12:18-26)

Apostle = A person who is sent with authority like an ambassador. This person represents God and is commissioned to carry out His will.

- Apostles establish new assemblies, lay foundational truths, they are humble and sacrificial, and their ministry is accomplished by signs, wonders, and miracles. (Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 9:1-2; II Corinthians 12:11,12)

Prophet = A person, who affirms the Bible and the Spirit of God, who foretells future events and breaks out under a sudden impulse into an inspired exhortation.

- Prophets affirm foundational truths, they exhort, and counsel believers. “Counsel” does not mean that Prophets replace the individual believers’ role of being guided by & controlled by the Spirit for themselves. Instead, Prophets affirm, clarify, and build up the confidence to obey. (Ephesians 2:20; Ephesians 3:3-5; Acts 27:21-26; Acts 15:32; Romans 8:14)

Evangelist = A person who tells unbelievers the “Gospel” with signs to affirm the message.

- An Evangelist boldly goes to the lost and sick with an emotional & Biblically-sound appeal. His work is accompanied with “winning the lost to Christ”, miracles & deliverance. (Acts 8:5-8; Acts 7:55-56; II Timothy 2:15, 3:14-17)

Pastor = A person responsible for the oversight of a local Church. This includes consistent care, training, protection and guidance for those Christians.

- A Pastor is like a shepherd, he guards against false doctrines, brings a balance of truth & grace to everyday living, and is willing to lay his life down for God’s sheep. (John 10:11-16; Ezekiel 34:11-16; II Corinthians 11:12-15, II Peter 1:20-2:3)

Teacher = A person able to instruct others toward the understanding & application of Biblical truth.

- A teacher brings stability in faith & conduct that is based upon the Bible more than man’s opinion. He is able to use stories, principles, reason & logic to bridge misunderstanding and ignorance. (I Corinthians 2:13; Matthew 4:23; Matthew 22:16 ; I Corinthians 3:10)

These ministry gifts are callings from God and can be desired. But they are not “taken” solely because we want them. There must be an affirmation through “Laying on of Hands” and the proof of God’s anointing for these particular Ministry Gifts.

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO GIVE!

PROVERBS 18:16 STATES, "A MAN'S GIFT MAKES ROOM FOR HIM AND BRINGS HIM BEFORE GREAT MEN." The word "Gift" in this verse is a verb that can be seen as a literal or figurative "ACTION OF THE HAND." Finding out the ministry gifts you have is really easy!

- Start by looking at what you can do with YOUR HANDS? Keep it simple. **Eccl. 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..."**
- Next, eagerly anticipate an opportunity to do the good thing you can do with your hands! **Gal. 5:13, 6:10 "... Therefore, as we have opportunity"** & Titus 2:14
- Finally, DO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. Start doing that in the name of God for believers! **"Whatever you do, do your work wholeheartedly, as for the Lord...Colossians 3:23"**

The performance of good works is to be the Christian's life's work; it was for this that God saved us (Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:10; 2 Cor. 9:8; Tit. 2:14; Mt. 5:14–16). The Christian is also called to be prepared for every good work that his circumstances allow. (2 Tim. 2:21; Tit. 3:1). This means that it is a damning indictment of a man's Christian profession when he is unprepared or 'unfit for any good deed' (Tit. 1:16; cf. Jas. 2:14–26).

DO NOT BE THE "GOOD FOR NOTHING BELIEVER" ...

...instead use your salvation to serve others! Use the list of Body-Gift ministries to help you think of what is in your hand so that you can be useful in the BODY of Christ.

BODY-GIFT MINISTRIES

The variety of Body-Gift ministries is almost unending! Why? No two people are the same and God has designed it this way in order to provide what each part of the body needs. Use these Body-gift ministries as ideas for "Actions" and "Things" that you can have ready to transfer to another member of the Body for their edification/encouragement/help.

Helps – This person comes alongside others to help them succeed, one who gives aid, assists, and supports the weak, or does other services of diverse kinds. (*1 Cor 12:28; Matthew 27:55,56; Acts 20:34,35; 1 Tim. 6:2; Romans 16:1,2*)

-The ministry of Helps is an all-encompassing gift because it is seen everywhere and yet it can be easily overlooked. Every Apostle had help, Jesus had help, and church has help or nothing would ever succeed in the Kingdom of God.

Administrator – The one who takes the lead in managing and bringing order to a house, a ministry, or a Church. This person is appointed with authority, to preside, govern, and superintend. (*1 Cor 12:28; 1 Thess 5:12; 1 Tim 3:4*)

Giving – This person uses earthly possessions and money for the benefit of the body of Christ. They share, give away, and distribute financial help as needed. (*Luke 3:11; Acts 2:44; Eph 4:28*)

Hospitality – This person gives the gift of entertaining guests & taking care of strangers. (*Heb 13:1-2; Matt 10:41; Matthew 25:35-36*)

Musicians & Singers – These people serve in preparation for hearing the word of God and in drawing attention to God. (*1 Chronicles 15:16; 2 Kings 3:15; Mark 14:26; 1 Corinthians 14:26*)

Counseling & Advice – A wise man, with discernment who is able to provide Godly counsel & perspectives. Someone capable to act as a mediator or judge. (*1 Chronicles 27:32, 33; 1 Corinthians 6:5*)

Ministry to Elderly Widows – Acts 6:1-6

Training younger women – Titus 2:4

Visiting Prisoners - Matthew 25:35-36

Taking care of the Sick - Matthew 25:35-36

Clothing the needy - Matthew 25:35-36

Your Ministry Gifts

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

First, list three different **actions, services** or **things** that you could give to another person within the body of Christ.

These must be things YOU can do and they must be able to be given in the name of the Lord. *(This means you can't give someone your old cigarettes because that would not be glorifying to God, or good for them.)*

Next, make a list of the top three reasons that you have not given these ministry gifts in the past, or that you can imagine would stop you from giving them in the future.

Last, share what it is that you will do this week so that you're prepared to give when the opportunity arises. Or list how you will be giving one of your Ministry Gifts to a member of your church. *(if your gifts are going to someone outside your church it doesn't count for this exercise, they must go to YOUR ACTUAL CHURCH, remember the priority is your actual church. Good deeds can still be done everywhere but make it of FIRST importance to minister in your church body.)*

YOUR GIFTS:

YOUR BLOCKERS:

YOUR NEXT STEP: