

41 Fruit For The Social Area of Life

Gifts of The Spirit: Part Two

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OCCUPATIONAL GIFTS

When we use the term “occupational gifts”, we are referring to the gifts that the Holy Spirit uses to manifest Himself. Occupation is a job or profession the action, state, or period of occupying or being occupied by the Holy Spirit. The fact that the Holy Spirit comes into our bodies when we become born-again puts us in a position of being living vessels for God. God designs this vessel for a specific purpose and “calling” in mind. Your occupation is your calling.

Let us look at the list of occupations of the Holy Spirit.

PROPHECY

Definition: Prophecy is a reception and declaration of a Word from the Lord through the direct prompting of the Holy Spirit and the human instrument He uses.

PURPOSE: True prophecy builds up and edifies. It builds up because God is always building up the Body of Christ. This person may bring encouragement to the church using strong words. (1 Corinthians 14:3) This person is used by God to bring rebukes to Body members, as well as the church as a whole (1 Corinthians 1:9-10). This person blessed with this gift oftentimes functions under direct revelations of God (1 Corinthians 14:29-31). Prophets shed new light on the fullness of our salvation. This person will have the tendency to “preach to the nations.”

Prophets build up because they are an overt picture of what a believer is all about (1 Corinthians 14:22-25). Prophets oftentimes reveal whether God is present in an assembly, thereby confirming the believer in his faith and even causing the unbeliever to confess God’s Presence (v24).

Prophets also build up because they lay bare the secrets of the heart (1 Corinthians 14:22-25). This is why they intimidate many Body members. Prophets are usually loved or “hated” due to this. Prophets normally prevent people from hiding behind masks or pretending to be righteous when they are not. Where prophets are, honesty and integrity are indispensable (Ananias and Sapphira- Acts 5).

Bottom line: Prophets are used by God to show the people there is a God!

Fleshly Liabilities:

People with the gift of prophecy, if walking after the flesh, can become dictatorial, domineering, demanding, get upset when things don't go their way, are intense about things that don't matter, can be too forceful, too direct and oftentimes are accused of being bossy.

They can be afflicted with weaknesses (to keep them humble before the Lord) and have a problem tolerating weak or sick people. When walking after the flesh, they have problems accepting indecisive and/or lazy people. They are tough on people who do not understand authority or those who won't accept challenges.

Prophets expect people to think quickly, gain understanding quickly and expect most people to keep up with them (Isaiah 30:30).

Places of Service

1. Offer personal prophecies to individuals.
2. Offer church-wide prophecies to the Body of Christ as a whole.
3. Church promotions
4. Message to the Body of Christ
5. Sunday school teachings
6. Church activist in the political arena
7. Evangelism campaigns

TEACHING

Definition: This gift gives special ability to communicate the Word of God in such a way that it is organized and the Body of Christ learns easily.

PURPOSE: Christians that have this gift have an overwhelming desire to explain the Truth to those around them. A prophet declares Truth, while a teacher logically explains it. Oftentimes prophets and teachers do not get along, although in God's eyes, prophets and teachers make great working partners. Their gifting brings balance to one another.

Teachers are interested in searching things out. They love details and better yet, love presenting the details they have uncovered. Teachers love to study and usually encouraging others to be men/women of the Word. Many times, they think that education equals transformation through studying the Word of God. At times, forgetting that transformation only comes through the Spirit.

The gift of teaching is mentioned in all three scriptural references listed regarding spiritual gifts: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Scripture often confirms that many body members receive this gift. This gift is needed for most areas of the local church and the church world-wide; for example: the morning message, Sunday school, special electives, children's church, day-care, training classes, the music ministry and many others.

People who have the gift of teaching oftentimes use their gifts as an occupation: schoolteacher, professors, learning institutes, sales education, etc...

Teachers are normally patient with their students. They like to come up with new ideas on how to reach their students and to help them better understand what is being taught.

God uses the teachers to communicate His day-to-day points of living (Ephesians 4:11). They are often seen as pastors, motivational speakers or trainers. In fact, many people with the gift of teaching think they are pastors. As we will learn later in this study, pastors are very different in the way they care for people.

Fleshly Liabilities:

It is common that teachers have a difficult time establishing and maintaining friendships. This is because if they are walking after their flesh, they have the tendency to be too serious, haughty, high-minded, critical, contemplative, oftentimes judgmental, and moody and they tend to analyze everything. People who are trying to establish relationships with them at times get frustrated. When they are with the teacher, the teacher seems to communicate by teaching. Many teachers do not know the difference between teaching and just communicating with someone.

Teachers have the tendency to be bothered by “shallow” thinkers, people who state things that are not supported by the documented truth, people who do not present truth in an organized fashion or who simply do not prepare properly before they teach. This is why a teacher often times has difficulty relating to the prophet-type – who hears the Truth directly from God.

Many times teachers have a problem with authority because they believe what they are saying is the authoritative way.

Teachers need to remember to rest in Christ, focus on building their existing relationships, build new friendships, ask more questions of people, allow for more group discussions, and spend more time being practical (application). Overall, the teacher needs to be more fun loving, light hearted, and animated.

Places of Service

1. Sunday morning messages
2. Sunday school teacher
3. Children’s ministry
4. Small groups
5. Radio/TV ministry
6. Community Outreach
7. Conduct Bible-studies
8. Preaching
9. Elective classes
10. Mission work

EXHORTATION

Definition: This gift gives special abilities to minister words of comfort, encouragement (to put courage into), confrontations and clarifications on revelations from “prophets.”

PURPOSE: This gift is often times confused with the gift of pastoring. It is primarily a one-on-one gift. They love encouraging people around them. They are compelled to give advice. Many look at them as “counselors.”

CHARACTERISTICS:

Prophets tell the Truth, teachers clarify the Truth and exhorters tell you what to do with the Truth. They usually are very practical and life application oriented. They bless people with a keen sense of care and concern.

The exhorter can work with complete strangers, but pastors have harder time with this. Barnabas in the Bible is a great example of this (Acts 4:36). Like (Barnabas), the exhorter loves picking up people right where they are and molding them into an instrument of the Lord

All Christians have been ordered to exhort one another but exhorters have a special ability to do it well (Heb. 3:13). Exhorters have a wonderful ability to communicate using their supernatural insights given to them by God.

This person is ideal person to be working in the church discipleship center. As an occupation, they often end up with jobs like acting, sales, community relations, promotions and like-minded jobs. These Christians have a strong sense to help the church grow and often times struggles between leaving the “work world” and joining “full time ministry”.

Fleshly Liabilities:

An exhorter can become “wired” or “hyper” about what they believe. They can be overly optimistic in presenting their ideas. They can be convinced that “their way “is the only way for the people they are helping.

If walking after the flesh, they can take on the appearance of being immature, emotional, irrational, silly, wordy, and simply selfish.

Those who don’t appear to be interested in what they are saying irritate them. Pessimist agitates them and those who are “too detailed” seem to frustrate them.

If not hearing the Lord, they live by their own schedule, which means they are usually late. The Exhorter becomes “phobic” having to live under heavy structure. Lastly, people who are not very enthusiastic—particularly about what they are saying, put them off.

The exhorter needs to keep in mind that they should listen more, count the cost before taking action, yield their emotions to Christ moment by moment and stay humble before the Lord. They need to avoid being caught in the rejection cycle. They need to stay disciplined, be punctual, hear the Lords words, not their own, and respect those who don’t agree with them.

Places of Service:

1. Discipleship ministry (counseling)
2. Alter call ministry
3. Follow up ministry for the evangelism team
4. Marriage discipleship (counseling)

5. Pre-marriage work
6. Preaching
7. Small Groups
8. Sunday School teaching
9. Nursing Home ministry
10. General visitation
11. Comforting the sick
12. Reconciliation Meetings