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Serving Gifts

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Gifts of Service

*More than 70 % of the
believers tend to have gifts of
service*

Leadership

- **Greek meaning:** “be a leader, have authority over.” Translated: *to govern, care for, give help, be in front of, be a chief.*
- **Definition:** “The capacity to lead others in projects that demonstrate his commitment to meet the needs of others through leading them toward a vision of what could be, and to encourage their growth in maturity.”
- **Characteristics:**
 - Desires to help others accomplish their personal goals, potentials and the group goals and purpose
 - Feels frustrated when things do not function well
 - Wants all the different tasks of a project to be fulfilled in harmony and with total participation

Leadership

■ Dangers of abuses:

- Fail to respond to existing needs of others
- Fail to develop others or care for their personal growth

■ Ideas concerning the gift:

- Should be manifested first in the home (1 Tim 3:4-5, “for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?”)
- The exhortation is to lead “with diligence” (Ro 12:8). refers to “haste, speed, zeal, seriousness, diligence” thus implies commitment

■ Misunderstanding: Idea that a leader only gives orders to others, but does little himself

Administration, government¹

- **Greek meaning:** “ability to lead or govern”. The skill of a pilot guiding a ship, thus leadership skill (Acts 27:11, translated “master, helmsman or pilot”)
- **Definition:** The ability to give direction, make wise decisions that results in an efficient organization and goals met.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Thinks of helping others meet their goals
 - His passion is to organize activities (not necessarily directing or doing them)
 - Tends to care for details that other ignore

Administration, government¹

■ Characteristics:

- Has no fear to assume responsibility to take responsibility for actions or projects
- Others tend to be thankful for their ability to organize them with the result that each one contribute their part and receive their recognition

■ Danger of abuse:

- Fail to give direction at the needed time
- Evident pride of their position and authority

■ Ideas concerning the gift:

- The willingness to take responsibility that results in a sense of security and confidence of followers

■ Misunderstand: Can appear cold or indifferent towards others

Mercy

- **Grammatical Sense**: “kindness toward the miserable and afflicted with the desire to help”. The Hebrew, *hesed*, means a faithful or loyal love. A related word: , “affection, love, tender feelings” thus “tender mercies” describes God!
- **Definition**: The ability to feel compassion for those who suffer physically with a commitment to relief their suffering with joy

Mercy

■ Characteristics:

- Identifies with others and has empathy for them
- Very sensitive to hurts of others
- The person in need senses acceptance and encouragement
- Does not feel repulsion seeing misery and suffering, and thinks, “How can I help them?”

■ Danger of abuse:

- Fail to meet needs expressing joy in doing so
- Criticize others for not feeling the same compassion

Faith

- **Grammatical meaning:**
“trust, confidence”
- **Definition:** The ability to see what God can do and wants to do, then trust openly in His ability to resolve impossible situations or respond supernaturally

Faith

■ Characteristics:

- A conviction to accept the biblical promises literally and apply them to specific situations until God meets the need
- While others get discouraged, this person never loses his confidence in God's involvement and ability.
- Has a desire to see the manifestation of God as evident and powerful today for a witness and encouragement.
- Does not just believe that God *can* do whatever is needed, but that God *will do it* now.

■ Danger in abuse:

- Focus too much in the problems
- Preoccupied concerning how God will do it
- Critical of others for not having faith
- Does not distinguish between presumption and the faith from Go

Faith²

- **Ideas concerning the gift:**
 - Need to distinguish 4 “faiths” in Scriptures:
 - 1) Salvation faith (Eph 2:8, “For by faith you are saved”)
 - 2) Fruit of the Spirit faith (Gal 5:22)
 - 3) Faith as a body of doctrine (“established in the faith” Acts 16:4),
 - 4) Faith as a gift to a few to be an example (“to another faith by the same Spirit...” (1 Cor 12:9)
 - Manifests in response to constant prayer as God gives a sense of His plan and purpose.
- **Misunderstanding:** Some may think this is presumption or exaggeration

Giving

- **Grammatical Meaning:** , “give, share, transfer,” and to be done in , “generosity, sincerity, liberality” (Eph 5:6; Col 2:22)
- **Definition:** The ability to give material goods with joy and enthusiasm without seeking personal benefit in this world
- **Characteristics:**
 - Discernment of the physical needs of others
 - Rapidly assumes the burden of helping others
 - Ability to expand his finances in order to use them for God by increasing his percentage of the distribution of His funds
 - Conviction that his possessions belong to God and he is merely the steward to distribute as much as possible
 - Ability to manage his funds such that a surplus is available
 - His delight and joy is meeting the needs of others

Giving²

■ Dangers of abuse:

- Give for wrong motives or under pressure
- Feel offended if his gift is not appreciated

■ Ideas concerning the gift:

- Motivated by the single passion for the glory of God (Rom 12:8, “*If it is giving, give generously.*”)
- Characterized by great joy (1 Cor 9:7, “*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*”)

■ Misunderstanding:

- Assumption that if one has a lot of money, he must have the gift of giving
- Or only those with much money will have the gift

Discerning between spirits

- **Grammatical sense:** “ability to discriminate or decide between true and false”
- **Definition:** The ability to evaluate immediately what is said whether it is from God or another spirit.
- **Characteristics:**
 - An ability to sense inconsistencies and falsehood
 - Capacity to categorize ideas and themes
 - From an excellent understanding of Scriptures, makes comparisons with what is seen and heard to determine if it is the same or something distinct
 - Is not influenced by personalities but rather focuses on the content of a message

Discerning between spirits²

■ Danger of abuse:

- Fail to respond when something is bad or wrong
- Does not base his feelings in the Word

■ Ideas concerning the gift:

- Ability to judge the source of a doctrine, idea or presentation
- The balance of the apparent authority of a “prophet” to review and evaluate the teaching (1 Cor 14:29, “*Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said.*”)
- The need to judge in Christian conflicts (1 Cor 6:3, “*Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!*”)
- There are evil spirits affecting speakers today (1 Tim 4:1; 1 Jn 4:1, “*do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God*”)

■ Misunderstanding:

- Is not related to exorcism
- Can appear insensitive, unjust, critical, and negative

Helps or Service

■ Grammatical Sense:

- “service, executing commands of others”
- “laying hold of, assisting, resolve conflicts”

- ## ■ Definition: The ability to meet the needs of others unselfishly, rather with practical helps, that result in the other person feeling valued and freed to fulfill their other responsibilities

Helps or Service

■ Characteristics:

- A desire to help others in practical forms
- Joy in helping out in other's projects or goals
- More fulfilled in practical service than in theoretical or conceptual helps
- His motivation is to facilitate the temporal and physical responsibilities allowing the leaders to focus on the spiritual

■ Danger of abuses:

- Fail to get involved for fear of what others might say or think
- Ignore certain needy persons for personal reasons
- Inability to fulfill other responsibilities (eg. family), due to the service responsibilities assumed

Helps or Service²

- **Ideas concerning the gift:**
 - The attitude of humility and sacrifice are necessary (Luke 22:22-27– Disciples who wanted 1st place had to be servants first!)
 - There is an office of “servant or *deacon*” as well as a gift of “*service*” – use the same word (1 Tim 3:8-13)
 - Hospitality is probably another aspect of helps (Rom 12:13, “*Practice hospitality.*”: Heb 13:1)
 - Basic motivation is to alleviate others from burdensome responsibilities
- **Misunderstanding:** can think that it is an escape from spiritual responsibilities (eg. sharing the gospel)

False Manifestations of Gifts

Falsification carnal

- **Faith**: Force yourself to believe depending on self-convincing techniques, presumptions and emotions
- **Discernment of Spirits**: Depend on intuition, impulses or human wisdom to judge what is of God
- **Serve, Helps**: Motivated by sympathy, feeling sorry for someone or just wanting to do it right, not a genuine love for the person

Falsification satanic

- Inspired by demons to declare the future, declare impossible tasks and distract from Christ
- Demonic spirits recognized Christ, but refused submission to Him.
- Ability to manipulate, obligate and coerce people to follow a man of demonic influence

False Manifestations of Gifts

Falsification carnal

- Giving: motivated by tax advantages, desire to be recognized as generous and spiritual, moved by human sympathy
- Leading, Administration, Governing: depend on dominant personality to control others to do what you want
- Mercy: acts of sympathy, philanthropy, or caring, in order to be known as loving or spiritual

Falsification satanic

- Giving to demonic projects that appear spiritual as false religions or teachers; giving to earn acceptance by God and man
- Ability to lead through demonic wisdom and manipulation, deceit, coercion, resulting in fanatical followers
- Façade of interest in human plight, demonic inspired to deceive