

Spiritual Gifts

Session 2

"The Support Gifts" (Gifts that get things done)

Introduction: The support gifts also could be called enterprise gifts. When I think about "enterprise", I think of Star Trek. No, it is not about a space craft and a man with pointy ears, it is about a slogan from the show itself that said this "To boldly go where no man has gone before!" In the show, Captain Kirk organized and communicated the mission to the crew. God has gifted many in the church to help organize and communicate the mission and goals to the church. So, when we get our orders, may we boldly go and do the work God has called us to do!

(Read: I Pet. 4:10) When we receive our gift(s) we need to use them to serve others. All spiritual gifts are given for the purpose of serving others. Sometimes, the way to discover what your spiritual gift or gifts is to try them. Perhaps a word of caution needs to be added here: We need to be careful not to confuse a servant spirit with the gift of serving. In other words, not everyone who has one gift this area automatically has any other gift, yet people with gifts of serving and helps or giving are often called to leadership and administrative roles.

(Read: Mark 10:42-43) Key: A leader never graduates from service. A biblical leader is a servant leader. As Jesus said in this passage, "anyone who desires to be great among you must be your servant."

In the remainder of this study, we are going to look at two of the Support gifts: Service/Helps and Giving.

SERVICE/HELPS

(Read: Phil. 2:1-7) The gift of service and helps are supernatural expressions of a Christlike attitude. Service and helps gifts are the cardiac system of the body of Christ. Without these gifts flowing throughout the body of Christ, the effectiveness of every other gift is diminished.

(Question) Do you ever prefer to work behind the scenes? Would you rather hear a sincere thank you than to be recognized with a certificate of appreciation in a worship service? Do you enjoy seeing the results of your labor? Do you find yourself saying "I don't want to be in charge, but I will be glad to help?" If you said yes to a majority of these questions, then you may have the gift of service and helps. Let's look further.

(Read: Rom. 12:6-7) If we have the gift of service, then use your gift of service! Below are a list of behaviors that are common with those that have this gift:

- 1) You exercise gifts within the body of Christ.
- 2) You display a high degree of loyalty and devotion.
- 3) You do not have to be in the public eye to feel fulfilled.

- 4) You like to complete the task as quick as possible.
- 5) You prefer short term projects over long term projects.
- 6) You enjoy doing things for others.

GIFT OF GIVING

(Read: II Cor. 2:8-9) Jesus had every spiritual gift, including the gift of giving. Jesus was and is the supreme model of giving. He sacrificed the splendor of Heaven to live among us as one of us. Then he gave his life for us on an old cruel rugged old cross. That is giving! As this verse says, "Jesus became poor so we could become rich."

(Read: Rom. 12:8) In this verse, Paul says we are to "give freely with cheerfulness."

A person who has the gift of giving has the following characteristics:

- 1) This person gives beyond the tithe.
- 2) When this person makes more money, they want to give more money.
- 3) This person does not want their giving to be known. In other words, they are private about their giving.
- 4) This person wants their gift to be used in a worthwhile manner. They give more to ministries and projects than to individuals.
- 5) These people don't usually enjoy serving on the finance committee.
- 6) These people never attach strings to the gift given.

Conclusion: Now, not having the gift of giving does not excuse us from being a tither. We are called to give our tenth to the Lord. If you do not believe me, then read, Malachi 3:8-10. Many people who now have the gift of giving said, it began with understanding that they are to be obedient to the biblical principle of tithing. God does not just want us to be a giver, but we are to be a cheerful giver. Do not give out of duty but see that it is part of worship. (Key) God gives us spiritual gifts to increase our joy, not to make us miserable. Because God has given His son for us, we want to give back to the Lord, not only with our money but with our service.