

The Speaking Gifts

Session 7

(The Gifts that Ground us in God's Word)

The Gift of Teaching – The gift of teaching is the ability to instruct members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purpose of building up, unifying and maturing the body. Jesus, as we know it, had every spiritual gift. Jesus was referred to many times as "Rabbi" which meant teacher. The Greek word for teacher is "didaskalos" (dee-das-kalos) which means master or teacher. (Read: Romans 12:6-7) A person with a highly developed gift of teaching will present the biblical material to a large group of people, many times followed by a discussion in smaller groups. (Read: II Timothy 2:2) According to this verse, those with the gift of teaching are faithful in their preparation to teach God's Word. Their desire is for those in their class to understand the lesson they teach. (Read: Romans 12:2) They get excited when they see their class members grow in their knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. Below are some other characteristics of those who have the gift of teaching:

- 1) They can make profound things simple and vague things clear.
- 2) They like to organize biblical facts into an orderly and memorable system.
- 3) They like their information presented to be as accurate as possible.
- 4) They like time alone to study and prepare their lesson.
- 5) They enjoy using visuals such as posters, charts, printed handouts to enhance their teaching.
- 6) They enjoy time for discussion and encourage people to share their thoughts and insights.

Another thought – music is one of the most powerful mediums for expressing the gift of teaching and exhortation. Music is not per say one of the spiritual gifts found in the Bible but God has blessed many with the gift of music. But the highest use of music is to help Christians learn. (Read: Col. 3:16) The Bible says that words put to music are a powerful means of helping people be grounded in the truths of God's word. That is why hymns are so important because there is a lot of theology/truths in the hymns.

The Gift of Shepherding – The gift of shepherding is the ability to look out for the spiritual welfare and development of a group of believers. Some translate the gift of shepherding as pastor – teacher. (Read: Ephesians 4:11-13) The gift is not the same as the office of pastor in the church. This person is comfortable sitting down and engaging in conversation with people in the church. Shepherds can be teachers but their approach to teaching is different. The one who has the gift of teaching will spend countless hours preparing a one-hour lesson to teach their class. They are not lazy in their preparation, it's just that their priority is the people rather than the lesson.

Jesus was our primary example of a shepherd. (Read: John 10:11-16) Jesus referred to himself as the good shepherd. According to this passage the good shepherd:

- 1) Cares for the sheep.
- 2) Knows his sheep.
- 3) Willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

Below are some more characteristics of the shepherd:

- 1) Loves the people under their care. Protective of those in his care.
- 2) Sensitive to the problems in the flock that may cause disharmony.
- 3) Remembers names and faces well.
- 4) Tend to be self – sacrificing. Give their time to the needs of those in their class.
- 5) They are dependable. They will be there for you in your time of need.

(Read: Hebrews 13:20-21) This passage refers to Jesus as the great shepherd. Jesus will lead us through any circumstances which threaten our peace with God. These two verses were a prayer for the great shepherd to lead us to do His will.