

Spiritual Gifts

Session 3

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

Introduction: If you have ever been to see an orchestra perform you will notice when the conductor comes out he is recognized by applause from the audience as well as the orchestra players. Why? The orchestra as well as the audience is showing a respect to the leader's ability to lead them.

The gift of leadership is the ability to direct members to accomplish the goals and objectives of the church. These people see and communicate the vision for the church. They motivate people to work together in unity to fulfill the church's mission and purposes.

As we know, leaders have vision. They see things that need to be done and they communicate the vision with people who serve. Those who have the gift of leadership have followers. These followers are motivated by the leader to accomplish the vision.

(Read: Rom. 12:8) The Greek word for "leading" is translated as "to stand before or over." The King James version translates leader here as "one who rules." Paul stresses in Romans 12:8 that one should rule with diligence. The word diligence means: hard work. One who has diligence is one who is not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get busy. But diligence also means that they do what they do with care or carefulness. They not only care for the cause but they care for the people involved in the cause.

Moses was a great leader in the Bible. In relation to Moses there are four misconceptions about leaders:

- Misconception 1: Real leaders take charge without being personally enlisted. They rise up voluntarily to respond to God's vision. (Read: Ex. 3:10-11) God called Moses to the task. Moses did not do it willingly. He had reservations.
- Misconception 2: A person must be a good speaker or communicator to be an effective leader. (Read: Ex. 4:10-12) Moses did not feel he was a good communicator.
- Misconception 3: Leaders manage time and handle details naturally. (Read: Ex. 18:13-14; 17-18) In this passage, we see that the people stood before Moses from morning until evening while Moses sat by himself.
- Misconception 4: The majority will always affirm the vision of a gifted leader. Sometimes people will not agree with the leader and his vision. There were times

when the people grumbled with Moses about the food, having no water and why they had to wander in the wilderness.

The Gift of Administration – This is the ability to lead the body by steering others to remain on task. It is the ability to enable the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals. Some think the gift of leadership and administration are the same gift but there are differences. As we said earlier, the one who has the gift of leadership is the one who “stands over or before.” (Read: I Cor. 12:28) The Greek translation for administration that Paul uses here is managing. To manage is to steer. It is like a captain who steers his ship across the ocean.

One who has the gift of administration is not necessarily the main or key leader. Another word for administration we use today is “cybernetics.” Cybernetics is the study of communication and control systems. A gifted administrator is one who enhances the flow of information to the church. They might use graphs, charts, memos, newsletters, websites or whatever it takes to help the team to understand what is going on.

A leader would see the big picture but hate the details that come with it. The administrator would see the big picture but want to clarify it and communicate it. A leader would make decisions based on intuition; the administrator would make decisions based on facts. A leader is more comfortable in a large group setting. The administrator enjoys one on one small group relationships.

Nehemiah and Ezra were great administrators. You can see how they worked in Nehemiah 8. (Read: Neh. 8:1, 5-6, 8-9) In this chapter, we see how Ezra read the law to the people. In other words, he helped them understand what God was saying. This is the trait of a good administrator. A good administrator always brings clarity to what is being shared.