

Gifts

Becoming like the gift giver by giving of yourself God has a plan for our lives. A plan for good, not for evil. The gifts we have been given are meant to be put to use, not buried, for the promotion of the kingdom of God and to glorify our heavenly Father. First it is important to discover your gifts, then begin to discover your calling. What nation are you called to? Here are some areas of ministry to think and pray about which may be your calling, and your nation (a nation is a people with a common language, common interest and common culture).

Discover your Gifts

Discover your gift and your place in the body of Christ. We know there is one body in all the world; the body of Christ. We often look at national boundaries and identify our selves with that nation. But Nation as defined in the Bible gives us a much greater understanding of *our place of ministry*.

Nation as defined in the Bible can be derived from the Hebrew word *gowy* {pronounced go'-ee} which means nation or people. The word used in Greek is: *ethnos* {pronounced eth'-nos} and is define as:

- 1) a multitude associated or living together
- 2) a company, troop, swarm
- 3) a multitude of individuals of the same nature
- 4) the human race
- 5) a race, nation, people group.

In short, we can no longer define a nation simply as geographic countries draw on a map. A nation in the Biblical sense is a people with a common culture, common needs and a common language gathering together as a distinct group. Our nation is the universal body of Christ. Find your place in the body of Christ.

Look at the Obvious, pray for clarity:

What natural gifts has God given you? _____

What is your Motive Gift? _____

Once you have discovered your motive gift or personality motives of Christ, you should begin to discover how you fit in the body of Christ.

What gifts of the Holy Spirit do you recognize that you use? _____

Do you recognize a calling on your life? _____

Callings (gifts) are without change. Pray and discuss this subject with your elder(s).



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*All quotes herein are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Quick Notes on Gifts © 1979, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2013

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THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S GIFTS

The purpose of the gifts provided us by our Father, the Son and Holy Spirit is to use them to Glorify God in everything we do and everything we are. We are to become examples of our loving God. In short, we have been given gifts so that we may use them for the purpose of becoming like the giver of gifts. We use them as His disciples as God gifts us and calls us.

"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."

Romans 11:29

THE PLAN FOR THE USE OF GOD'S GIFTS IN OUR LIVES

Everyone member of the body of Christ has a specific task to perform in order to have the body function properly. Like our natural bodies, some functions have greater responsibility, some with less critical roles, but not matter how small, every member is necessary for the body of Christ to function in God's divine order.

"From him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Ephesians 4:16

One of life's greatest challenges is to recognize your gift(s) and calling, then begin to act upon God's plan for your life. As you study the various gifts and how you are created in His image and likeness, you will discover the various gifts God has graciously imparted to you and just how you fit in the body of Christ. You will also discover the ministry and people you are called to as a gift of God.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

GENERAL PLAN FOR USE OF OUR GIFTS IN LIFE

God's most general purpose for the all individuals in the corporate body of Christ is to glorify God by becoming Christ like.

"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us."

1 Peter 2:12

We are to use our God given gifts to promote our faith, not just in word *but in deed*. Believing what God has spoken and knowing your position as a child in the family of God leads us to doing good deeds.

"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"

James 2:17

Through the inspiration of God's love shown in our salvation through the shedding of blood for our sins, we are *inspired* by grace knowing God's nature is love.

"God is Love"

1 John 4:8

His love, his giving of eternal life, his giving of good gifts inspires us to fulfill his most basic plan to become Christ like, that is by obeying his word.

"I ask that we love one another. And this is love; that we walk in obedience to his commands."

2 John 15-6

GIFTS FROM THE FATHER

The Father of lights gives us gifts through creation; that is, personal gifts that we possess: Natural God given skills, talents, assets and strengths. In the design of humanity our Father has given each of us natural, God given, gifts in varied and sundry areas for the benefit of the whole of society. Gifts in the arts, in science, athletic, verbal, social skills, sales, trades, etc..

GIFTS OF THE SON

Everyone has a special gift...

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God's grace in various forms."
1 Peter 4:10

THE SEVEN MOTIVE GIFTS OR PERSONAL TRAITS OF JESUS

*"And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let each exercise them accordingly. (He whose gift is) **PROPHECY**, (let him prophesy) according to the proportion of his faith; (he whose gift is) practical service, let him give himself to **SERVING**; he who teaches, to his **TEACHING**; (he who exhorts, encourages); to his **EXHORTATION**; he who contributes (**GIVING**), let him do it in simplicity and liberality; he who gives aid and superintends, (**ORGANIZATION**) with zeal and singleness of mind; he who does acts of **MERCY**, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness."*
Amplified Bible* Romans 12:6

JESUS REVEALS THE SEVEN MOTIVE GIFTS

Seven is the number by which God defines completeness or wholeness. There are seven MOTIVE GIFTS. If you were to search the passages of scripture concerning Jesus and His acts and the words He spoke among men, you would soon recognize that certain motive gifts were stronger in certain dealings. For instance, the **GIFT OF PROPHECY** is very evident in Matthew 12:25. Here it is stated that Jesus "knew their thoughts." showing His ability to perceive the motives of their hearts; and He dealt with them by directly telling them that they had to choose which side they were on. He said, He that is not with Me is against Me..." Another such time where this gift was evident was when Jesus marked in the sand as the religious accused a woman of adultery. Though we are not told the words He wrote, we may assume from His statement, "Let him who among you is without sin cast the first stone. "that He knew their motives and hearts and could perceive and reveal prophetically through this gimmick of writing in the sand, their need of repentance.

The **GIFT OF SERVING** is always associated with Jesus, but never more memorably than in John 13 where Jesus taught his disciples that they, by His example, should wash one another's feet and serve one another. "...Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am. If then, Your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."
John 13:12-17

THE GIFT OF TEACHING is of course ever present, but a few characteristic passages to illustrate are as follows. In the prayer Jesus prayed in John 17, He specifically refers to the foundational importance of the Word of God as the means by which they would be sanctified. "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth." Also, the characteristic common to a teaching motive of testing those who teach was done when Jesus questioned Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews about being "Born-again." Jesus actually rebuked Nicodemus for his ignorance saying: "Are thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?"

THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION with its characteristics of prescribing precise steps of action was shown by Jesus as He gave the "Great Commission" (Mark 16). First, He told them where to go. Second, He told them what to do. Third, He told them the qualifications to be His disciple. Fourth, He comforted them. Fifth, He edified and encouraged them in the task ahead. Jesus showed in this one example every characteristic of an exhorter.

THE GIFT OF GIVING. Of course, the most basic concept in the gospel is that of the gift of giving. The Giver of all life so loved us that he gave His Son. Jesus, showing forth other characteristics of the gift of giving, walked a total life of self-less giving. He gave quietly. All of His ministry gifts of healing, deliverance, raising the dead, and other miracles came forth as a result of His Giver motive. He gave his very life's blood that we might receive the gift of eternal life. He lived a frugal life that we might have riches. He delivered Himself up to the death of the cross that we might learn to give the greatest of gifts, ourselves. He has given us a gift of His character at salvation so that we, by His example, will give our best to one another.

1 Peter 4:10

THE GIFT OF ORGANIZATION. Jesus showed His motive gift of organization or ruling (administration) in His ability to see people for the function they could perform and by His ability to organize a team by the choosing of His disciples. He even choose the one who would bring His plans to pass by betraying Him. He always referred to the long-range plan of God rather than the immediate things that would pass away. He also showed His organizational skills when He gave orders to His disciples to feed the multitudes by dividing the loaves of bread and the fishes of the little boy. He had His disciples seat the people by hundreds and fifties.

Mark 6:39

THE GIFT OF MERCY. Jesus showed the greatest MERCY by forgiving sin. He stated that as we showed mercy for others, we would obtain mercy. In John 11, Jesus was summoned to the grace of His beloved friend Lazarus. There He saw the sisters of Lazarus and the Jews weeping. He asked where they had laid him. Here the shortest verse in the Bible appears. John 11:35 "*Jesus wept.*" "*Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved Him!*" Even His enemies acknowledged His compassion through the working of His GIFT OF MERCY. So great was this feeling for His friend that He raised Him from the dead. So great was His GIFT OF MERCY that from the cross He cried out, "*Father forgive them for they know not what they do.*"

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Effecting of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues
1 Cor 12

12 Brothers and sisters, I want you to know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

2 You know that at one time you were unbelievers. You were somehow drawn away to worship statues of gods that couldn't even speak.

3 So I tell you that no one who is speaking with the help of God's Spirit says, "May Jesus be cursed." And without the help of the Holy Spirit no one can say, "Jesus is Lord."

4 There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit.

5 There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord.

6 There are different ways to work. But the same God makes it possible for all of us to have all those different things.

7 The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all.

8 To some people the Spirit gives the message of wisdom. To others the same Spirit gives the message of knowledge.

9 To others the same Spirit gives faith. To others that one Spirit gives gifts of healing.

10 To others he gives the power to do miracles. To others he gives the ability to prophesy. To others he gives the ability to tell the spirits apart. To others he gives the ability to speak in different kinds of languages they had not known before. And to still others he gives the ability to explain what was said in those languages.

11 All of the gifts are produced by one and the same Spirit. He gives them to each person, just as he decides.

Callings: *Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers,*

Eph 4:8-13