

Gifts – Part 3

Romans 12:7-8

12:7-8 - if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

a. if service, in our serving;

a. service – (διακονία *diakonia* διάκονος *diakonos*)- Technically, the word is what is used for a selected group of men called deacons, but it is not limited to that selected group who help the poor, help the sick, and perform many other services for the church.

i. Rom 16:1 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae,

ii. Many brothers and sisters in the church have the gift and the heart of serving, and use it, whether it is seen or unseen.

b. the one who teaches, in his teaching;

a. Teachers study in order to communicate truth to those they teach. Prior to the completion of the word of God, the teacher needed to remember what has been heard.

b. A prophet may also teach, but the truth they have was revealed to them.

c. Following the ending of spiritual gifts, such as prophecy, the distinction between prophet and teacher disappeared.

c. the one who exhorts, in his exhortation;

a. exhort (παρακαλῶν *parakalōn*) – This word was used in 12:1 as an urgent appeal. It can also mean “to encourage”. In Acts 4:36, it is used in the name given to Barnabas – son of encouragement.

i. Heb. 10:24 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

d. the one who contributes, in generosity;

a. generosity (ἀπλότητος *haplotētos*) - simplicity, sincerity, purity of mind. In English, we think of generosity as an amount. In Greek, it is a quality – pure in mind, genuine in heart.

b. A widow gave two copper coins – all that she had to live on (Luke 21:1-4).

c. 2 Cor. 9:7 - Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- d. For a special contribution for poor saints at Jerusalem, Paul asked the Corinthians to give as they had prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
- e. the one who leads, with zeal;
 - a. zeal (σπουδῆ *soudē*) - earnestness, diligence, enthusiasm.
 - b. When we think of a shepherd, it is the sheep who follow, and they trust the shepherd.
 - c. A leader need not be a shepherd, but one who leads in any capacity is to be enthusiastic and one who will “not let grass grow under their feet”.
- f. the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
 - a. mercy (ἐλεέω *eleeō*) – possible meaning is to feel sympathy toward the misery of another, especially sympathy that results in action.
 - b. cheerfulness (ἡλαρότητι *hilarotēti*) - cheerfully, graciously, not grudgingly.