

Embers to Flames

Authority in Prayer and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

I. Authority of the believer

Authority (exousia) = the freedom and right to exercise power; privilege

A. Jesus has authority because He is God and the Creator of all

"...He is the firstborn of all creation. For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth..." Col. 1:15-17

B. We have authority because it was given to us at creation

"God said, Let Us make mankind in Our image after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over...all the earth, over everything that creeps upon the earth..."

C. Man's authority was usurped by Satan at the Fall

"We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the power of the evil one."
I John 5:19, John 12:31, II Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2

D. New birth restores us to a position of authority in Christ

- We receive special authority that flows from our position in Christ
"And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together in the heavenly sphere in Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:6
- We receive authority that comes from abiding in Christ
"If you live in Me and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7
- We receive authority from having been sent by the King.
"...all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me, Go then and make disciples..." Matt. 28:18
"as the Father has sent me forth, so I am sending you...He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit!" John 20:21b-22
- We have authority because of the indwelling Holy Spirit
"...having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand...surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe...which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly (places). Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come." Eph. 1: 18-21

E. God in His sovereignty chooses to incorporate us into His divine plan of redemption by calling us to pray. It is in prayer that we exercise that authority.

John Wesley says, God does nothing except by prayer and John Calvin in the Institutes agrees with Wesley as to the necessity of prayer when he writes:

“Therefore we see that to us nothing is promised to be expected from the Lord, which we are not also bidden to ask of Him in prayers. So true it is that we dig up by prayer the treasures that were pointed out by the Lord's gospel, and which our faith has gazed upon.”

F. Our response

- Shirk responsibility
- Take too much responsibility
- Prayer – stay close to God, uniting with Him in his work by listening to Him. Do not run ahead or fall behind. Authority will be consistent with the character of God.

“Prayer reigns supreme. We can achieve all through prayer. This alone is the almighty queen of human destiny.” Martin Luther

II. The Gifts and Power of the Holy Spirit are tied to our authority.

A. Gifts are tokens of Christ's victory over Satan

“...When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive (He led a train of vanquished foes) and He bestowed gifts on men” Eph. 4:8

“The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil (has done). I John 3:8A.B.

B. The New Testament suggests that the gifts of the Spirit given at Pentecost will continue until the return of Christ when the “perfect” comes which refers to the return of Jesus I Cor.13:8-10

C. The gifts are meant to edify the body of Christ, that is to “lift up”, “cheer up”, and “build up” the church and authenticate the ministry of the church I Cor. 14:3-4, Mark 16:17-20

D. We are to earnestly desire, cultivate and pursue the spiritual gifts I Cor. 12:31, I

Cor. 14:1

E. Every Christian can participate in the gifts of the Spirit I Cor. 12:7, I Pet. 4:10

F. Gifts are keys to a healthy, functioning church

III. Overview of three Types of Spiritual Gifts

<p align="center"><u>Motivational Gifts</u></p> <p align="center">Romans 12:3-8</p> <p align="center">Charismata</p>	<p align="center"><u>Ministry Gifts</u></p> <p align="center">Ephesians 4:8-14</p> <p align="center">Didomai</p>	<p align="center"><u>Manifestation Gifts</u></p> <p align="center">I Corinthians 12:8-10</p> <p align="center">Phanerosis</p>
<p align="center">Prophecy</p> <p align="center">Serving</p> <p align="center">Teaching</p> <p align="center">Exhortation</p> <p align="center">Giving</p> <p align="center">Administration, Leader</p> <p align="center">Mercy</p>	<p align="center">Apostles</p> <p align="center">Prophets</p> <p align="center">Evangelists</p> <p align="center">Pastors</p> <p align="center">Teachers</p>	<p align="center">Word of Wisdom</p> <p align="center">Word of Knowledge</p> <p align="center">Faith</p> <p align="center">Gifts of Healing</p> <p align="center">Miraculous Powers</p> <p align="center">Prophecy</p> <p align="center">Discernment</p> <p align="center">Kinds of Tongues</p> <p align="center">Interpretation of Tongues</p>

- We exercise our motivation and through our ministry the Holy Spirit bestows manifestations as we need them
- Motivation is where we “come from”, ministry is what we do, and the manifestations are the “energies” or tools to enable you, to do by the power of the Holy Spirit
- God wants us to understand our own gift, then we will understand ourselves and others
- Each Christian should perform in all areas but does so from his own gift
- Personal fulfillment comes as we develop our spiritual gift

- Each gift is designed to perfect the Body of Christ
- The result in the church is a minimum of weariness, unity and efficiency
- The Holy Spirit has gifts operating in each congregation

Jesus Christ was all of these – exercised perfectly!

Motivational Gifts Chart

Prophet	Servant	Teacher
<p>Approaching ministry as a prophet</p> <p>Definition Telling something that God has brought to mind. Another way to describing what it means to be in intimate relationship with God (<i>pro-forth, phemi</i>) to speak – to speak forth.</p> <p>Scripture Acts 2:14-40</p>	<p>Approaching ministry as a servant</p> <p>Definition One who identifies the unmet needs in a task related to God's work, and makes use of available resources to meet those needs (<i>diaknonos</i>) to run errands.</p> <p>Scripture Acts 6:3,7</p>	<p>Approaching ministry as a teacher</p> <p>Definition One who explains clearly and effectively the truth of the scriptures (<i>didasko</i>) didactic – systematic impartation of practical or theoretical knowledge.</p> <p>Scripture Acts 28: 30-31</p>

<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to express his message verbally, to say what is on his mind • ability to discern the character and motives of others • capacity to identify, define and hate evil • willing to experience brokenness to prompt repentance in others • dependence on scripture truth, deals with the Word of God • desire for outward evidence of conviction • inward weeping over others sins • eager to have blind spots pointed out to self • for women especially – used in a ministry of intercessory prayer 	<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alert to practical needs and desire to meet needs promptly • able to recall specific preferences of others • stamina to disregard physical weariness • willing to use own funds to avoid delay • desire to sense sincere appreciation • completes job with unexpected “extras” • finds it difficult to say “no” • enjoys short range goal, frustration with long range goals • a servant needs to know “if it useful” 	<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • believes that his gift is foundational to all others • emphasis on accuracy of words • needs to test the knowledge of his own teachers for accuracy • delights in research, loves books • always fitting new information into known system of truth • has a systematic presentation, needs order, outlines, organizes material • avoidance of extra-Biblical (secular) illustrations • resistance to using scripture out of context • may have a greater joy in research or study then presenting. Teacher asks “is it clear”?
<p>Exhorter</p> <p>Approaching ministry as an exhorter</p> <p>Definition</p> <p>One who ministers words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they are helped and healed. (<i>parakaleo</i>)</p> <p>Para- (to the side), (<i>kaleo</i>) (to call) - being called to the side of someone in their time of need</p> <p>Scripture</p> <p>II Cor. 1:3-7</p>	<p>Giving</p> <p>Approaching ministry as a giver</p> <p>Definition</p> <p>One who ministers to the body by giving or sharing of oneself to meet needs. (<i>metadidomi</i>) – meta (with), didomi (to give) – to give a share of.</p> <p>Scripture</p> <p>I. Thessalonians 2:8</p>	<p>Leadership</p> <p>Approaching ministry as a leader</p> <p>Definition</p> <p>One who sets goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. (<i>proistemi</i>) – to stand before, manage, superintend, lead, direct</p> <p>Scripture</p> <p>I Thessalonians 2:8</p>

Characteristics

- desire to help people do better in their walk
- desire to visualize specific achievement
- desire to prescribe steps of action as revealed in Scriptures makes an excellent counselor
- has the tendency to avoid theory that lacks application
- wants to know “how do I do it”?
- Ability to see how tribulation works new levels of maturity (Rom. 5)
- dependence on visible acceptance of their advice
- love to discover scriptural insights to human experience
- grief over teaching without steps of action
- delight in personal contact and discussion leading to change

Mercy

Approaching ministry as mercy

Definition

One who feels genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who suffer physically, emotionally, and mentally and ministers in deeds that reflect Christ's love (*eleos*) – outward expression of pity

Scripture

James 2:15-16

Characteristics

- ability to make wise use of money in purchases and investments
- desire to give quietly to effective ministries – not for recognition
- seeks to motivate others to give by example
- enjoys giving without pressure of appeals
- finds joy when learning his gift is an answer to specific prayer
- dependence on their partners confirmation
- concern that the gift be of high quality, not out of surplus but sacrifice
- desire to feel a part of the work to which he gives through appreciation
- is not necessarily wealthy, but gives of what he has

Characteristics

- motivated to organize his tasks – set goals
- sees the over all long range picture
- awareness of resources available
- knows what can and cannot be delegated
- tends to stand to the side until given responsibility and authority
- tends to assume responsibility if no structure exists
- willing to endure reaction from workers
- finds fulfillment in seeing the pieces come together
- desires to move on to a new challenge when task is fully completed

<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feels the joy or distress of person or group – empathy • moved with compassion and understanding toward persons in distress • desire to remove hurts and bring healing • touched by mental more than physical distress • avoids firmness until sees how it benefits • sensitivity to words and actions that hurt others • enjoyment of other empathizers – oneness of spirit • closing of spirit to the sincere or insensitive 		
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IV. Ministry Gifts

A. Equipping Gifts

“And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...” Eph. 4:11-13a

B. Gifts of people called and gifted to lead and train the body of Christ

1. Apostle – one who establishes and strengthens churches
2. Prophet – one who speak forth the message of God
3. Evangelist – one who is called to preach the gospel
4. Pastor – one who feeds and shepherds the believers
5. Teacher – one who instructs believers in the Word

C. Goal

1. Prepare the body for service
2. Build up the body
3. Unity – one in faith and the knowledge of God
4. Maturity – truth and power working together

D. John Calvin wrote in his Institutes Vol. 1

We see that He was anointed by the Spirit to be herald and witness of the Father's grace. And that not in the common way – for He is distinguished from other teachers with a similar office. On the other hand, we must note this: He received anointing, not only for Himself that He might carry out the office of teaching, but for his whole body that the power of the Spirit might be present in the continuing preaching of the gospel.... Then this anointing was diffused from the Head to the members, as Joel foretold: “Your sons shall prophecy and your daughters shall see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” Joel 2:28-29

V. Manifestational Gifts

A. To manifest the presence and evidence of the Holy Spirit – there are different ways the Holy spirit demonstrates His presence in the world. I Cor. 12:7

B. To express the Lordship of Jesus Christ and advance the Kingdom of God. They are the means by which Jesus continues to exercise His Lordship through believers. (John 14:12-14)

C. To confirm the message of salvation – the message is confirmed through signs, wonders, miracles and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Heb. 2:1-5)

D. Given for witness and outreach - not just through words or rational arguments, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:18-19)

E. Given for the up building and common good of the body and as a visible demonstration to the world of God's power and presence