

SPIRITUAL GIFT PROBLEMS

In the analogy of the human body, Paul associated functional problems with spiritual gifts (12:12-20).

These problems can occur in spiritual mature believers when they become subjective about the function of their spiritual gifts (12:21-27).

This lesson will study some typical problems associated with the function of NINE spiritual gifts.

1. **Pastor-teacher (poimen-didaskalos):** The supernatural ability to categorize and communicate the word of God for spiritual growth (Eph.4: 11; Heb.5: 11-14).

PROBLEMS: He can get into burnout by doing the work of other gifts. He struggles with distractions from studying and teaching and praying (Acts 6:4-5). He neglects the spiritual attention of his own family by focusing on other member's problems. He can become discouraged and even bitter by the spiritual apathy of the congregation.

2. **Evangelist (euaggelistes):** Supernatural ability to identify individual as well as pockets of positive volition towards the gospel of grace salvation (Eph.4: 11; Acts 8).

PROBLEMS: He struggles with finances in his life and ministry. He struggles with distraction from spiritual growth momentum in the local church because of active ministry. He neglects the spiritual attention of his own family because of the difficulty of juggling commitments. He often feels alone in his ministry because of absence from his home base.

3. **Service in Ministry (diakonia en te diakonia):** Supernatural ability to serve in ministry activities within the local church (Rom.12: 7; 1 Cor.16: 15-18; 2 Tim.4: 11-13).

PROBLEMS: He can become so ministry-minded that he neglect assembly for spiritual growth momentum. He tends to choose a church that is ministry oriented but that may not be spiritual growth oriented (Heb.5: 13-14). This leads to neglect of his family's need for spiritual growth. He might get into personal conflict within specific ministries and stop serving or leave the place where God led him.

4. **Exhort in Exhortation (parakaleo en to paraklesis):** Supernatural ability to exhort in a situation where encouragement is needed within the church (Rom.12: 1-5,8; 1 Thess.3: 1-7).

PROBLEMS: He becomes discouraged when the exhortation is not taken seriously. Sometimes the exhorter forgets that the things revealed in confidence should remain between them and the Lord and NO ONE else. Gossip or other sins of the tongue as well as mental attitude sins can be associate with this gift.

5. **Giving in Generosity (metadidomi en haplotes):** Supernatural ability to perceive a need and to give of oneself and one's resources **that produces a gracious attitude in the recipient** (Rom.12:8; 1 Cor.13:3).

PROBLEMS: He must be aware of the Scriptures that warn about money like 1 Tim.6: 9-10. He struggles with understanding that God funnels money through this gift for spiritual projects within the ministries of the

church. He might want to associate power and strings with the gift of giving. If he doesn't get his way, he may leave and take his gift and money with him and forgets that money is only one aspect of this gift.

6. **Leads in Diligence (proistemi en spoude):** Supernatural ability to take the leadership initiative in some specific function of the church **that produces an eager desire to follow in recipients** (Rom.12: 8).

PROBLEMS: He struggles because he may never have been a leader in any area of his life prior to salvation. Sometimes personality conflict can occur between other leaders with the gift or with immature followers. He can become discouraged when he perceives that enough people aren't following to complete the task. He may forget that God is in charge of every spiritual project and will always have enough to complete the task (Life of Gideon; Judges 6-8).

7. **Mercy in Cheerfulness (eleeo en hilarotes):** Supernatural ability to minister to those suffering within the church **that renders kindness that encourages the spirit of the one suffering towards hope in God** (Rom.12:8; Acts 9:36-39; 1 Cor.16:18).

PROBLEMS: He can get caught up into the emotional side of suffering and lose ministry objectivity. Sometimes ministering to those suffering can cause one to revert to old man baggage and lose his focus on ministry. He must learn to leave other's pain and healing with the Lord and move on to the next assignment. He might become discouraged when the suffering people doesn't appear to be getting better.

8. **Administration (kubernesis):** Supernatural ability to coordinate details of the activities and ministries within the church (1 Cor.12:28; Acts 6:1-4).

PROBLEMS: He can become discouraged when the leadership of the church doesn't seem interested in organizational details for these activities or ministries. He becomes disheartened when others don't take seriously the function of his gift. He can become too rigid in his organization and administrating to be flexible with both the project and the people. He must remember that there are 8 other gifted believers engaged in the Lord's work.

9. **Helps (antilempsis):** Supernatural ability to render assistance to some burdensome task within the church (1 Cor.12: 28; 16:16).

PROBLEMS: He struggles with the wear and tear of the worker bee mentality. There always seems to be more work than workers. He can get so involved in so many activities that he neglects family time and other community ministry opportunities. He can become discouraged and judgmental of others that don't seem to understand the amount of work that needs to be done by so few. He sometimes forgets that he lives EACH DAY as unto the Lord - one day at a time (Rom.14:4-9).