

**WINNING AT WHAT MATTERS MOST**  
**If You Are Not Winning Souls Than You're Not Winning!**  
**Part Two: Presentation Issues**

**Message 7: The *Reality* of Soul-Winning- Your Spiritual Gifts and Evangelism**  
**Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, July 3, 2005**

**INTRODUCTION:**

There are basically three “lists” of Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament. These lists are comprised of a series of “functions” that we call “Spiritual Gifts.” Consider these lists.

***List One***

*1 Cor 12:27, 28- now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

***List Two***

*Eph 4:11, 12- And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

***List Three***

*Rom 12:6-8- Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teaches, on teaching; or he that exhorted, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

***Combining the Lists***

By itemizing the individual “functions” of these lists, and by adding “the interpretation of tongues” (Paul’s letters), we come up with a list of 16 “functions”: 1) Apostles, 2) Prophets, 3) Teachers, 4) Miracles, 5) Healings, 6) Helps, 7) Governments, 8) Tongues, 9) Interpretation of tongues, 10) Evangelists, 11) Pastors, 12) Ministry, 13) Exhorters, 14) Giving, 15) Rulers, and 16) Mercy.

While some say there are as many as 19-25 gifts, they mistakenly refer to

“functions” as “gifts.” In the previous list, “apostles” refers to an “office,” not a “gift.” “Miracles” and “healings” are one gift- “miracles.” “Helps” and “ministry” are one gift- “serving.” “Governments” and “rulers” are one gift-“administration.” With the passing of the Apostolic Age, the office of “apostle,” as well as the gifts of “miracles, healings, tongues, and interpretation,” have ceased, at least in a *normative* sense, *leaving us with a list of nine Spiritual Gifts: 1) Prophecy (preaching); 2) Teaching; 3) Serving; 4) Administration; 5) Evangelism; 6) Shepherding (pastor); 7) Encouragement (exhortation); 8) Giving; and 9) Mercy.*

#### SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW:

Prov. 11: 30, 31:

*<sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise. <sup>31</sup> If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.*

Here are some principles that we will reiterate on a regular basis throughout this series:

1. **The Sweepstakes Principle:** You can't win the sweepstakes if you don't enter; likewise, you can't lead people to Christ (win at what matters most) if you don't try!
2. **The Reap-What-You-Sow Principle:** You can't reap souls if you don't sow the Gospel. People can only respond to what they know, only know what they hear about, and only hear what you tell them.
3. **The “Be Yourself” Principle:** Don't try to be Billy Graham or Charles Stanley or Pastor “so and so.” Be who God made *you*. Authenticity is a vital component of the evangelism process. God is real; you be real, too.

This series looks like this:

**Part One: Preliminary Principles (completed)**

**Part Two: Presentation Principles (continuing)**

**Part Three: Problem Principles**

**Part Four: Power Principles**

**PROPOSITION:** We need to consider three types of Spiritual Gifts that can be used to help us “win at what matters most,” that is, win people to Christ

Note: With each Spiritual Gift, we will consider the Explanation of the Gift, and then the Application of the Gift.

**I. THERE ARE SPEAKING GIFTS TO BE USED FOR REACHING THE LOST (Confrontational Gifts).**

A. The Gift of **Prophecy** (Preaching) Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Prophecy is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to preach, or proclaim God's truth in a straightforward and relevant way. While the gift did at one time (during the Apostolic Age) include the ability to communicate direct revelations from God, in the present dispensation, it is limited to proclaiming truth as revealed in the written Word of God, the Bible.**

Application of the Gift...

1. Make sure you are diplomatic in your confrontations, but do not be afraid to "tell it like it is." Most people don't!
2. God wants you to lovingly point out sin, but He also wants you to direct the sinner to a sin-less Christ!
3. Whether by preaching from the pulpit or preaching through a godly life, your gift is necessary to "confront" people with their need for Christ.

B. The Gift of **Teaching** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Teaching is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to make the truths of Scripture clear with accuracy and simplicity. The Teacher is able to bring God's Word "to life," while properly interpreting the implications and meanings of the Bible. "Teaching" is not an *office*, but a *gift*. Many people who cannot *really* teach will hold the office of teacher, while many with the *gift* of teaching do not have such an *office*.**

Application of the Gift...

1. First, the "teacher" is able to communicate complex ideas in an understandable way.

2. Secondly, the teacher is able to "hold the attention" of her audience.
3. Finally, the Gospel is truth, and teaching communicates truth.

C. The Gift of **Evangelism** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Evangelism is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to lead people to a saving knowledge of Christ. While all Christians are commanded to “witness,” the evangelist has the supernatural ability to be especially effective in the area of soul-winning. This gift is not to be confused with the modern-day connotation of the word “evangelist.” While modern evangelists minister the Gospel to crowds, the person with the gift of evangelism usually ministers one on one.**

Application of the Gift...

1. Unlike prophecy and teaching, which focus mainly on the dissemination of information, the gift of evangelism focuses on the results of such communication.
2. The response may not always be "yes," but the hearer will respond to the evangelist, one way or the other.

## II. ***THERE ARE SERVING GIFTS TO BE USED FOR REACHING THE LOST (Practical Gifts).***

A. The Gift of **Shepherding** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Shepherding is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to oversee, train, and care for a body of believers. This gift is also known as “pastoring.” While not all people with this gift are *pastors* (“pastor” is an *office*), all pastors (*office*) must have the Spiritual Gift of shepherding. “Shepherds” have a supernatural burden for the Spiritual well-being of other believers. The shepherd literally “lays down his life for the sheep.”**

Application of the Gift...

1. In this capacity, you are to primarily minister to believers.
2. This gift, however, inclines one to evangelism as well, as the shepherd will want to “leave the ninety-nine to find the one” lost sheep who must be brought

into the fold.

B. The Gift of **Serving** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Serving is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to help others, both practically and spiritually. This service may include hospitality, helps, and ministering. The *Server* goes beyond *acts* of serving. The server actually *enjoys* serving others. Obligation, coercion, or what others think does not play into the motives and reasons for serving.**

Application of the Gift...

1. The servant will automatically help others, and has a propensity to “put others first.”
2. This gift gives the Gospel message credibility. People will reason that Christianity “works” because they see it “work” in people with servant hearts.
3. If you have this gift, intentionally use it to serve the lost, not just believers. Watch what God will do when you reach out the non-believers!

C. The Gift of **Administration** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Administration is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to organize, administer, promote, and lead the ministries of the local church. The *Administrator* has a supernatural gift that is much needed in the body. While many who do not have this gift hold the *office* of administrator (God help us), there are also many administrators who do not hold such an office. For instance, the homemaker who seems to have her/his house in order, while maintaining a happy and balanced family, probably has the gift of administration.**

Application of the Gift...

1. If you are an organizer, creatively use this gift to not only organize your own evangelism efforts, but to organize others, as well.
2. A systematic approach to evangelism requires a good deal of organization, so God saw fit to give the church people with this gift.

**III. THERE ARE SENSITIVE GIFTS TO BE USED FOR REACHING**

## ***THE LOST (Relational Gifts).***

### A. The Gift of **Mercy** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Mercy is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to identify and comfort those who are in distress or who are suffering. *Mercy* is to be distinguished from *pity*. “Pity” is “feeling sorry for someone.” “Mercy” is “rolling up your sleeves and doing something about it.” Mercy show-ers are not afraid of doing what some people may feel is “demeaning.” They also have a tendency to give wrong doers a second (and third and fourth) chance, or give people the benefit of the doubt.**

Application of the Gift...

1. Many will say, “We ought to love people like Jesus loved people,” but when it comes down to the wire, they won’t go where the lost are.
2. Sometimes we can’t reach people from the pulpits and the lecterns; they must be reached in the streets, the alleys, the hospitals, and the AIDS wards.
3. Mercy-givers are just what the Great Physician ordered when it comes to reaching those who are suffering, disillusioned, or disenfranchised. Use this gift to its fullest!

### B. The Gift of **Giving** Can Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Giving is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to give from material and financial resources far above the tithe or expected standard of giving. *Givers* usually have a great ability to make and/or manage money, and are not materialistic themselves. Givers would rather give money to those in need or to effective ministries, than to keep it. Givers know that giving is not a *money* issue, but a *Spiritual* one.**

Application of the Gift...

1. The Christian with the gift of giving can use her gift to underwrite the ministry of evangelism in the local church.
2. If you have this gift, ask your pastor what the greatest needs are concerning soul-winning.

### C. The Gift of **Encouragement** Be Used to Win Souls.

Explanation of the Gift...

The Gift of Encouragement is: **The Spirit-endowed ability and desire to motivate and encourage people, not only to have proper and Godly attitudes, but also to pursue a spiritual course of conduct. Encouragers are quick to complement, are self-assured, and are not concerned if someone other than himself or herself gets credit for something. Their motto is “God loves you and so do I.”**

Application of the Gift...

1. First, encourage other soul-winners.
2. Secondly, encourage the lost.

#### ***IV. THERE WERE SIGN GIFTS THAT WERE USED FOR REACHING THE LOST (Sensational Gifts).***

While these gifts are not in *normative* use today, they served to further the Kingdom when God was establishing Christianity in the first century. The three gifts constituting the *Sign Gifts* were Miracles, Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues. These gifts emerged in their delivery from the *Apostolic Office* (this does not mean that only Apostles performed these signs, but that these signs were performed during the Apostolic Age). They involved the mind, will, and heart. I strongly believe these gifts ceased at about the time of the Diaspora (dispersion of the Jews) after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

***APPLICATION:*** As you can see, Spiritual Gifts have more to do with evangelism than what we might first believe. If God has empowered Christians to minister to each other, surely He has empowered us to expand the Kingdom of God, and use our gifts to bring others into His family. As we said, the only thing we can take to Heaven is other people!