

# Gifted to Serve (Pt. 5)

## *Romans 12:3-8*

I. Think about Your Spiritual Gift Accurately (3-5)

II. Use Your Spiritual Gift Responsibly (6-8)

A. Understand the NT Spiritual Gifts.

B. Use Your Giftedness as Your Primary Ministry (6-8a)

1. Prophecy (6c)

- An ability to be a channel of direct revelation primarily in local churches, which was crucial until the completion of the NT.

2. Service (7a)

## 2) Service (7a)

- An ability to know how best to meet people's temporal needs and an unusual skill in meeting those needs
- This gift is evident in...
  - The 7 men who oversaw the distribution of food to widows (Acts 6:1-2)
  - Dorcas (Acts 9:39)
  - Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:16-18)
  - Onesimus (Philemon 13)

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    - 1. Prophecy (6c)
    - 2. Service (7a)
    - 3. Teaching (7b)

### 3) Teaching (7b)

- An ability to grasp, arrange, and present revealed truth effectively and in an organized manner, so those who hear gain an enhanced understanding of Scripture, either publicly (Acts 18:11) or privately (Acts 18:26).
- Required of an elder and a crucial part of his role (1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Eph. 4:11)
- Teaching was crucial in the early church (1 Tim. 1:10; 4:13-16\*; 6:3; 2 Tim. 2:2; 2:15; 3:10; Titus 1:9; 2:1, 7, 10).

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4. Exhortation (8a)

## 4) Exhortation (8a)

- An ability to explain and apply the truth to believers and persuade them to believe and obey it.
- Persuading someone to...
  - Think biblically about an issue (Titus 1:9)
  - Be strengthened in the faith (1 Th. 3:2)
  - Make a biblically wise or morally right choice (Phil. 4:2; 1 Th. 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:11)
  - Find comfort and assurance in God and the Scripture (2 Cor. 1:4)
- Accompanied by reading/reciting and explaining of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13)
- Publicly through preaching (1 Tim. 4:13) and writing (Rom. 12:1)
- Privately through encouraging and counseling (Acts 4:36; 9:26ff)

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5. Giving (8b)

## 5) Giving (8b)

- An ability to effectively invest one's material resources for spiritual and kingdom purposes
- Acts 4:36-37 - Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.
- Those with the gift of giving personally funded the ministry of our Lord (Luke 8:1-3).



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5. Giving (8b)

6. Leading (8c)

## 6) Leading (8c)

- An ability in leadership and administration
- Elders must have this gift (1 Tim. 3:4-5; *manage*).
- It's a crucial part of the elder's role (1 Th. 5:12; 1 Pet. 5:2-3)

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    - 4. Exhortation (8a)
    - 5. Giving (8b)
    - 6. Leading (8c)
    - 7. Showing Mercy (8d)

## 7) Showing Mercy (8d)

- An ability to help, assist, and relieve those experiencing distress, misery, or pain.

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C. Use Your Giftedness with the Right Attitude (8b-d)

1. Prophecy with Carefulness (6c)

2. Serve with Dependence on God (1 Pet. 4:11)

3. Teach as if Speaking God's Utterances (1 Pet. 4:11)

4. Exhort with Patience & Instruction (2 Tim. 4:2)

5. Give with Liberality (8b)

6. Lead with Diligence (8c)

7. Show Mercy with Cheerfulness (8d)