

GOD GAVE GIFTS

(Part 6) “The Serving Gifts”

(Giving, Faith, Discernment)

INTRO:

I. THE GIFT OF GIVING (Rom. 12:8)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. The word for “contribution” (giving) in this verse is a compound word that means “to super-give to others.”
2. This compound word is found five times in the NT (Luke 3:11; Rom. 1:11; 12:8; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thes. 2:8).
3. “Contributing” (Giving) is *the God-given ability to generously, cheerfully and frequently provide resources for God’s people and God’s work*. You don’t have to possess a lot to have this gift. The goal of this gift is to wisely distribute and manage God’s resources to meet the needs of others and to enhance the work of God.

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Giving anything is never a burden but a love.
2. Usually prefer giving quietly and discreetly.
3. Keen ability to make wise financial (resource) decisions.
4. Desire their gifts to be high in quality.
5. Able to discern what resource is needed and when it is needed.
6. Want their giving to encourage others to give.
7. Gives apart from the pressure of appeals.
8. Often live a very frugal lifestyle.
9. More likely to give to special needs and projects.
10. Very sensitive about what others do with their resources.

Examples?

II. THE GIFT OF FAITH (1 Cor.12:9)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. The Greek word for “faith” means “to believe, to trust, to have assurance, or to be convinced about someone or something.”
2. This word is found over 500 times in the NT. Context determines its meaning, whether it refers to God’s Word, saving faith, living faith, or gifted faith.

3. “Faith” is *the God-given ability to see what can be done for God, and to truly believe God can do it, no matter the circumstances*.

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. These are the visionaries, dreamers, promoters, and pray-ers of the church.
2. Truly believe God can do whatever needs to be done regardless of the circumstances or difficulties.
3. Avoid people who are critical, negative, and questioning.
4. Impatient with those that are cautious and logical planners.
5. Easily frustrated with any system of red tape and details.

Examples?

III. THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT (1 Cor. 12:10)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. The phrase “distinguishing” (discerning) between spirits is a compound Greek word meaning “to judge or discern through a situation to come to a decision.”
2. Though this gift is only mentioned in this list, the word is used some 20 times in the NT. It always carries the ideas of perception, differentiation, and evaluation (1 Jn. 4:1-3).
3. “Discernment” is *the God-given ability to consistently and accurately evaluate the source of a situation, someone’s words, or another’s behavior*.

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Uniquely perceives the motivation behind what people say and do.
2. Just seem to know when a person or situation is just not right.
3. Quickly notes Scripture that is wrongly interpreted and/or misapplied.
4. Strong desire to improve and/or fix things that are wrong or broken.
5. Tend to be suspicious and untrusting of others.

Examples?

CONC: