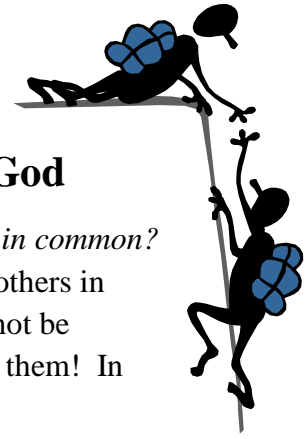


Lesson #7: Gifts of Support for the Work of God

What do the prayer warrior in the night and the secretary at a desk have in common? Both may be moving in a spiritual gift that serves to provide support for others in ministry work! Like internal organs in the human body, these roles may not be visible or even attractive, but the very survival of the body depends upon them! In this chapter we consider this unusual, critical constellation of gifts.



Intercession
Helps
Administration
Giving
Craftsmanship

The Gift of Intercession

²³ As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you... 1 Samuel 12:23

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7

Evidence that you may have the gift of intercession

Ask yourself the following...

- Do feel an impulse to pray and fast for long periods of time?
- Does the Spirit sometimes reveal special requests for you to carry in prayer?
- Does God sometimes wake you to pray in the night?
- Do you sometimes experience an emotional agony when praying, even groaning?
- Do you regularly have testimonies of specific answers to prayer?
- Do you sometimes sense the presence of spiritual warfare and as a result pray through the night or fast until you feel a type of “breakthrough” or “release?”
- Does God sometimes burden you to pray for a specific person, and then you later discover that he or she was in need at that very time?

Perhaps you have the gift of intercession!

Definition: *A special anointing to pray intensely and for long periods of time, guided by the Holy spirit, and resulting in specific answers.*

Purpose: *To invoke the power of the Holy Spirit upon the ministry and provide spiritual “covering” from the attacks of the devil.*



Biblical Intercessors:

1. Abraham intercedes for Sodom (Genesis 18)

2. Moses Intercedes for the Israelites

³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.” Exodus 32:31-32

3. Moses prays for Joshua in battle v. the Amalekites

¹¹ As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. Exodus 17:11

4. Hannah prayed intensely for a baby

¹² As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk. 1 Samuel 1:12-13

5. Elijah prayed for drought and then for rain

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. James 5:17-18

6. Daniel provided “cover” for angels in spiritual battle

¹² Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Daniel 10:12-13

7. Jeremiah pleaded for mercy for the people of Judah

¹¹ Oh, that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
for the slain of my people. Jeremiah 9:1

8. Ana and Simeon interceded for the redemption of Israel – Luke 2

9. Paul agonized in prayer for the spiritual formation of his churches

¹ I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. Colossians 2:1



Potential pitfalls for the gift of intercession

Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful....

- *Of spiritual pride.* Do not consider yourself better than other believers because of your prayer life.
- *To submit to spiritual authority.* The intercessor moves in a spiritually “charged” atmosphere, more exposed to the attacks of Satan. If he or she moves out from under the cover of spiritual authority, they are vulnerable to Satanic attack.
- *To care for your emotional and physical health.* Being out of shape or neurotic does not make your prayers more efficacious!
- *To share with other brothers and sisters.* Careful not to be a lone ranger.
- *To cultivate an organized and balanced life.* Keep a budget. Use a calendar...etc.

Questions:

Define the gift of intercession: _____

_____.

What is the purpose of the gift of intercession? _____

_____.

Mention some indications that one may have this gift.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Mention some Biblical examples of this gift in action.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

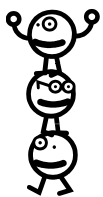
4. _____

Which is your favorite example above? Why?

Mention some warnings for a person who has this gift.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Why is it especially important for an intercessor to be under the covering of spiritual authorities in a church?



The gift of helps – A good armor bearer

²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, **of helping**, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28

Evidence that you may have the gift of helps

Ask yourself...

- Do you enjoy helping your cell leader prepare the refreshments (without being asked to do so)?
- Do you jump in to help out during a church project or outing?
- Would you rather be “behind the scenes?” Does it make you uncomfortable when thanked in public?
- Do you find yourself often setting up and removing chairs for meetings?
- Do you enjoy “watching the back” of your pastor and other leaders?
- Do you feel comfortable recruiting others to help out for ministry projects.
- Do you have knack for “being in the right place” when there is a need?
- Do you have a type of “radar” to detect what kind of practical help someone in ministry might need, and then meet those needs before being asked to do so?



Perhaps you have the gift of helps!

Definition: A special anointing to work alongside others and support their ministry work.

Purpose: Permit other Christians (generally leaders) to be more effective and fruitful in their ministry, helping them with practical and necessary tasks.

Note: The gift of helps is more specific than the gift of service.

The gift of service fills the general needs of others to show love and mercy.

The gift of helps supports others who serve in ministry to help them be more effective.

Biblical “Helpers”

Jonathan’s Armor Bearer – Read 1 Samuel 14:6-14

How did the armor bearer help Jonathan win the battle?

1. _____
2. _____

What is the armor bearer’s name? _____

Phoebe helped Paul

¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. ² I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. Ro16:1-2

Women supported Jesus

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. Marcos 15:40-41.

Potential pitfalls for the gift of helps –



Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...

- To remember the value of your gift. Less visible does not mean that it is expendable.
- Not to focus so much on the task at hand that you forget the bigger picture.
- To remember that you cannot do it all. Sometimes you must say “no!”
- To be careful not to try to control those you help!
- To not feel “left out” if you are not able to help in a particular project.

Questions:

Define the gift of helps. _____

_____.

What is the purpose of the gift of helps? _____

_____.

How is the gift of helps different from the gift of service (for our purposes)?

_____.

List the indications that you have the gift of helps.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

What are some pitfalls that come with this gift?

1. _____

2. _____

Mention someone you know whom you believe demonstrates this gift.

_____.

What is a way that someone with the gift of helps could support the pastor in his ministry?

_____.

How might a gift of helps be valuable in a cell group?

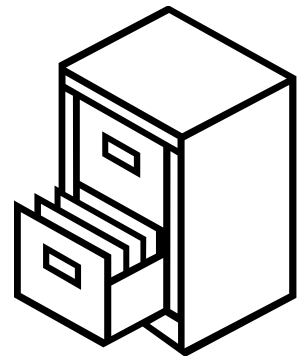
_____.

Mention several ministries or roles which would require someone with the gift of helps.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The Gift of Administration

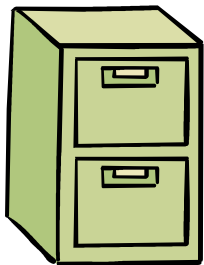
²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Luke 14:28-30



Evidence that you may have the gift of administration

Ask yourself...

- Do you enjoy taking time to plan and make specific goals?
- Do you like to learn new technologies?
- Do you use a calendar and make thorough lists each day?
 - Can you multi-task well?
 - Do you have a servant heart
 - Do you feel a drive to finish tasks through to completion?
 - Would you say you are detail oriented?
 - Is your desk kept clean and in order?
 - Do you keep your check-book balanced?



Definition: A special anointing to coordinate and organize people and projects.

Purpose: To assure that the dreams, plans, goals and visions of the ministry become reality in an efficient and smooth manner.



Biblical Administrators

Read Acts 6:1-7 – *The First Deacons*

Describe the conflict presented in this text.

How does good administration help solve this crisis?

Read Exodus 18:12-27 – *The advice of Jethro (Moses' Father in law)*

What problem is presented in this text?

What is the solution?

Potential pitfalls for the gift of administration



Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...

- Not to *hyper-focus* on the task at hand and forget to pay attention to the people involved
- Not to *use people's efforts* in a cold or impersonal way.
- Not to “*get lost in the details*” and forget the overall goals of the vision.
- Not to be *perfectionistic*.
- Not to be so *strict* in attention to the rules that you forget to have mercy.
- To be patient with those who are less organized than you are. Rather than giving into complaining and criticism, work towards improvements.

Questions

List some signs that you may have the gift of administration.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List the potential pitfalls that come along with this gift.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Define the gift of administration: _____

_____.

What is the purpose of the gift of administration? _____

_____.

Mention some of the administrative issues a church faces.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Mention some specific ways a person with this gift can serve in the church.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Gift of Giving

...if it is giving, then give generously; Romans 12:8



Evidence that you may have the gift of giving

Ask yourself...

- Do you enjoy making secret donations to various causes?
- Do you “worry” about the financial needs that churches or missionaries have and make a point of finding out their situations?
- Do experience joy when giving?
- Do you seem to have a knack for making money?
- Do you feel personally implicated when you hear about some need in the kingdom of God?
- Does it come easily to you to give large sums of money?
- Do you manage your money well?
- Are you generous not only with your money, but also with your time?

Maybe you have the gift of giving!

Definition: *A special attention to the financial needs of the church; and the capacity to contribute cheerfully and generously to meet those needs.*

Purpose: *To provide for the needs of the church to extend the kingdom of God on earth.*

Biblical “Givers”

1. The women and Jesus

² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke 8:2-3

2. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

They donated a costly tomb and spices for Jesus’ burial. (John 19:38-42)

3. Barnabas and the early believers

“... there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet. Acts 4:34-37.

4. *The church in Macedonia* – Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

How does the Macedonian church provide a special example for us? What were the characteristics of their generosity?

Clarifications

- *The gift of giving is not necessarily associated with personal wealth.* The poor widow gave “more” in God’s eyes than the wealthier contributors. (Luke 21:1-3)
- *This gift is not limited to financial contributions.* Dorcas gave out garments and coats to the indigent. (Acts 9:39)
- *Giving one’s self is as important as giving one’s resources.* The church of Macedonia first “gave themselves” to the Lord, and then donated to Paul’s ministry. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

Potential pitfalls for this gift



Watch out! If you have the gift of giving, be careful...

- Not to seek recognition and approval (as did Ananias and Saphira – Acts 5)
- Not to try to exert control over the church leadership because of your generosity.
- Of pride.
- Not to expect special treatment because of your giving.

Questions

Define the gift of giving: _____

What is the purpose of the gift of giving? _____

Mention some Biblical examples of this gift.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Mention some clarifications regarding this gift.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List some potential pitfalls associated with this gift.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



The Gift of Craftsmanship

Definition: *A special anointing to create and enhance the physical spaces through which the ministry takes place. (carpentry, decoration, floral arranging...etc.)*

Purpose: *To provide functional and attractive spaces through which the work of the Lord can be done most effectively.*

Evidence that you may have this gift

Ask yourself...

- Do you feel God's joy when you work with your hands?
- Are you skilled in construction or decoration?
- Do you tend to notice details in a physical space that need improvement?

Perhaps you have the gift of craftsmanship!

Anointed Craftsmen: *Bezalel and Ohaliab* -- Read Exodus 31:1-22 and 35:30-35

Describe the calling and anointing of Bezalel and Ohaliab.



Potential pitfalls for the gift of craftsmanship

Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...

- Not to confuse natural skill for the spiritual gift
- Not to be perfectionistic.
- Not to forget the “why” behind what you are doing.
- To pray and seek God’s wisdom about how to improve physical spaces



Questions:

Define the gift of craftsmanship. _____

_____.

What is the purpose of the gift of craftsmanship? _____

_____.

Mention some specific ways this gift can be used in the church.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Mention the names of some people you know who have this gift.

1. _____
2. _____

If you paint a wall....

... is it obvious that a Christian

painted that wall?

