Scott A. Wood 5-19-2019

SERIES: DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE

PART 10C: I AM GIFTED

This morning (afternoon) I want to finish what I started four weeks ago in looking at the different spiritual gifts in how God manifests Himself in our life together. We’re looking at who God says we are in the book of Ephesians when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ. We have seen so far that: I am in Christ; I am a saint; I am blessed because of Jesus; I am appreciated; I am saved; I am reconciled to God because of Jesus; I am afflicted because I identify with Jesus; I am heard, because I have unhindered access to the Father in prayer because of Jesus.

What does it mean that I—that you—are gifted? We can answer this question with another question: God and His gifts, or God in His gifts? Dr. Sam Storms writes, **“Spiritual gifts are not God bestowing to His people something external to Himself. They are not some tangible ‘stuff’ or substance separable from God. Spiritual gifts are nothing less than God Himself in us energizing our souls, imparting revelation to our minds, infusing power in our wills and working His sovereign and gracious purposes through us. Spiritual gifts must never be viewed deistically, as if a God ‘out there’ has sent some ‘thing’ to us ‘down here.’ Spiritual gifts are God present in, with and through human thoughts, human deeds, human words, human love.”** Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:7, **“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”** This is Paul saying that the Holy Spirit is making Himself visibly evident in our midst whenever the gifts are in use. Storms writes, **“Spiritual gifts are concrete disclosures of divine activity and only secondarily human activity. Spiritual gifts are the presence of the Spirit Himself coming to relatively clear, even dramatic, expression in the way we do ministry.”** In other words, the reason our study in the spiritual gifts is so important is that the Holy Spirit gifts is how God makes Himself public in our midst. Oh, loved ones, this will make your heart hunger to make yourself available to Father God, so He can reveal Himself through you and through me. This is God’s purpose for the church, that Jesus would be seen in the world through His church.

Please follow along as I read the texts of Scripture that we will look at today. **“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility it to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.”** Ephesians 4:11-13; **“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it. 28Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.”** 1 Corinthians 12:27-28; **“In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”** Romans 12:6-8; **“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God Himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to Him forever and ever! Amen.”** 1 Peter 4:10-11

**Unpacking the gifts God has given to you: First step is to identify the gifts God has given to you:**

**X. Apostleship**

**It is important to make the distinction between the office of Apostle and the gift of apostle. The office of Apostle refers to the early apostles chosen by Jesus.** To be an Apostle with the office it dictated that you were a witness of the life and resurrection of Jesus and miraculous power. The office of Apostle based on this definition doesn’t exist today. In other words, Apostles are not writing any more books of the Bible. We call this the Canon. The 66 books of the Bible. However, the function of their office continues but in a limited sense. This secondary sense of the apostle applies to people in the N.T. like Barnabas, Apollos, Sosthenes, Andronicus, Junias, James, Silas, and Timothy. They, like those who function is this secondary office today, are gifted individuals sent out to plant local churches, raise up leaders, and minister cross-culturally. Today, church planters and missionaries can operate out of a gift of apostleship, as well as Christian leaders God raises up to lead and influence multiple churches and pastors. These people often have multiple gifts, such as evangelism, teaching, leadership, faith, and exhortation, and are often motivated by difficult new tasks. I believe Pastor Rick Warren is a good example of a modern-day apostle, according to this definition. See the Scriptures in your notes.

**XI.** **Evangelists**

**Evangelism is the gift and passion to clearly and boldly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to non-Christians. Evangelists feel a great compassion for the lost and seek to earnestly understand their questions and doubts, so they can provide compelling answers.** Overall, they prefer to spend time with the unchurched in the culture than hanging out with Christians in the church. Ephesians 4:11

**XII.** **Pastors/Counselor**

**Pastoring can be seen as a function of the responsibility for those who meet the biblical criteria of elder. In another sense there is a pastoral gift commonly known as shepherding or counseling that God gives to people in the church. Those of us who have a pastoral gift have a deep love and passion for the people of God’s flock that compels and necessitates a pastor-shepherd to protect, guide, counsel, and disciple other people**. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Ephesians 4:11

**XIII.** **Teachers**

**The ability to understand and communicate biblical truth in a clear and relevant manner that promotes understanding and application.** People with this gift enjoy studying and learning new information and find great joy in sharing it with others. The opportunities to teach can vary from one-on-one discipleship to formal seminars or classes, informal Bible studies, large groups, and preaching. Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:26

**XIV. Helps and Services**

**The ability to joyfully work alongside another and help that person complete a God-given task.** Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 4:11

**XV. Administration**

**Can give direction and make decisions on behalf of others that result in efficient operation and accomplishment of goals.** Some of the best administrators I have seen and know are those who are highly efficient, and yet at the same time, they have incredible people skills and can make people comfortable around them, so they can give their best effort. The mark of an administrator is his or her ability to accomplish things in a “fitting and orderly way,” in 1 Corinthians 14:40, and administrators often have a keen eye for detail, resulting in natural talents of organization, observing and using details, problem-solving and reasoning. 1 Corinthians 12:28

**XVI. Encouragement**

**To encourage others, inspiring and motivating others to mature in their walk with Jesus.** Often times people think of encouragement as saying nice things to people and to make them feel good. But this is closer to the definition of a compliment. The word in the Bible has to do more with calling someone to their side in order to teach, comfort, strengthen, and even confront them to change how they think and or act in a different way than how they’re acting. Encouragement means to infuse courage in someone who is turning away from doing something that they know to do, but it seems harder than what they want to be involved in. Similar biblical words that come along the word encouragement are the words exhort, warn or admonish. A true encourager is someone who is patient and is gifted to walk people through the difficult issues they are facing with themselves and others and can point them to face their issues. Romans 12:8

**XVII. Giving**

**The ability to be generous with your finances to joyfully and wisely meet other’s needs and support ministries. It also has to do with giving of your time, talents, treasure, tithe, troubles, and traumas.** Romans 12:8

**XVIII. Leadership**

**Found in people who have a clear, significant vision from God and are able to communicate it publicly and privately in a way to influence people to fulfill God’s purposes for their lives.** Romans 12:8

**XIX. Mercy**

**The capacity to feel and express unusual compassion and sympathy for those in difficult or crisis situations and provide them with the necessary help and support to see them through these tough times.** Romans 12:8

**XX. Hospitality**

**The ability to welcome strangers and guests in your home with great joy and kindness so they become friends.** Romans 12:13

Let’s pray.