

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Session 10: The Gift of Giving

Difference between a gift vs. doing something instructed as part of our Christian walk

Gift of giving vs. being a giver: ***“Give and it shall be given to you.....” Luke 6:38***

We are all instructed in the word to give and to be generous. Giving and generosity benefits our lives as well as lives of those around us. ***Proverbs 11:24-28 (EXB)***

“Some people give much but get back even more. Others don’t give what they should and end up poor. Whoever gives to others will get richer [or blesses others will be refreshed]; those who help [satisfy] others will themselves be helped [satisfied].”

You may have also grown up in an environment where giving was encouraged by your parents or others around. And that’s just something you learned to do. This is not a bad habit and tendency to learn. However, when you have a gift of giving it goes a little beyond that. And the goal tonight is to identify and then activate the gift of giving in you.

Characteristics of the Gift of Giving

- Givers give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift ***Rom. 12:8 “Whoever has the gift of giving to others should give freely [generously].”*** They also give freely of time, energy and love.
- Givers get excited about giving and feel like they’ll never run out of money. They believe God’s got an endless supply. And they are right! If you’re not sure that you have that gift, but have felt at times to give beyond your means – it is possible that desire was placed there by God. Take a step of faith and give. You might just discover you have a blooming gift of giving. If you are, you will NOT be disappointed! ***2 Corinthians 8:1-7 “And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace God gave the churches in Macedonia. Although they have been tested by great troubles [trials; tribulation] and are very poor, they gave much because of their great joy [their deep poverty and abundant joy overflowed into rich generosity]. I can tell you [testify] that they gave as much as they were able and even more than they could afford.”***

Mark 12:41-4

⁴¹ “Jesus sat near the Temple money box [offering chest; or treasury] and watched the people put in their money. Many rich people gave large sums of money. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins [two lepta], which were only worth a few cents which is a quadrans; ⁴³ Calling his followers [disciples] to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow gave more than all those rich people. ⁴⁴ They gave only what they did not need [out of their surplus/abundance]. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had—everything she had to live on.”

- Givers are industrious and have a natural tendency toward success. They prosper because of their giving. Without giving it is impossible to prosper. At the same time, givers love to live by faith and trust God for their needs to be met. This concept is quite real to them and not just a nice saying.
- Givers tend to be generous with giving to others but more frugal when it comes to their own needs. They like to get the best value for the money spent. They often exhibit a selfless characteristic.
- Givers love when their gift is an answer to prayer.
- They love high quality or craftsmanship. When they cannot buy a gift they make it.
- Givers give by the leading of the Holy Spirit. They like to seek confirmation on the amount to give. Mature givers are not gullible.
- Givers possess both natural and God-given wisdom. It makes sense. If God is going to place riches in one's hands – it makes sense that they're going to need wisdom to go with it. Givers greatly desire God's wisdom and pray for it.
2 Chronicles 1-9 "Solomon went up there before the LORD to the bronze altar which was at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it. 7 In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."
- Givers love to share the gospel with others. They also love to use money to spread the gospel in one way or another.

Pitfalls of a gift/Gift projection

- Pitfalls of each gift is gift projection, which ultimately results in offense and/or judgment of others who do not have the same gift. For example, a person with a gift of Mercy/Compassion at times might think, "Look at these heartless people! And they call themselves Christians."
A gift of helps/serving might be tempted to feel like others are selfish and lazy. Givers might be tempted to feel like others are just stingy and greedy.
- We have to be careful not to fall into judgments and offences. Keep the weed out of our hearts. What helps to do that? The word! And remembering that your gift is yours and not everyone else's. Otherwise, it will choke everything good and godly in your life. Including the fruition of your gifts. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us to minister our gifts to others and not to worry about anything else. *1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants [stewards; managers] of God's various gifts of grace"*
- Allow the Lord to bloom your gifts and don't let the pain and bitterness squander your inheritance.

Giving/receiving - Why hasn't it worked for me?

1. Sometimes we are simply in a season of giving. For those of you who have been giving faithfully and continue to do so, be encouraged by this - the windows of heaven are still over you and in the due time of reaping those windows will be opened and God will pour out a blessing on you that you won't have room enough to receive. Do not be moved by the season of giving and by what you can't see with your natural eyes.

2Cor 5:7 "For we live by faith, not by sight"

Example of a giver in a season of giving:

2 Kings 4:8-17 *2 Kings 4:8-17 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)* ⁸ **One day (Opportunity to give)** *Elisha visited Shunem, and a well-to-do woman living there pressed him to stay and eat a meal. After this, whenever he came through, he stopped there for a meal.* ⁹ *She said to her husband, "I can see that this is a holy man of God who keeps stopping at our place."* ¹⁰ *Please, let's build him a little room on the roof. We'll put a bed and a table in it for him, and a stool and a candlestick. Then, whenever he comes to visit us, he can stay there."* **(Season of giving)**

¹¹ **One day (season of reaping)** *Elisha came to visit there, and he went into the upper room to lie down.* ¹² *He said to Geichazi his servant, "Call this Shunamit."* *He called her; and when she arrived,* ¹³ *he said to him, "Tell her this: 'You have shown us so much hospitality! What can I do to show my appreciation? Do you want me to say anything to the king for you? or to the commander of the army?'"* *She answered, "I'm happy living as I do, among my own people."* ¹⁴ *He said, "What, then, is to be done for her?"* *Geichazi answered, "There's one thing — she doesn't have a son; and her husband is old."* ¹⁵ *Elisha said, "Call her."* *After he called her, she stood in the doorway.* ¹⁶ *He said, "Next year, when **the season comes around,** you will be holding a son."* *"No, my lord," she answered. "Man of God, don't lie to your servant!"* ¹⁷ *But the woman conceived and gave birth to a son the following year **when the season came around,** just as Elisha had said to her.*

2. How many of you could say, "I know I'm a giver and a generous person. How come I'm in this financial lack?" Let me encourage you yet again. Here's the good news. Those of you with a gift of giving are called to give and therefore, be an example to all around about this important aspect of Christianity and God's heart. (God is a giver!) And in order for you to be walking examples, you need to figure out how this thing really works by walking it out.

3. To be living in the blessing and increase and see the harvest of all our giving we have got to clean house first:

- a. Walking in obedience to God. That includes tithing. Financial provision and abundance will not work without that. *Malachi 3:10-12*
- b. Walk in faith. Live by faith.

Faith

In spending time with the Lord one day, I didn't feel His presence. Then it occurred to me and I said, "Lord, whether or not I feel your presence, I know you are here with me". Suddenly, I felt His sweet presence! And He said, "That was faith and faith pleases me". *Heb. 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please God."*

Mark 17:6 "So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, "and it would obey you."

Mark 11:23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he WILL have WHATEVER HE SAYS."

- c. Walk in love! Your faith will not work without love. *Galatians 5:6* “**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision has any force, nor uncircumcision; but faith working through love**”.

Take it

- Take it not when you see it – but when you pray. There is no period at the end of a prayer. There is – “I believe I receive and take it”. Prayer is ask and receive. It’s not just ask. You don’t get an answer to your prayer by just asking. You need to ask and receive (take).
- Open ended prayer is: “Prayer” - (“I sure do hope it comes to pass”). Close ended prayer is: “Prayer” - receiving/taking (Mark 11:23-24 ‘receive’ – is Greek for ‘take’)
- This is the James 5:16 kind of prayer. *James 5:16* “**The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**”