

Discipleship 301 Chapter 4

Open with brief testimony of what you feel God's Spirit is doing in your life.

We will be looking now at individual callings and gifts, how they work and the development of them. We will start with the Teaching ministries; Pastors, Evangelists, Teachers. The anointing of the Spirit gives certain dispositions, traits and abilities specific to the gifting and situation the Lord is calling that person to. It is unique with each person.

! Corinthians 12:28-31, ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helps, of administration, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues^[a]? Do all interpret? ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

What is your understanding of what this passage means. When you first start out spiritually, the Spirit slowly grows and gives greater capability as you seek to serve him. What does the statement mean; "Now eagerly desire the greater gifts"?

The first one to look at is the Pastoral gifting. When you start out with a surrender of your heart to serve him and trust him for his leading he responds by spiritually birthing a gifting in you. This is dependant on strength of commitment and strength of spiritual mantle you are receiving prayer from. It's not as important what you got in the beginning, it's more important what you did with what you got. Comment on these concepts.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

When the Spirit gives different abilities, it is unique to that person and calling. In a pastoral calling what traits and abilities are needed? Discuss what God needs to give. They will grow.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11, ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

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If you were to start out with some “manifestation” of the Spirit with the calling of a pastor, which one would be the primary...? In the order of manifestations of the Spirit, wisdom appears first. I used to think this was a random order but I believe they are in an order of most important and hardest to develop. (in general) Remember what Proverbs has to say about wisdom! Discuss this.

If the Spirit gives wisdom as a primary gift, the work of the Spirit will cause the wisdom to be given in a certain way. Wisdom given to an administrator will work differently than wisdom given to a pastor. The traits that a pastor needs to develop are traits that man's efforts can't duplicate. They go beyond natural abilities. There is a heart of nurture and compassion for people's needs. There is discernment needed of where people are at spiritually and how to inspire them to overcome in faith. These are things that come through the inspiration of the Spirit. There is a need for knowledge of the concepts and precepts of the kingdom. Again inspiration of the Spirit gives understanding of the concepts of the Kingdom. Discuss this.

1 Corinthians 2:14, ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

James 4:13-15, ¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ... ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”

Romans 12:6-7, ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

The gifting you have isn't the gifts of the Spirit given, but the manner in which they work through you. Jesus said that he does nothing except what the Father gives him to do!

You acting in accordance with what the Spirit gives you is your ministry before God. As you act in faith by conviction in faith you are acting under his authority. He who is faithful with little will be given more.

You will take time to pray for each other, one at a time. It would be good to pray, if you have time using prayer guide, for pastors to be raised up and then pray for the character traits needed for each other as leaders.