

Discipleship 301 – Chapter 06

Open with any insights on what the Holy Spirit has been doing in your life recently.

The third gifting in the Ministry of the Word are the Teachers. The gifts of the Spirit given in the basic ministry are Wisdom and Knowledge with a greater portion on knowledge and some on wisdom to know how to put across concepts. The knowledge gift lends toward discernment of the concepts of the kingdom, but also toward what the spiritual needs are.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2, If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

The gift of prophecy is an important addition to the abilities in the teacher gifting. This enables the user to receive revelations in the time and place you need them to give a greater depth to your ministry. More specificity in certain situations. The Lord can also add to this ministry to give revelation of the calling of others. You will be able to encourage and pray for others to help bring them into that which the Lord desires for them

Discuss the above concepts. What other gifts would enhance the teaching ministry?

A weakness in the teaching ministry is a predisposition to want to analyze the words of scripture and try to figure out God's will yourself. Another is the desire to want to give knowledge without emphasis on relationship.

Have someone lead in prayer for the group for a greater sensitivity to needs of people and the ability to develop relationships.

Discerning of spirits and the gift of Faith are each strong enhancements to a strong ministry. But just praying for these in of itself won't get you stronger. It is trusting God for the abilities inherent in these gifts that strengthens you. Discuss how you would step out in faith in the development of these gifts.

Psalms 119:33-35, ³³ Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.^[a]

³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.

³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

We do not naturally know the ways of God. He has to teach us... Discuss.

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Psalm 143:10, Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.

James 3:1-2, Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

James 3:5-6, Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Your ability to teach the Way of the Lord is dependant on your ability to be a follower, He will teach you. Your words can ensnare you... I believe James had a teaching ministry. Comment on the statement, "out of the mouth come the issues of the heart". Discuss these concepts.

Hebrews 3:12-14, See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

I heard someone state that these warnings were given to the Jews here because they were starting to turn back to the old ways of obedience to the Law.

James 4:12-13, For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

These things spoken of don't exist apart from one another, one is inside of the other. The Holy Spirit can divide the good from evil at a deep level inside of you. A sanctification is taking place on a deep level when you trust God for this. This is what is keeping your heart focused on the Lord. The focus on the world will erode your relationship with the Lord. The scriptures are full of warnings like this.

Take time now to pray for each other, one at a time. Ask each what they feel they need prayer for to strengthen their walk and ministry in the Lord. Ask the Lord for direction and revelation of what to pray for each other. You are building each other spiritually in this.