

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION ©

Dr. Flavio Chavez

EdisonTheologicalSeminary@Gmail.com  
[www.EdisonTheologicalSeminary.org](http://www.EdisonTheologicalSeminary.org)





# UNDERSTANDING THE JOURNEY

The Six Phases of Discipleship

| <b>Phase</b>                                  | <b>Characteristics</b>   | <b>Problems</b>   | <b>Moving on..</b>  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Phase:<br/>First Love</b>   | Dedication,<br>Peace, Love,  | Emotionalism  | Bible Reading,<br>growing Faith   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Phase:<br/>Discipleship</b> | Belonging in<br>Church,<br>following<br>leadership,<br>information | Rules Oriented,<br>Rigid Faith,<br>legalism,<br>ritualism | Grace,<br>discerning<br>calling   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Phase :<br/>Productive</b>  | Ministerial<br>development,<br>developing<br>church<br>ownership   | Self-centered<br>faith, Exhaustion                        | Change is the<br>only constant, a<br>faith that<br>endures crisis,<br>rediscovery of<br>the biblical<br>Jesus |

| <b>Between Phases 3-4</b>   | <b>Symptoms</b>  | <b>How did we get here?</b>   | <b>Solution</b>  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>CRISIS:</b><br>Luke-warm | Confusion,<br>doubt,<br>resentment,<br>distancing from<br>fellowship | Ego,<br>unmitigated<br>guilt,<br>disappointment<br>with leadership<br>and God | Inner Healing,<br>Experiencing<br>Grace,<br>developing<br>unique form of<br>spirituality |

- This is a universal experience
- Some are taught to ignore this phase
- Those who overcome this phase move on to a fruitful ministry.

| <b>Phase</b>                                   | <b>Caractheristics</b>   | <b>Problems</b>  | <b>Moving on</b>  |
|--|--|--|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Phase:<br>Self-<br>Examination | Integrity,<br>focused on<br>healing of<br>relationships                  | Lak of<br>forgiveness,<br>pride, lack of<br>trust, lack of<br>confidence | Total surrender,<br>Faith - Trust,<br>accepting God's<br>will |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Phase:<br>Journey              | Sense of calling<br>& ministry,<br>sense of<br>purpose,<br>consecration, | Incomprehension<br>by family or<br>others                                | Service   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Phase:<br>Compassion           | Obedience,<br>serving others   | Balancing life<br>between family &<br>ministry                           | <i>Disciple Maker</i>   |

- 1Co 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.
- 1Co 12:5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
  - **Serving**: Διακονία, diakonia, 34x: serving, service, waiting, attendance, the act of rendering friendly offices
- 1Co 12:6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.
  - **Different Ways**: ἐνέργημα, energēma, 2x: an effect, thing effected, activity, 1Co 12:6; operation, working, 1Co 12:10.
- 1Co 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good**.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS: THE VISIBLE GRACE

**Chrysostom:**

*Paul calls the gifts spiritual because they are the work of the Spirit alone, owing nothing to human initiative.*

Homilies on the  
Epistles of Paul to  
the Corinthians  
29.2.1



- 1Co 12:8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,
  - **Wisdom:** σοφία, Sophia, 51x: wisdom in general (Stephen (Acts 7) and Paul (Acts 23)).
  - **Knowledge:** γνῶσις, gnōsis; 29x: science, intelligence understanding
  - **Daniel 2:21** He changes times and seasons, deposing some kings and establishing others. He gives wisdom to the wise; he imparts knowledge to those with understanding;

## COMPLEMENTARY GIFTS: WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

Regard wisdom as the direct effect of intuition, knowledge as the result of a process.

Wisdom or revelation belonged to the “prophets”; knowledge, to the “teachers.”

- 1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,
  - **Faith:** πίστις, pistis, 243x: faith, belief, firm persuasion
  - **Healing:** ἰαμα, iama, 3x: healing, cure, 1Co 12:9; 1Co 12:28; 1Co 12:30.
  - **James 5:14-15** (NET)
  - 14 Is anyone among you ill? He should summon the elders of the church, and they should pray for him and anoint him with olive oil in the name of the Lord.
  - 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and the Lord will raise him up – and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
  - Matthew 17:19-20; 21:21
  - Hebrews 11:33
  - Acts 19:11-12

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS: FAITH AND HEALING

Faith as a spiritual gift is an unusual measure of trust in God beyond that exercised by most Christians (e.g., 1Co 13:2).

Healing is the ability to restore health (e.g., Act 3:7; Act 19:12) and also to hold off death itself temporarily (Act 9:40; Act 20:9-10)



- 1Co 12:10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, .....
- **Miracles:** δύναμις, dynamis 119x: power; strength, ability
  - effects produced by the active exercise of powers, as in Act 5:1-11; Act 9:40; Act 13:11; Act 16:18
- Prophecy:** προφητεία, prophēteia, 19x: prophecy, a prediction of future events,
  - signified that a person received direct revelations from God and transmitted them to others. Sometimes the prophets predicted future events (Act 11:27-28; Act 21:11);
- Discernment:** διάκρισις, diakrisis, a distinguishing, discerning, judging
  - discerning between the operation of God's Spirit, and the evil spirit, or unaided human spirit (1Co 14:29; compare 1Ti 4:1; 1Jn 4:1)

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In a weaker sense, we use the word “prophet” to describe any preacher who declares the word of God authoritatively, incisively, and effectively. Prophecy can also include the ascription of praise to God (Luk 1:67-68) and the encouragement and strengthening of His people (Act 15:32).

- 1Co 12:10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.
  - **Tongues:** γλῶσσα, glōssa, 50x: the tongue
  - The gift of tongues, as has been mentioned, is the ability to speak a foreign language without ever having learned it (Acts 2:9-11)
  - **Interpretation:** ἑρμηνεία, hermēneia, 2x: interpretation, explanation, 1Co 14:26; the power or faculty of interpreting, 1Co 12:10.
  - is the miraculous power to understand a language which the person has never known before and to convey the message in the local language.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Interpretation of  
Tongues.

Ambrosiaster:

To interpret is to  
interpret faithfully by  
God's gift the sayings o  
tongues or in writing.

Commentary on Paul's  
Epistles. 24f those who  
speak in

- Division in the Church (1:10-4:21)
- Failure to Discipline a sinner (1 Cor. 5:1-13)
- Failure to resolve personal disputes (1Co 6:1-11)
- Failure to practice sexual purity (1Co 6:12-20)

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS & THE CORINTHIANS

The Case when  
the gifts of the  
spirits are NOT  
enough without  
the Fruit of the  
spirit

- Emotionalism
- Fake manifestations of the Spirit
  - Uncontrollable shaking
  - Fake tongues
- Fake Healings and False Prophets
  - They exploit the crowds and love theatrics
- Fake Prophecies and Fake Prophets
  - Ambiguous language: The Lord told me.....
  - It must 100% accurate
- Greed and the False Prophets
  - Follow the money
  - False evangelist and prophets enjoyed a luxurious lifestyle

## DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE REAL AND THE FAKE

The Charismatic Movement placed emphasis on the Gifts of the spirit.

It was good in the beginning but it was infiltrated by a host of false teachers, preachers prophets and now fake apostles.



- 1Co 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 1Co 13:2 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.
- 1Co 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## THE WAY OF LOVE

The Fruit of the Spirit regulates the effectiveness of the manifestations of the Spirit.





# ABUSIVE SPIRITUALITY

Any kind of abuse that does damage to someone's relationship with God is spiritual abuse

- Spiritual abuse communicates the message that:
  - God does not love
  - and accept us as we are,
  - that we must work to earn God's approval
  - and that God's love & grace are not enough
- Mat 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

## DEFINITIONS

Mat 23:27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

- The belief that we must work for God's approval creates two problems:
  - **Judging** others: Others should uphold to our standards
  - **Hiding**/suppressing our sins: Spirituality becomes showing your best at all times instead of confessing

## HOW IT DEVELOPS

Any time we are in position of spiritual leadership and we move away from grace, we are in danger of becoming abusive

- Do I rely on other things besides God's grace?
- Would I feel catastrophic if I made a mistake?
- Am I unwilling to give up control over others people behavior?
- Do I feel compelled to pretend that I don't struggle?
- Am I judgmental & constantly comparing my self against others?

## **ASSESSING YOUR SOUL**

**Weekly  
assessment**

**If you answered  
YES to any  
question Watch  
Out!**