

VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY SERIES: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS- UNLEASHING YOUR POTENTIAL IN THE SPIRIT. BISHOP WILLIAM LEE

GRACE GIFTS- Part Two: Strengths and Weaknesses

IN THIS LESSON WE WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT FOUR OF THE GRACE GIFTS

PROPHECY TEACHING. SERVING EXHORTATION

We will look at some of the typical characteristics, strengths and weaknesses someone with these gifts might possess. We will look at the New Testament personalities who seemed to possess these gifts.

I. Prophecy: (perception) The ability and the desire to readily perceive the will of God and labor for its accomplishment

A. Characteristics

1. Is usually very bold and not afraid to take strong stands
2. Usually elicits strong reaction from others
3. Willing to experience personal brokenness
4. Often feels a strong call to intercessory prayer
5. Tends to deal with general issues rather than with specifics
6. Often sees most issues as either black or white

B. Prophecy- Strengths

1. Discerns departures from God's truth
2. Desires to speak the truth
3. Is strongly concerned with righteousness
4. Is bold and direct
5. Focuses on the need for repentance

6. Can Stand Alone

7. Is Verbal

C. Prophecy: Weaknesses

1. Can be overly critical and legalistic

2. Can feel morally superior

3. Can be concerned with empire building

4. Can be harsh, pushy and insensitive

5. Can be arrogant and struggle with self-condemnation

6. Can lack intimate relationships

7. Can be tactless and over talkative

New Testament Example: Peter, Paul

Acts 11:1-17

1The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. **2** So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him **3** and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.” **4** Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: **5** “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. **6** I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. **7** Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ **8** “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ **9** “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ **10** This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. **11** “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. **12** The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. **13** He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. **14** He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’ **15** “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. **16** Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with[a] water, but you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit.’ **17** So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 21st Century King James Version

9 For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry; ye are God's building.10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.11 For no man can lay another foundation than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

II. Serving: The ability and the desire to see the practical needs of the work of God and to meet these needs through serving

A. Serving Characteristics

1. Easily recognizes unmet, practical needs
2. Usually is unselfish, liking to do things for others
3. Tends to stay with a job until it is finished
4. Tends to Respond, rather than initiate
5. Seems to have high energy

B. Serving: Strengths

1. Enjoys meeting the practical needs of ministry
2. Exhibits stamina and perseverance
3. Is Unconcerned about recognition
4. Likes to respond to and meet immediate needs
5. Is aware of things that need to be done

C. Serving: Weaknesses

1. Can have difficulty saying no to the neglect of self and family
2. Can commit without follow-through
3. Can be oversensitive when work is unappreciated

4. Can neglect spiritual matters because of emphasizing practical needs
5. Can become frustrated when others fail to see the needs as they see them
6. Can become a do it all. A one Man or Woman Show.

D. New Testament Examples: Timothy, Andrew and Martha

Philippians 2:19-24 “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.”

John 12:20-22 “Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.”

John 6:5-9 “When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, 9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

III. Teaching- The ability and the desire to search truth’s and to present it in a way that leads to proper understanding.

A. Teaching Characteristics

1. Likes to pursue truth and seeks ways to share it with others
2. Is usually able to discipline himself/herself to do research and study
3. Is very concerned with accuracy and is not satisfied with unclear explanations
4. Usually validates new information by established, recognized sources and systems

5. Tends to like a systematic approach

B. Teaching- Strengths

1. Understands and presents truth in a practical, systematic way
2. Sets a clear relationship between fact and spiritual growth
3. Is patient and can evaluate another's teaching without judging the teacher.

C. Teaching- Weaknesses

1. Can have his/her understanding clouded by personal bias
2. Can see knowledge as an end, not as a means to an end.
3. Can be impatient and critical of those who take a different view
4. Can struggle with the nonintellectual, mystical aspects Christianity
5. May Be Prideful and arrogant

New Testament Examples: Luke, Bereans

Luke 1:1-4 “1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled[a] among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

Acts 17:10-12 “10 As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.”

IV. Exhortation: (Encouraging): The ability and the desire to see truths life application and to stimulate the faith of others toward such application.

A. Exhortation: (Encouraging) Characteristics

1. Usually likes to encourage others
2. Tends to be sought out for advice
3. Is usually empathetic with others
4. Usually Prefers speaking over research and Study
5. Usually wants all teaching to have a practical application

B. Exhortation: (Encouraging) Strengths

1. Has a positive, realistic outlook
2. Offers sound, practical advice
3. Is persuasive and adept in illustrating truth
4. Has the ability to work with all kinds of people
5. Can simplify very complex matters
6. Sees suffering as part of God's plan

C. Exhortation: (Encouraging) Weaknesses

1. Can be overconfident and over-talkative
2. Can offer over-simplified solutions to complex problems
3. Can concentrate on feel-good solutions, rather than on real solutions
4. Can use scriptures out of context
5. Can be overly discouraged by someone's lack of spiritual growth
6. Can gravitate toward those who only reinforce their opinion

New Testament Example: Paul

Conclusion: Session Seven will look at the final three Grace Gifts and will examine how we can develop and use our spiritual gift