

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: Spiritual Gifts, Part 7, The Make Up of Ministry
Scripture Text: 1 Cor. 12:28, Romans 12:3–8
08/10/2014

Quote: He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help. Abe Lincoln

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Romans 12:3–8 (NKJV) ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering*; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Today we will finish the gifts of the Spirit that are listed in *1 Cor 12* and move on to those listed in The Book of Romans. I ask you to please do not become weary of the series. It is important enough for The Holy Spirit to have them penned into the Bible therefore it is very important for us to have an understanding about them. Remember that the Bible is the foundation for our faith and practice.

Today we will talk about the gift of helps and the gifts of Administrations

I find the gifts of helps very interesting in that there is not a specific identification for it. This gift can be exercised in many ways and many forms.

Gifts of Helps (*1 Corinthians 12:28*)

The gift of helps means “to take firm hold of someone, in order to help. These ‘helpings’ therefore probably refer to the succoring of those in need, whether poor, sick, widows, orphans, strangers, travelers, or what not.”¹

A. T. Robertson and Alfred Plummer, A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians ²

The word translated "helps" means literally "to relieve, succor, participate in and/or support." Those with the gift of helps are those who can aid or render assistance to others in the church with compassion and grace. This has a broad range of possibilities for application, from helping

¹ Enns, P. P. (1989). *The Moody handbook of theology* (276). Chicago, IL: Moody Press.

² Enns, P. P. (1989). *The Moody handbook of theology*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press.

individuals to assisting in the administration of the daily affairs of the church.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/>

One of the first clear example that related to this gift is found in *Numbers 11:16–17*. Moses was overloaded listening to and judging every dispute among the people. God told him to choose seventy elders, leaders among the people to help him.

Numbers 11:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.*

The Spirit of God was given to them to help Moses in the administration of His duties.

The same gifts are needed in the churches today. The pastor cannot fulfill his calling and do everything else in the church. Often a member may be aware of a need before the Pastor does. Sometimes a member can reach another member better than the pastor can.

There are often things that need to be done such as repairing or cleaning the church. Preparing food, driving, loading equipment and a variety of things that are often unseen. This is an application of the gifts of helps. We call it pitching in.

Those gifted may not hold any office but are willing to help. Many church programs and events would not get done without these gifted people. It could be the use of one's "talents" and or training to help in the church. The talent is not the gift but the gift of helps using those talents is. It is a greatly needed gift.

I do believe that every Christian has a measure of this gift but for some it may be their primary gift.

Gifts of Administrations (1 Corinthians 12:28)

In *Romans 12:8* Paul refers to the one who leads. This is from the Greek word *prohistimi*, which means “to stand before,” hence, to lead, rule, or preside.³ **literally, “to steer a ship.**

Although the above references refer to elders leading the people, the term would probably go beyond that, suggesting also leading in terms of Sunday school superintendent and beyond the local church in ministries such as president or dean of a Christian college or seminary.⁴

In the local church there is needed someone to take the lead in ministries of service. For example, if the church needs a children ministry one with the gift of administration can put it all together and administer (lead) that ministry. It doesn't sound as highly spiritual as pastor/teacher, or tongues or some of the more visible gifts but it is no less important.

One of the chief purposes of the church is to equip the saints to do the work of ministry. *Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)* ¹¹ *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,* ¹² *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

³ Enns, P. P. (1989). *The Moody handbook of theology* (277). Chicago, IL: Moody Press.

⁴ Enns, P. P. (1989). *The Moody handbook of theology* (277). Chicago, IL: Moody Press.

Ministry comes in a variety of forms such as children's programs, Choirs, Deacons, Ushers, Trustees and more. Combine the gifts of Administration with the Gifts of Helps and now you have something going on for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Gift of Administration and gifts of helps are both applied to assisting in ministry.

Gift of Ministry

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering;

Romans 12:7 (NIV84) ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

I understand this to mean that the Holy Spirit may gift some with a special ministry.

Let me give an example of the use of these spiritual gifts.

For example, the well-known Mother Teresa had a ministry of feeding the poor. (**Gifts of Helps**). She founded (**Gift of Administration**) the Missionaries of Charity which in 2012 consisted of over 4,500 sisters (they had the gifts of helps) and is active in 133 countries (**Here was a need for the gifts of Administration**).

Some of you may be gifted with a ministry. I believe that if you are, you are to be either the administrator or helper in that ministry. If you are led, then go to the pastor for help, (he must have a measure of the gift of helps also) but it is not his ministry but yours under the banner of the church.

Our Responsive Reading (*Acts 6:1-7*) shows that when each member does their part then all ministries will be more productive.

So often I have heard that it would be good if the church could have this or that program, but not many come to say that they would like to head up that missing ministry.

Everyone here has been involved in some type of church ministry over the years. Every ministry is not promoted in bright lights for all to see. Some may have done cooking at home and others only see the results. Some may have opened their homes in hospitality when all we see is the end results of preparation and not see the clean up afterwards.

Some ministries may seem small until they are not done, for example, the praise and worship portion of the service, the memory verse, the responsive readings, the welcoming of guest, the attending the audio, the preparing of communion and some others I may have missed. They may not seem like much until one person has to do it.

There is a distinction between Spiritual Gifts, Spiritual Ministries and Spiritual Activities.

*1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ **There are diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit. ⁵ **There are differences of ministries**, but the same Lord. ⁶ **And there are diversities of activities**, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

Spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit are given in order for us to fulfill our ministries given by the Lord Jesus Christ or the activities of God.

God has something for all of us to do, something small and something bigger and He will see that we are equipped to do it.

Let us all use the measure of all the gifts we have for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Message Scriptures: **1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:3–8**, *1 Corinthians 12:28, Numbers 11:16–17, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:8, Ephesians 4:11–12, Romans 12:6, Romans 12:7, Acts 6:1–7, 1 Corinthians 12:4–6*

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