

Spiritual Gifts: Communication, Administration, Interpersonal, & Munificent; Pastor: Sine Qua Non of a Local Church & Grace: the Sine Qua Non of Its Policies

- 14) The Holy Spirit imputes a spiritual gift to each believer at salvation. Collectively, the possession of the various spiritual gifts in a congregation enables the body of Christ to address the requirements and needs of the local church.
- 15) There are seven permanently functional spiritual gifts in the post-canon period of the Church Age: two communication gifts, one administrative, three interpersonal, and one munificent.
- 16) The communication gifts are (1) evangelist: his communication of the gospel and basic doctrines to the unbeliever means he functions primarily outside the local church, and (2) pastor-teacher: his communication of Bible doctrine through the literal-grammatical-historical system of hermeneutics to assembled believers means he functions primarily inside the local church. These two gifts are given to men only. (Ephesians 4:11)
- 17) The administrative gift must be held by officers and deacons. It is more than mere managing the affairs of the church but also sensitivity to the needs of the local church and then taking steps to insure that these needs are addressed in accordance with church policy. This gift is given to men only. (Romans 12:7)
- 18) One's spiritual gift functions without the believer knowing what it is, but two factors are imperative for its effective function: (1) the filling of the Holy Spirit, and (2) continued spiritual growth so that the believer can be guided by doctrine in the function of his gift.
- 19) The interpersonal gifts include (1) Service: serving on committees established by the Board of Deacons and includes upkeep of the building and grounds, teaching in Prep School, working in the nursery, serving as an usher, assisting with house audio and lighting, and leading music. (Romans 12:7) (2) Helps: motivation and desire to assist and care for those who are sick, injured, handicapped, or indigent. It includes visitation to members in nursing homes, hospitals, and the homebound. (Romans 12:8) (3) Mercy: involves courageous acts of assistance for those afflicted, persecuted, or imprisoned because of their political or religious beliefs or because of their race or national identity. There are many Christians in Africa who are being persecuted by Muslims, there are millions in China who are afflicted and some imprisoned because they are Christians, and anti-Semitism is an evil that has plagued the Jewish people since Hagar left Abraham's tent. These gifts are imputed to both men and women. (Romans 12:8; Galatians 4:29)

- 20) The munificent gift is possessed by those who are very generous in giving of their abundance to the overhead and improvement of the local church, the sustenance of its pastor, and support of the ministries and missionaries it approves. This gift is imputed to both men and women. (Romans 12:8)
- 21) When all these spiritual gifts are present in a local church then each member of the body of Christ is able to function in coordination with others, just as there are different functions for the parts of the physical body (1 Corinthians 12).
- 22) In order for believers in a given local church to successfully and efficiently accomplish these things they must assemble themselves together.

Hebrews 10:24 - Let us consider how to encourage one another from the source of virtue love and from the source of divine good production.

v. 25 - Stop forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as is the habit of certain ones, but encourage each other, and with an even greater effort as you see the day approaching.

- 23) Here are some summary principles on the local church:
 1. The purpose of the local church is so that believers can grow in grace under the ministries of the Holy Spirit and the authority of one pastor-teacher.
 2. The authority of the pastor-teacher is established by his development of doctrines from Scripture and their communication to his assigned flock.
 3. The church building is under the authority of a board of deacons but its policies must line up with doctrinal principles defined by the pastor-teacher in his teaching ministry.
 4. The *sine qua non* for development of policies is that they must comply with the principle of grace orientation.
 5. Grace does not imply disorder. Both the presentation of doctrine and the reception of doctrine must take place in an ordered, structured environment where believers can both assemble and concentrate without any distractions.
 6. Besides the local church, there is no organization authorized by God in which spiritual growth can occur.
 7. Christian service organizations, such as independent Bible study groups that are not under the direct supervision and instruction of a single pastor-teacher, eventually gravitate into evil.

8. An example is the Promise Keepers, an organization based in Denver, Colorado. The mission this organization hopes to accomplish is, “to ignite and unite men to become passionate followers of Jesus Christ through the effective communication of seven promises to God, their fellow men, family, church, and the world. Promise Keepers’ vision is simply put in three words: “Men Transformed Worldwide.”