

**Gratitude: Spiritual Gifts: Team Concept, Romans 12:7-8, Ephesians 4:12-13**

The mission of the pastor is the subject of:

**Ephesians 4:12** - ... equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

**Ephesians 4:13** - until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a mature believer who measures up to the stature of the fullness of Christ.

These verses tell us that the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher results in equipping saints for service, spiritually building up the body to the point of unity, and in the knowledge of Christ to the point of experiential sanctification. This means that under the power of the Holy Spirit, this gift will function with these results, whether you know you have the gift or not.

Therefore, if a person has the gift of pastor-teacher he will be motivated to study and teach and the Holy Spirit will provide him hearers. This means he will find himself teaching others doctrine. But knowledge of doctrine places a person, especially in our day of ignorance, a cut above most of the entire population thus easily confusing some into believing they have the gift. A key test is this: as a result of your teaching, can you objectively state that legitimate spiritual growth occurs in the souls of a few?

An insatiable desire to study and teach and the aspiration to learn how to professionally accomplish both are also indicators of having the gift. But to decide you have the gift of pastor-teacher because you are excited about doctrine, or you think because you have a great voice, look good in the pulpit, or get a charge out of teaching, or because you have a desire to let others know what you know, could be deceiving.

To know you have the gift you must function in the gift under the power of the Holy Spirit through Whom spiritual growth occurs among those who hear you teach. For this to occur, the Holy Spirit must supply you with hearers.

Beforehand, you must study and teach in anticipation of the opportunity. If the opportunity never occurs, or after having done so you cannot objectively conclude that some who heard your messages experienced spiritual growth, then it is a good chance you don't have the gift. It could be that you have the gift of service, or some other gift. So, to try and become a pastor leaves the position of service without a key performer.

**Romans 12:8** - If it is the gift of exhortation, then let him counsel and comfort. If it is the gift of giving, let him give generously. If it is the gift of administration, let him govern with diligence. If it is the gift of showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

The emphasis here is on sticking with your assignment—function under the gift the Holy Spirit issued to you. The technique is first of all to be current on rebound and maintain maximum time under the filling of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, continue to grow in grace at Bible class. As your doctrinal inventory grows you will eventually come to recognize your spiritual gift.

But regardless of whether you ever become aware of your gift, it will function under the power of the Holy Spirit. Be observant of what you do when under the filling of the Spirit. Become aware of those things that you seem to do as a matter of course. Take note of the things you do which seem to identify themselves with one of the seven functional spiritual gifts. This will help you in identification.

In Romans 12:8, we can ignore the gift of counseling, or exhortation. The completed canon means the Holy Spirit is your Counselor now and His ability to guide and lead you is intensified with spiritual growth.

If you have the gift of giving then you will be motivated to give sacrificially. If you have the gift of administration, you will become involved in the administrative functions of the local church and you will perform with great diligence. If you have the gift of showing mercy then you will find yourself being habitually kind, considerate, and thoughtful toward those who naturally elicit one's antagonism. To show mercy cheerfully means that you do not pass judgment or find fault, both of which are possible, but you are motivated to give the unattractive and disoriented believer support, encouragement, and sensitivity in order to assist his recovery.

Finally, at no point should anyone ever suggest to any other believer that they think he or she has a certain spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are imputed at the moment of salvation by the Holy Spirit and discovery of that gift by each believer is between him and God by means of spiritual growth.