

Gratitude: Principles from the Mirror Metaphor in 2 Corinthians 3:18; Christian Service; Spiritual Gifts: P-T, Evangelist

Maximum knowledge of the Word of God means that a maximum amount of the believer's thinking is a replication of the doctrinal thinking of Jesus Christ. This is the manner by which the believer reflects the glory of the indwelling Shekinah Glory outwardly to the Devil's world. When this believer consults the mirror of the Word, he is able to see reflected there a part of the reflected glory of the Lord. From that reflection he is able to make an objective analysis of his own thought process and make any necessary adjustments. From this increasing inventory of ideas will emerge the efficient function of one's Christian service.

There are desperately wicked theories floating around Christendom today which imply that the following things occur or are sustained as a result of Christian service:

1. **Salvation.** If you are truly saved then your performance in the field of Christian service will verify it. No Christian service, no salvation.
2. **Maintenance of salvation.** You may have believed in Christ for salvation but in order to maintain that salvation you must produce consistent Christian service.
3. **Rewards** are based on one's performance of Christian service.

Salvation and security are both assured as a result of faith alone in Christ alone. Rewards are the result of execution of the Christian way of life. Christian service is only a small part of that lifestyle. Christian service has five areas of function:

1. As an expression of one's royal priesthood which itself has five areas of function: (1) prayer; (2) praise through song; (3) Bible study; (4) observance of the Eucharist; and (5) spiritual giving.
2. As an expression of one's royal ambassadorship. An ambassador represents his sovereign while living under a foreign government. We are citizens of heaven but we live in the Devil's world. We express our ambassadorship when we comply with biblical mandates while submitting to establishment principles. In this way we represent Christ to the world. Knowledge of doctrine enables us to reflect his glory to a lost and dying world through evangelism, good citizenship, support of missions, protectors of all Jewish people without prejudice.
3. Execution of the plan of God resulting in invisible historical impact. This is the principle of Pivot power over political power. Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot. Arrival at Santa Fé makes one a part of the Pivot which contributes to the preservation of our Client Nation in history for yet another generation.
4. Observance of the Laws of Divine Establishment which includes respecting the sanctity of marriage and family, support of the nation and its freedoms by word and deed, and service to one's fellow citizens by involvement in law enforcement, military commitment, or holding political office.
5. Execution of one's spiritual gift. The replication of the Eternal Logos to the present and succeeding generations must occur during the Church Age in a biblically approved organization called the local church. Spiritual gifts are imputed at salvation so that this group of believers can operate in an efficient fashion during the absence of our Lord. These gifts are issued by grace and with no merit required on the part of the recipient, they are administered under the filling of the Holy Spirit, and their efficiency is dependent upon the believer's knowledge of doctrine.

There is a great deal of confusion today over the subject of spiritual gifts. Some 18 are mentioned by name in Scripture but only seven are functional in the post-canon period of the Church Age. We will briefly note these seven. Any gifts you may be familiar with that are not a part of the seven do not need to be considered by you as a candidate for your spiritual gift. As a result they will not be a part of our discussion here.

The permanent spiritual gifts may be broken down into three categories: (1) communicative; (2) administrative; and (3) congregational.

I. Communicative

A. Pastor-Teacher

The pastor is not an administrator; he is the policy maker for the church. His policies are developed from the teaching of the Word of God from the pulpit. He must assure that all administrative policies line up with Scripture. It is the pastor's duty to identify those in his congregation who have spiritual gifts of administration and appoint them to the governing body of the church, i.e., the Board of Deacons.

B. Evangelist

This man has the unique ability to communicate the Gospel while holding the unbeliever's attention. Under this gift, unbelievers will assemble and give the Gospel an objective hearing. Those who are drawn to the voice of the evangelist will listen to his presentation whereas they would not do so for an individual without the gift. The evangelist has no teaching authority in the church and must function under the leadership of a pastor-teacher and function under the supervision of his local church.