



Life Principles Notes™

Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Part 6: The Gift of Teaching

Summary:

Did you know that you have the ability to glorify Jesus Christ in a way that no one else can duplicate?

As long as you are a believer, this is true. According to 1 Peter 4:10, “each one has received a special gift.” We have these gifts so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ working in us.

We can be all that God designed us to be and achieve all that He wants us to achieve through these gifts. God intended for us to use them together within the ministry of the church.

Romans 12:6-8 tells us about the motivational gifts that define how we think and act.

You need not have the gift of teaching to be an excellent teacher. The gift of service, for example, could motivate you to meet the need of teaching. Being gifted in the direction of teaching, however, means that you will do your best and be your best in teaching others.

Key Passage: Romans 12:6-8

Supporting Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10; Luke 1:3; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1.

Scriptural Principles:

1 Those with the gift of teaching desire to present truth systematically.

A person with the gift of teaching is organized. This believer has a sense of direction and an orderly way of working toward that goal. He thinks in terms of the logical process rather than the “bottom line.” Luke, an example of a gifted teacher, begins his Gospel with a precise statement of what he plans to teach. He intends “to write it out for you in consecutive order” (Luke 1:3).

2 Those with the gift of teaching require thoroughness.

These believers are patient about collecting and transmitting all the facts and details. Luke wrote his Gospel after “having investigated everything carefully from the beginning” (Luke 1:3). Other people are often-times impatient with this believer’s tendency to offer extensive details. Since God has created them this way for a special purpose, however, we need learn to listen better. We have so much wonderful information about Jesus and the early church because the Spirit enabled people to preserve and teach those facts.

3 Those with the gift of teaching validate information.

Many people tend to believe what they hear or read without questioning it. Gifted teachers accept new information more cautiously. They want to know the source of the new information, and they always seek to validate facts through discovering the reliability of the messenger. Luke thoroughly investigated the original sources of information about Jesus, and he passed it on when he found it to be reliable.

4 Those with the gift of teaching verify the source.

The gifted teacher seeks to validate any important information, and therefore this person will always take a close look at any teacher. In 2 Peter 2:1 we are warned about false teachers. In addition, John advises us

to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The believer who is gifted in teaching will always ask questions about a teacher’s background. What are his credentials? Is his teaching consistent with Scripture?

5 Those with the gift of teaching take great delight in research.

Teachers love to study. They love to dig more and more deeply for information. Since their goal is to impart knowledge, they are happy to gain information and pass it on. However, Spirit-led teachers will remember that proclamation without transformation is wasted—that is, the purpose of teaching is to change lives rather than simply share facts. This is why believers with a true teaching gift want to change people rather than simply educate them.

6 Those with the gift of teaching avoid information from non-biblical sources.

When the Spirit-led believer teaches the truths of Scripture, his greatest desire is to share what God has said rather than simply share personal illustrations and stories. This is not to say that examples from life should be avoided. Teaching from personal life is important because it helps us to understand how God’s truth is practical. The effective teacher can sometimes teach through his own spiritual experiences, but he will be mostly committed to directly sharing the Scriptures.

7 Those with the gift of teaching need to clarify misunderstandings.

While many people tend to avoid or suppress errors or misunderstandings, the believer gifted in teaching will confront the problem. He will ask questions and investigate, in an orderly way, what was said and why it was said. His goal is to start from the beginning, trace the missteps, and help everyone get back on track. Again, the teacher’s motivation is finding out and passing on the truth. Therefore errors and misunderstandings must be confronted and handled very carefully, so that they cannot cause any damage.

8 What are some common misunderstandings of the gift of teaching?

Gifted teachers may appear to neglect practical application because they are focused on the facts of teaching. They may appear prideful of their learning because they gain joy from it. Their concern to impart the details of research may appear dull and unnecessary to others. Listeners may feel that teachers who emphasize research are depending upon their reading rather than the Holy Spirit. Finally, some people may feel that the teacher’s need to present his research objectively may lack warmth and feeling.

9 How does the gifted teacher behave in the Spirit, and how in the flesh?

The believer who teaches in the Spirit will be characterized by self-control. In the flesh, however, he will be self-indulgent. The gifted teacher will consistently show reverence for the things of God. The teacher living in his own power, however, will be disrespectful. The believer will be diligent in his research, while those who walk in the flesh will be slothful and lazy. Gifted teaching is dependable, while fleshly teaching is inconsistent. Finally, patience fills the gifted teacher, while restlessness follows him when he teaches under his own power.

Conclusion:

Many people have accumulated a vast amount of knowledge. They have spent years and decades in research. Still, they have not found joy or peace. Knowledge and teaching have no value at all unless they change our lives for the Lord.

Through the gift of Spirit-filled teaching, we have the opportunity to be transformed and to help others be transformed. How wonderful and awesome is the truth that God has raised up godly teachers in every generation, so that you

and I can receive instruction that is thorough, truthful, and God-honoring.

My friend, even if you don’t possess the gift of teaching, you have the tremendous gift of listening. No matter how young or old you might be, and no matter what situation you find yourself in, there is no limit to how wise and strong you can grow in Christ by making yourself available to sound teaching from His eternal Word. 📖

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