



# Life Principles Notes™

## Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit

### Part 7: The Gift of Exhortation

#### Summary:

**Everything that comes our way in life is the result of God's grace, love, and mercy toward us.** He saves us, He seals us as His children forever, and He lives inside us, helping us grow every day. One of the ways He equips us to grow is through the gracious spiritual gifts He provides us.

The motivational gifts are those that account for our personal drive—that is, why we think and behave as we do. The Apostle Paul mentions seven of them in Romans 12:6–8.

The gift of exhortation creates in the believer a powerful motivation to urge people toward their full spiritual potential. An excellent example is Paul, who was constantly “admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ” (Colossians 1:28).

**Key Passage:** *Romans 12:6–8*

**Supporting Scripture:** *Colossians 1:28;*  
*1 Peter 4:10.*

#### Scriptural Principles:

##### 1 Those with the gift of exhortation motivate others.

Exhorters have the ability to accurately visualize the potential that other believers could achieve someday in the power of the Holy Spirit. That exciting vision inspires those with the gift of exhortation to encourage others to keep growing toward maturity. Whatever they are doing, whether in service, in giving, or in some other action, they are working to see people grow spiritually and become all that God wants for them.

##### 2 Those with the gift of exhortation see underlying problems in a person.

Not only can those with this gift see the potential that is possible, but they can also clearly see the true causes of the problems that trouble the lives of others. They have very discerning spirits, so they can quickly identify whether pride, fear, selfishness, control, or some other spiritual issue is at the root of someone else's problem. This discernment helps us identify the sins that prevent us from keeping in step with God's Spirit.

##### 3 Those with the gift of exhortation prescribe steps of action.

Believers with this gift want to encourage us in our struggles, not to accuse us. Therefore they seek to provide solutions by pointing out practical steps we can take to resolve the problem. Breaking down the process into steps is helpful, because all that we accomplish in life comes through following orderly procedures. In every area of life, we grow in small increments, step by step.

##### 4 Those with the gift of exhortation turn problems into benefits.

Believers who have this gift think positively. They look at the problems in our lives and envision how they could be redeemed by the Spirit's transformation. Sometimes when we are discouraged, God sends His children with the gift of exhortation to show us how the Lord may be working in the midst of our trials.

These people never forget that God uses every problem and disappointment for our good, and they love to encourage us by pointing out the good works God is performing.

### **5** Those with the gift of exhortation desire face-to-face discussion.

They have no interest in using letters or phone calls, but prefer to spend time with you personally, looking you in the eye and observing your response. This way they can see any hesitation or rebellion that may show in your expressions. They are eager to see and to spur growth, and they realize that this can only be accomplished in meeting together. They may want to meet more than once to help you with each step of growth.

### **6** Those with the gift of exhortation gain insight through personal experience.

These believers realize that we learn spiritual principles through the events of our lives. We cannot grow simply by reading and studying; our faith must be lived out. Exhorters are open and transparent, because they want to be involved in our lives so that they might help us grow. They also realize that the more hardships they experience, the better equipped they will be to help us move toward maturity.

### **7** Those with the gift of exhortation bring harmony to people and groups.

Christians with this gift are never divisive people. They understand that spiritual growth must be accomplished in an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation. Since that kind of growth toward maturity is their greatest desire, they are always working to improve personal relationships with other believers. We observe them bringing harmony in marriage, in parenting, in work and in church relationships.

### **8** Those with the gift of exhortation enjoy seeing others grow in Christ.

It makes the exhorter happiest to watch God working in your life, and particularly to see you taking specific steps toward growing daily in maturity as a follower of Jesus Christ. The exhorter is always interested in what is happening in your family life, your work life, your relationships, and your private life, where you take deliberate steps to grow in godliness every single day.

### **9** What are some misunderstandings of the gift of exhortation?

Some people misinterpret the exhorter's emphasis on steps as oversimplifying problems. They judge this observer's urgency about specific steps as overconfidence in them. The exhorter may also appear to lack interest in evangelism because his passion is for spiritual growth. In fact, he seeks to win non-believers to Christ through his living example, which can easily be misinterpreted as a lack of interest in personal evangelism. The exhorter is sometimes accused of taking the Scriptures out of context, because he is constantly applying them for personal application. Finally, his emphasis on action may seem insensitive to people's feelings.

### **10** What are the results of walking in the flesh for those with this gift?

The exhorter is marked by wisdom when he lives in Christ; otherwise he is driven by his natural inclinations. He is a person of discernment when he keeps in step with the Spirit; otherwise, he becomes judgmental. The ability to move in faith will become an impulsive presumption in the fleshly life, and will be debased to a simple-minded tendency to speak injudiciously. Godly love becomes selfishness, while enthusiasm becomes apathy.

## Conclusion:

Our spiritual gifts are not given to us to make us happy, successful, or popular. We receive them so that we might give of ourselves in service to others. Whether or not you have the gift of exhortation, God wants you to be constantly encouraging others to grow in their faith.

My friend, He is ready to use you in an awesome way in the life of some other believer. He

will use your words of encouragement in someone's ear, perhaps at the moment when he or she is experiencing some kind of trial. God's Spirit will help you show that person what the Lord is doing through those trials. We don't all have the gift of exhortation, but we all have the opportunity to exhort for Christ. 🙏

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