

IDENTIFYING SEVEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In our lesson text, Paul listed 7 of 19 Spiritual Gifts to the Church (Rom.12; 1 Cor.12; Eph.4). Remember that (Rom.12:6-8) is one Greek sentence. Paul's Greek grammar is very important to these seven Spiritual Gifts. **Put on your thinking cap!**

Five aspects of Identification of Seven Spiritual Gifts listed by Paul

1. We will begin by listing the seven Spiritual Gifts and explain Paul's presentation in the Greek.

Paul identified them by the **gift**, the **prepositional clause**, and its **function**. Note that there is no definite article (the) with the first two gifts but there is with their functions.

Gift: If (eite) [disjunctive 1st class condition particle] **prophecy** (propheteia/ **ASF**),
Clause: according to (kata+acc of norm and standard) (Rom.12:6)
Function: the proportion (ten analogia/ **ASF**) of (his) (**the**) **faith** (tes pistis/ gsf).

Gift: If (eite) [disjunctive 1st class condition particle] **service** (diakonia / **ASF**),
Clause: in (en+loc.of sphere) (his)
Function: (**The**) **serving** (te diakonia/ lsf)

- Note the change in Greek structure of next five Gifts (definite article with both gift and function).

Gift: If (eite) [disjunctive 1st class condition particle] **he who teaches** (ho didasko/ p.a.ptc.nsm)
Clause: in (en+loc.of sphere) (his)
Function: (**the**) **teaching** (te diadaskalia/ lsf).

Gift: If (eite) [disjunctive 1st class condition particle] **he who exhorts** (ho parakaleo/ p.a.ptc.nsm)
Clause: in (en+loc.of sphere) (his)
Function: (**the**) **exhortation** (te paraklesis/ lsf) (Rom.12:8a)

- Note there is no (if clause with gift) in next three gifts. There is also a change in Greek structure of prepositional clause and function (Rom.12:8).

Gift: **He who gives** (ho metadidomi/ p.a.ptc.nsm)
Clause: (does so) **with** (en+inst.of association) **liberality** (haplotes/ inst.sm)

Gift: **He who leads** (ho proistemi/ p.a.ptc.nsm)
Clause: (does so) **with** (en+inst.of association) **diligence** (spoude/ inst)

Gift: **He who shows mercy** (ho eleeo/ p.a.ptc.nsm)
Clause: (does so) **with** (en+inst.of association) **cheerfulness** (hilarotes/ inst.sm).

2. The first two gifts listed are (ASF**) and direct objects of the verb "have" (**echo/ p.a.ptc.nplm**) [gifts of grace] **charisma/ apln**) (Rom.12:6a)**

This phrase is important with the first two gifts – "Differ according to the grace (ten charis/ **ASF**) given (ten didomi/ a.p.ptc.**ASF**) to us." (Rom.12:6b)

Note the others 5 gifts have their own (articular (ho) p.a.ptc nsm).

3. The last three spiritual gifts listed in our lesson text are unique in function (Rom.12:8).

There is **no def. article with the function** like the first four. The absence of the def. article places emphasis on the **characteristics of the function and effect on the one being ministered to by the gift.**

These function differently than the gifts.

- He who gives, associated with **liberality (haplotes/** function is agent (tes) of being generous with **mental** honesty or sincerity/ Acts 5:1-4)
- He who leads, associated with **diligence (spoude/** function provokes a haste response with **mental** eagerness / Rom.12:11; 2 Cor.8:7).
- He who shows mercy, associated with **cheerfulness. (hilarotes/** function is the agent (tes) of hilaros/ cheerfulness with **mental** joyfulness / 2 Cor.9:7).

(1 Cor.12:4-6) “Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the **same Holy Spirit**. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the **same Lord**. There are **varieties of effects** (energema/ effect produced by grace), **but the same God** who works all things in all persons.”

4. One of these seven Spiritual Gifts will cease with the Canonization of the Bible.

(1 Cor.13:8b) “**If (eite)** there are gifts of prophecy/ propheteia/ nplm), they will be done away (katargeo/ f.indirect middle.ind.3pl).” This Gift was a temporary (partial/ whole) spiritual gift for the church age.

(1 Cor.13:9-10) “For we know **in part** (g.s.**neuter**) and **we prophesy in part (ek meros/gsm)**; but **when** (hotan/ +subj) **the perfect** (to teleion/ n.s.**neuter**/ subject) **comes** (erchomai/ a.a.subj 3ps), **the partial** (to meros/ gsm) will be done away (katargeo/ f.indirect middle ind.3ps/ indirect middle stresses subject (**the perfect**) producing the action rather than results/ Dana & Mantey).

- **The perfect completes the part (neuter).** Teleios means to complete, finish or to reach an end (Rom.12:2; Col.4:12; Eph.4:11-13).

5. There are three dates and events associated with the classification of temporary and permanent spiritual gifts in the church age (1 Cor.12).

- **30 AD** - The Ascension-Session of Jesus Christ resulted in the Holy Spirit distributing **19** spiritual gifts for the formation of the church of Jesus Christ on earth (Eph.4:8; 1 Cor.12:8-10, 28-20; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11).
- **70 AD** - The fall of Jerusalem to Rome resulted in **2** spiritual gifts ceasing (pauo/ f.p.ind/ intransitive/ ceasing by something inside associated with its function) [Tongues and Interpretation of tongues].

This left **17** spiritual gifts (1 Cor.1:22; 13:8-10; 14:21-22; Isa.28:9-11).

- **100 AD** - The completion of Canon of Scriptures resulted in **8** spiritual gifts being “done away with” (katargeo/ f. indirect middle ind/ transitive) [done away by something outside] (1 Cor.13:8-10)

Thus there are nine (9) permanent spiritual gifts functioning within the Church today, along with the “Perfect” (thing), the completed canon of Scriptures (1 Cor.12:8-10, 28-30; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11).