

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Why People React The Way They Do

Article # 1

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3).

Romans chapter twelve, contains information concerning understanding why people respond to things the way that they do. Over the years, this chapter has been a help to me in understanding exactly that. We could make a statement to one person, and he will respond a certain way, and someone else will respond totally different.

Thinking according as God has dealt to every man. Some people have a higher IQ than others. Some people have a different sense of humour than others, and Paul said we should not think of ourselves more highly than you ought to think. He is dealing with this in the context of the local church. In verses 4-8 he said:

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

The word "office" in verse four has been translated "deeds" in Romans 8:13. From verse six through eight he lists seven gifts that God has given for use in the service of the Lord.

1. The Prophet (Verse 6)
2. The Servant (Verse 7)
3. The Teacher (Verse 7)
4. The Exhorter (Verse 8)
5. The Giver (Verse 8)
6. The Ruler (Verse 8)
7. The Mercy Show-er (Verse 8)

Paul refers in chapter twelve basically about the life and the service of Christians today. The dictionary says service is "the action of doing some work." Jesus said, "...that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

The Lord has given us work to do, but He has not given us work to do without equipping us with the necessary things that we need to do the work. To be equipped is "to supply with what is necessary for a particular purpose."

We see here in verse six that God gives gifts differing. When God gives a gift, it is something that we receive without merit. It's not something that we deserve. In Romans 1:11, Paul said, "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you **some spiritual gift**, to the end ye may be established."

The word "impart" means to make known unto you what these gifts are about, and then, to that end, that we may be established in using the gift that God has given us for the service in the Lord's work.

The Seven Gifts

First of all, there's the prophet that we see in verse six. This word "**prophet**" is not like in the Old Testament prophet where it means to foretell. What it means is to tell forth. It's refers to preaching in comparison to teaching. Then the second gift is in verse seven, where he refers to the gift of "**ministry**" which refers to the gift of a servant. The third gift is **teaching**, and obviously that's a teacher; and then the **exhorter**, one who exhorts; then the **giver**, one who is motivated to give; and then the **ruler**, which basically means an administrator; and then the **mercy** show-er, which, of course, is one who shows mercy. It is God's plan that we would have all of these gifts actively operating within the local church.

Again, Paul said in Romans 12:3 that "*we ought not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.*" In verse four he said we are "*many members, but we do not all have the same office*" or the same deeds. One is motivated to do one thing; one is motivated to do another, and we will be motivated in direct relationship to what our gift is. The dictionary says a motivation is "*the reason we act or react or behave in any particular way.*"

Four Basic Temperaments

Not only do we have the gifts that are mentioned here, but there are also four basic temperaments. The Bible doesn't deal with those, but as I have watched this for over forty years, I believe that basically those who promote the four basic temperaments are correct.

There's the sanguine; there's the choleric; there's the phlegmatic; and then what they call the melancholic. They each have strengths and they each have weaknesses. I'll give you the strengths of the sanguine. He's sociable; he's very outgoing; he's a very confident person; he's warm-hearted, pleasant, nice to be around; he's optimistic; he's a fun-lover; he's very spontaneous. There's never a dull moment when he's around. He easily makes friends with everybody. Now, those are his strengths, but he also has his weaknesses.

When we're talking about how people respond in any given situation, the weaknesses of a sanguine is that he's very impulsive; he's usually late for everything; he's a forgetful kind of person; he's a compulsive talker, and sometimes he talks too loud. Sometimes he's too happy even when he shouldn't be happy. He's not interested in following through with tasks that are boring. He's very self-absorbed—or can be—and he's someone who sometimes appears to be unauthentic—he can't be real because he's too happy all the time. That's basically the sanguine temperament.

Then we have the choleric. What are his strengths? He's ambitious; he's passionate; he's a leader; he's usually focused; he's efficient; he's very practical; he likes to plan things; he's good at solving problems; he's a confident person; he's motivating; he's a delegator, and he's usually right. And he's great in the time of an emergency. But his weaknesses? Well, he's aggressive; he can be domineering, sometimes impatient and inflexible. He can be rude and tactless sometimes, very argumentative, unable to relax, uncomfortable around any kind of emotion. He's kind of low on empathy, and he's discouraged by failures, and sometimes he can be very intolerant.

Then we have what they call the phlegmatic personality. What are his strengths? The phlegmatic person is relaxed; he's quiet; he's calm; he's content with himself. He's usually kind; he's consistent; he's a steady and faithful friend; he's affectionate. He can be very diplomatic. He's a peacemaker. He is one who easily makes friends as well. But his weakness? He sometimes can be too shy, fearful of change. He can be prone to be lazy and stubborn. He can be indecisive and permissive, and he doesn't set goals. He just kind of goes through life and can sometimes be too compromising, undisciplined, discouraging, as a matter of fact, because he doesn't participate in a whole lot.

Then we have the melancholic personality. What are their strengths? They're thoughtful and

considerate. They're very cautious; they're organized. They are planners; they plan extensively. They are schedule oriented. They are detailed. They're highly creative. They may be people who write poetry or do artwork. They can be independent, and they can be very good at preventing problems. But their weakness, they can be too cautious, prone to depression. They're moody; they're up one day and down the next. They're perfectionists. They are pessimistic. Sometimes they're very difficult to please. They are deeply affected by tragedy. They sometimes have tunnel vision, and sometimes they are procrastinators. They can be discontented with themselves and discontented with other people too, and sometimes they can be prone to play the part of a martyr.

No doubt as you were looking at that list and going through those characteristics, you thought about somebody; however, you can be sure that somebody thought about you. That is all we are going to say about the temperaments. We're going to deal with what the Bible says about the seven gifts and why we are motivated to do the things that we do.

By way of introducing this series, I'm going to ask these questions that have to do with things that might irritate you, and if these things irritate you, it can help to tell you what your gift is.

We're going to look at it in much more detail, but just on the surface, what bothers you? Does it bother you when Christians compromise? Then your motivational gift is probably that of a prophet because the prophet says, *"This is right, and this is wrong, and compromising is wrong."*

Does it bother you when Christians fail to demonstrate true concern for others? Then maybe your gift is that of a servant because a servant is motivated to serve and meet the needs of people.

Does it bother you when we substitute experience for sound doctrine? And that happens a lot. Maybe your motivation is that of a teacher, because a teacher wants to get the facts and a

teacher doesn't want to deal only with experience. A teacher wants to deal with sound doctrine.

Maybe it bothers you when people do not grow up spiritually and they don't reach the spiritual maturity that they could. You're motivated to do something about that. Then perhaps you are an exhorter, because the exhorter is one who exhorts people to grow up spiritually, and he has the gift of being able to help them to get from one step to the next in the process of growing up spiritually. That is in contrast with the prophet who as we said it just bothers him when Christians compromise—and it should—but he says, *"This is right and that is wrong. Do right."* The exhorter is a person who says, *"Now, wait a minute. It's not that simple."* They can make that decision, but exhorters help them do right. There's maybe five, six, seven steps to getting to where he needs to go. And that's the difference. The prophet is a great motivator to get him on the right track, but then he needs an exhorter to help him stay on track.

Maybe it bothers you when people do not trust God concerning their finances. Then possibly your motivational gift is that of a giver because you're concerned about giving. And the giver is not only concerned about giving money. Sometimes they don't have anything else to give other than to bake a cake and give it to the neighbor across the street who is sick, and so they see this as an opportunity to give.


Maybe it frustrates you when everybody is disorganized. Perhaps your gift is the gift of the administrator, because an administrator has the motivation of getting things organized. For instance, Nehemiah was an administrator in building that wall. Read the Book of Nehemiah and you will see that he had a tremendous ability to organize the project at Jerusalem.

Does it bother you when people do not show a genuine love for each other? That is possibly because you're a mercy show-er, and a mercy show-er will show mercy.


We need all of these seven gifts within the local church. If every church member would take his or her gift and do what he or she should do with that gift, we would have amazing churches that would be on fire for the Lord, and it would balance the church out in all seven of these areas.

In the upcoming articles, we are going to be looking at this in detail and trying to figure out what your gift might be. It is important not only to understand why people respond the way they do in any given situation, but also to understand why you respond the way you do.


What Each Person Believes We Need In The Church!



The Giver
"We need programs focusing on financial help for missionaries and those who are in need."




The Administrator
"We need a smooth-running church with all things being done decently and in order."



The Prophet
"We need sermons that expose sin, proclaim truth, and warn of judgment to come."



The Mercy Show-er
"We need special outreach ministries to help meet the needs of people who are hurting."




The Servant
"We need practical assistance for every member of the church to encourage them and help them with their responsibilities."

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The Teacher
"We need Bible studies with exact emphasis on the meaning of words as presented within the context."



The Exhorter
"We need personal counseling and encouragement for every member so they can apply Scripture to their everyday living."