



Many Gifts But One Body

The Gift of Teaching

Romans 12:3-8

Introduction

In **Romans 12:6-8** Paul identifies seven Spiritual Gifts that have been given to us according to God's grace and the proportion of our faith.

The Spiritual Gifts are:

- 1. Prophecy v.6**
- 2. Service v.7a**

Today we will discover the Spiritual Gift of Teaching

Scripture

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.

4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function,

5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith;

7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching;

8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness. CSB

Quote of the day

“If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, teach people.” – Ancient Proverb

Teaching is an important part of the world we live in.

Bjorn Carey an expert in the study of ants, through his Research has discovered that worker ants sacrifice time and efficiency in order to teach other ants how to find food—a practice that is beneficial for the entire colony.

When a female ant of the species *Temnothorax albipennis* goes out to find food, she will often choose another ant to accompany her. If the second ant doesn't know the way to the food source, the leader will teach her through a process called "tandem running." As the teacher runs along the path to find food, the student follows behind and will often stop to locate landmarks—creating a gap between herself and the leader. When the student is ready, she will run forward and tap her teacher on her back legs.

This process of teaching is extremely beneficial for ants learning to find food and bring it back to the colony. Research has indicated that lead ants traveled up to four times faster when they were not accompanied by a student.

So why do the leaders sacrifice their time and efficiency to teach others? According to study leader Nigel Franks— The colony cannot survive if the process of finding food is disrupted. It is necessary for experienced Ants to teach inexperienced ants how to locate and bring back food to the colony. As the student ants gradually learn the process of locating and bringing food back to the colony then they are able to teach other ants, which continues the health and well being of the colony. Citation: Bjorn Carey, "Ant School: The First Formal Classroom Found in Nature," Foxnews.com (1-13-06)

If ants understand the value and importance of teaching other ants how to find food, we as followers of Christ should understand this even more.

Teaching Biblical truth matters!

The word translated “**teaching**” comes from the Greek word “**Didasko**” To provide instruction that equips and leads people to serve God and others.

The Spiritual Gift of teaching is a special attribute given by God’s Spirit to members of the Body of Christ to communicate Biblical Principles clearly and truthfully. People who understand Biblical Principles can apply them to daily living.

Teaching the principles of God’s Word is a Priority.

Teaching was a priority for Jesus

Matthew 5:12 “Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” CSB

Teaching was a priority for Jesus because the people were living in a culture of spiritual darkness.

When Jesus stepped into His earthly ministry and began to teach this marked the end of the Silent Age.

Teaching is a priority for anyone gifted and called to teach

2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.” CSB

Seven observations relating to the Priority of Biblical Teaching

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

- 1. Teach with Holiness**
- 2. Teach with Humility**
- 3. Teach the Truth**

4. Teach with Authority
5. Teach with Clarity
6. Teach for Spiritual Transformation
7. Be Teachable

These observations can be used as tools to instruct teachers as well as evaluate teachers.

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

1. Teach with Holiness

2 Corinthians 7:1 “let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” CSB

James 3:13-18 “Who among you is wise and understanding? By his good conduct he should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom. 14 **But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don’t boast and deny the truth.** 15 **Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.** 16 **For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice.** 17 **But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense.** 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.” CSB

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

2. Teach with Humility

Philippians 2:3-4 “**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit,** but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.” CSB

Two statements from Oswald Chambers about pride in relation to spiritual gifts:

“Pride takes many forms, but spiritual pride is the most grievous. To become proud of spiritual gifts or leadership positions, is to forget that all we have is from God, every position we occupy is God’s appointment.”

“It is very possible to be proud of the Spiritual Gifts God has entrusted to us and to strut about ostentatiously, forgetting that we have nothing which we have not received, that grace is a gift, an undeserved favor. We can actually be filled with pride at the eloquence and brilliance of our sermon on humility.”

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

3. Teach the Truth

2 Peter 1:16-21 “For we did not follow cleverly contrived myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; instead, we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased!” 18 We ourselves heard this voice when it came from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 We also have the prophetic word strongly confirmed, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet’s own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” CSB

Carelessness, lack of sufficient study, laziness, and misplaced motives can mislead people. When teachers lack diligence in studying God’s Word many can and will be misled. The Bible warns of false prophets and false doctrine. In the last days there will be false teachers who will mislead many people into tragedy.

2 Timothy 2:16 “Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness” CSB

All teaching must be carefully evaluated in relation to Scripture to discern truth from false teaching.

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

4. Teach with Authority

Matthew 7:28-29 “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 because **He was teaching them like one who had authority**, and not like their scribes.” CSB

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives gives us the authority to speak boldly.

Acts 2 records the words spoken by Peter when he was filled with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:14-15

Acts 2:22

Acts 2:29

Acts 2:36-41

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

5. Teach with Clarity

Mark 4:1-2 “Again he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. 2 He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching.” CSB

Jesus taught with Clarity— The words of Jesus were clear and easy to understand. Jesus spoke to people with familiar words and utilized parables to explain eternal principles.

Jesus talked about lamps, mustard seeds, lost sheep, bread, water, and treasure—things His audience encountered daily. Through these familiar images, Jesus revealed Spiritual Truth.

Jesus wanted His hearers to understand, not merely admire, His words. His communication was rooted in empathy—He understood their world, their struggles, and their way of thinking. Jesus understood the world He lived in and it shaped His thoughts, His words and how He taught the people.

Christian teachers must follow the same pattern. The goal is not to sound sophisticated but to make divine truth plain. **A message that cannot be understood cannot be obeyed.** Citation: “Jesus Taught with Simplicity and Clarity by Edward D. Andrews.

Teaching that is not clear or easily understood is confusing and frustrating!

Matthew, three-year-old son of Stuart Cooke, was eating an apple in the back seat of the car when he asked this question, "Daddy, why is my apple turning brown?" Matthew's dad explained, "Your apple turned brown because after you ate the skin of the apple off. The meat of the apple came into contact with the air, which caused it to oxidize, thus changing its molecular structure and turning it into a different color." There was a long silence. **Then Matthew asked, "Daddy, are you talking to me?"** Citation: Reader's Digest, Dec. 1988, p. 93.

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

6. Teach for Spiritual Transformation

Effective Bible teachers teach Biblical principles to help transform lives.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 “This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. 2 **Do this so that you may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life.** 3 Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply

greatly, because the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 “Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one., 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. 7 Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead., 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.” CSB

Because Biblical Teaching is a Priority:

7. Be Teachable

Proverbs 9:9 “Instruct the wise, and he will be wiser still; teach the righteous, and he will learn more.” CSB

Proverbs 1:5 “ . . . let a wise person listen and increase learning, and let a discerning person obtain guidance.” CSB

The Bible emphasizes that being teachable is essential for spiritual growth and wisdom.

Conclusion

Those who are gifted and called to teach must teach with caution

James 3:1 “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” CSB

The tongue is powerful and is able to convince people one way or another.

Therefore, those who choose to teach or speak on biblical matters will be **JUDGED MORE STRICTLY.**

Revelation 22:18-19 “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.” CSB