

How Many of the Seven Gifts Do You Have?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—When reading the New Testament, believers find a letter the apostle Paul wrote to the congregation in Rome. In that specific letter he encouraged believers to humbly utilize some of the gifts God had given them (Romans 12:3).

Paul proceeded to list seven specific gifts (verses 6-8):

1. Prophesying.
2. Ministering.
3. Teaching.
4. Exhorting.
5. Giving.
6. Ruling (presiding).
7. Showing mercy.

No rank system

These seven gifts are not ranks of power. Many religious denominations (including some among the Church of God) make the mistake of setting up a class system based upon the rank system found in the military.

When doing so, these people like to identify four of the above gifts as ranks. The supposed ranks of power are (1) prophet, (2) minister ("minister" really means "servant"), (3) teacher and (6) ruler.

It is interesting to note that power-hungry people tend to desire to be a (1) prophet, (2) minister (the word really means "servant"), (3) teacher or (6) ruler.

How is (4) "exhorting" a rank of power?

How is (5) "giving" a rank of power?

How is (7) "showing mercy" a rank of power?

These are seven gifts that can edify the entire Body of Christ. These are seven gifts that can edify any specific congregation.

Recommended study

I recommend you go back and study the seven gifts for your own personal edification.

If you are part of a small home fellowship that conducts vibrant interactive Bible studies, I recommend that your group schedule a series of seven studies about these important gifts.

To help you get started on your study, I give you the following list of scriptures for each gift.

1. 1 Corinthians 14:1-6.
2. Matthew 20:25-28.
3. James 3:1.
4. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.
5. 2 Corinthians 9:5-7.
6. Acts 20:28-35 and 2 Corinthians 1:24.
7. Matthew 9:13 and Matthew 12:7.