

Spiritual Gifts: Administration: Held by Men Who May Be Deacons with Authority over Church Policy & Its Facilities; Others Are Held by Men & Women: Service, Helps, Mercy: Illustrations: Oskar Schindler & James McDonald; Giving: Must Be Motivated by the Holy Spirit & Executed through Grace Orientation

Administration is possessed by those who qualify to be deacons. The pastor does not have this gift. He does not have time to get involved in the details of running the church. I have been criticized in the past for not being a good administrator which is a back-handed compliment partially confirming I do have the gift of pastor-teacher. My job is to make sure that the policies established by the deacons comply with biblical principles and are honoring to the Lord. The administrative gift is held by those who are sensitive to the needs of the local church, its people and its facility.

Service is a gift that may be possessed by many in the congregation and may be held by both men and women. Its functions include ministering to the sick and helpless, for example, visiting them at home or in institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, or assisted living centers.

The gift of helps is held by both men and women who are led to give aid to those both inside and outside of the local church. These believers are sensitive to the needs of others and have the discernment to identify those who are truly in need.

The gift of mercy is one that emerges during historical downtrends. As the culture of an area or nation drifts into levels of depravity there are some who are afflicted by the poor decisions of others, primarily those in government. As human viewpoint decisions are imposed in futile efforts to restore order some are persecuted and become victims of political oppression. Believers with the gift of mercy are led to lend such people aid. Excellent historic examples are those who assisted European Jews during the time of the Nazi Holocaust:

- 1) **Oskar Schindler.** A German industrialist and humanitarian during World War II, he operated an enamelware factory in Kraków \krä'-kaw\, Poland, that was originally intended to be run as a forced-labor camp but evolved into a safe haven for Jews who otherwise would have been sent to death camps.¹

After the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and the transfer of many Jews to the Plaszow concentration camp, Schindler used his influence to set up a branch of the camp for 900 Jewish workers in his factory compound and made his now famous list of the workers he would need for its operation. These events were dramatized in Steven Spielberg's 1993 motion picture *Schindler's List*, starring Liam Neeson as Oskar Schindler.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0108052/>

¹ Merriam-Webster's Biographical Dictionary, rev. ed., s.v.: "Schindler, Oskar."

2) **James G. McDonald.** Chairman of President Franklin Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees (1938-1945). He was able to discern as early as 1933 the real intent of Hitler toward the Jews when the Führer said to him, "The world does not know how to get rid of the Jews. I will show them." As chairman of the Advisory Committee, McDonald met with Adolf Hitler and then leaders of European nations and the U.S. government and influenced them to find homes for Germany's Jewish refugees through an aggressive immigration policy. Mercifully, tens of thousands of Jews were able to escape Germany, avoiding the Holocaust.

There may come a day when one of you may have the opportunity to protect a believer who is the target of political oppression – pursued by authorities solely because of his religious beliefs.

The gift of giving can be possessed by both the wealthy and the poor. Giving is usually thought to involve monetary contributions but it also is a mental attitude. A person with this gift may not have the financial resources to contribute to the budgetary needs of the local church or some Christian organization but he does have a desire to do so. This desire is recognized by God and results in the sustenance of the object of that desire.

Those who do have the resources are able to contribute as they are so led to the ongoing dissemination of Bible doctrine. This gift functions without coercion from potential recipients. The individual has the desire to contribute and the Holy Spirit guides in the amount given. This is grace.

The proper motivation for giving is stated in:

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his *kardia*, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a grace-oriented giver.

Grace giving is based on doctrine. Whenever accurate Bible teaching is identified then support for the communicator enables him to continue to crank out the information that sustains his sheep.

Grace oriented giving is voluntary. No church should ever ask for money. Money raised by appeals, pledges, or pressure tactics removes the ability of leadership to know what God supports as opposed to what harassment solicits.

If giving is solicited in some way then a church could remain open when God intends to close it. If the money is not there one of two things is evident: (1) the pastor is ineffective or (2) the congregation is in reversionism.

Projects demand grace giving. No money should be solicited for building projects or church programs. There is a place for disclosure of the church's financial status; the congregation has a right to know whether the church is solvent or not. If a project is undertaken, its projected cost should be made known, but to solicit funds to meet the amount needed prevents leadership from knowing if God backs the idea.

Giving originates from a mental attitude that is based on problem-solving device #4, and, as Jim Wattenbarger implored, “For mercy’s sake let grace keep score.”²

In order to save money on stationary and postage we are now e-mailing the financial statements of Grace Doctrine Church and Joe Griffin Media Ministries. Casey Hunt, secretary of JGMM, is now sending both to Class Notes subscribers since most of our households are on that list. A hard copy of each is also posted on the church bulletin board.

² Jim Wattenbarger, “Grace Orientation,” from *10 Problem-Solving Devices: The Spiritual Mechanics in Verse* (St. Charles: Grace Doctrine Church, 2009), #4.