

Gratitude: Principles from the Mirror Metaphor in 2 Corinthians 3:18, Spiritual Gifts: Administrative Leadership, Service

II. Administrative

This gift is identified from two passages of Scripture, each shedding light on the function of this gift.

Romans 12:8 - He who leads must do so with diligence.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "diligence":

Prudence; attentiveness; care.

Black's Law Dictionary, rev. 4th ed., s.v. "due diligence":

Such a measure of prudence as is properly expected from and ordinarily exercised by a reasonable and prudent man.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "prudence":

Ability to control and discipline oneself; sagacity in the management and of affairs; marked by wisdom and judiciousness; skill and good judgment in the use of resources; caution as to danger or risk.

The Greek word translated "diligence" is *spoudazo* and means, "to hasten to do a thing; to exert oneself; to display earnest care." The word "leads" is the verb *proistemi* which is defined by **Arndt & Gingrich** as follows:

"to be at the head of; to rule, direct, manage, conduct; to be concerned about, care for, or give aid. Refers to officials and administrators in the church."

The second word which defines this gift is found in:

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has set some in the church ... administrations ...

The word "administrations" is the noun *kubernesis* defined by **Arndt & Gingrich** as:

administration; the plural indicates proofs of ability to hold a leading position in the church.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "administer":

To manage affairs; performance of executive duties; execution of affairs as distinguished from policy making; implies the continuing exercise of delegated authority.

Both of these references refer to the same gift but emphasize different aspects of its function. Taken together we get the gift of administrative leadership. This person's authority is delegated by the pastor who identifies the gift.

Execution of the administrative affairs of the church is empowered by the spiritual gift. There is more to the gift than just the nuts and bolts of administration. Great sensitivity and discernment regarding the needs of the local church and how they are best administered is essential.

An example. In the fast-paced environment of modern urban life it is often impossible for believers to get to consistently attend face-to-face teaching whereas in less populated areas there is no orthodox doctrinal teaching available. Thus, a pastor and his Board of Deacons can fulfill these needs by supporting the utilization of various media through which biblical teachings can be made available to all who desire to hear it. In essence, no one medium is all that different from another, especially when the objective is to make doctrine more broadly available to positive believers.

Here are some examples of how modern technology enables the spoken word to be received by the widest possible audience. Remember, each of these is a medium of communication.

1. The Spoken word taught from a pulpit utilizing a sound system.
2. Written word duplicated and distributed.
3. Audio tape duplicated and distributed of the entire lesson with commentary and expansion.
4. Video tape duplicated and distributed of entire lesson with commentary, expansion, and visuals.
5. Radio and television broadcasts either taped or live with the same results as 3 and 4.
6. Telephone hook-up for audio reception of the spoken word at a remote location.
7. Computer diskette which records not only the written word but includes through computer technology the ability to research past lessons using a search capacity plus the ability to print out information if needed.
8. Internet Web site which virtually combines all of the above into one medium and makes the doctrine available on a world-wide basis but primarily to members of this congregation.

NOTE: The claim that the Holy Spirit cannot and does not utilize any medium beyond the spoken word in teaching the believer the Eternal Logos places limitations on Him and denies that the various media listed above are simply fulfillments of the mandate given to man in the Garden.

Genesis 1:28 - And God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it ..."

To this **Dr. Cyrus Scofield** adds the following under footnote #18 (NAS), #4 (NIV) or #2 (KJV) in his **New Scofield Study Bible** at Genesis 1:28:

This is the divine magna charta for all true scientific and material progress. Man began with a mind that was perfect in its finite capacity for learning, but he did not begin knowing all the secrets of the universe. He is commanded to "subdue," i.e. acquire a knowledge of and mastery over his material environment, to bring its elements into the service of the race.

To deny the use of technology in the communication of doctrine is to reject this mandate and thus withhold from many believers the opportunity to grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To permit one method of communicating of truth while denying the use of others is to completely underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit, to misunderstand the basic similarity of all media, and thus to legalistically deny one's assigned flock of the means by which they may make the spiritual advance.

Although the administration of the church must be run like a business, the management of the membership cannot. In a business, people are hired to perform certain functions and are paid to meet certain standards. In a church the people must adhere to established church policy but they may not be treated as hired hands. Why? Because believers in a local church are at various levels of spiritual growth plus the fact a person functions best in the area of his spiritual gift.

In other words, a business can treat its personnel as legalistically as it wishes whereas those who accept duties in the local church must be administered through grace.

III. Congregational

A. Service

The gift of service and administrative leadership can be confused because of the similarity of the biblical words which identify them. The gift of service is mentioned in Romans 12:7 in the Greek noun *diakonia* and is often translated “*ministry*.” Confusion arises because the word so closely resembles the noun *diakonos* which is the word for deacon and specifically refers to the gift of administrative leadership.

There is a very important distinction between these two gifts. The gift of administrative leadership—*diakonos*—refers to deacons and is distributed to men only. The spiritual gift of service—*diakonia*—refers to those who serve on committees under appointment by the pastor and function in certain administrative assignments delegated by the deacons. Both men and women are distributed the gift of service and both may serve on committees. However, all committees must be chaired by a deacon.

It is the gift of service that keeps the routine operation of the church running smoothly. This church needs those who are led to assist in the set-up and breakdown of every Bible class; teachers for Prep School; knowledgeable in curriculum development, talented in the creation of visual aids; willing to prepare the Eucharist or serve in the nursery; and talented in music.

B. Helps

The spiritual gift of helps is identified in 1 Corinthians 12:28 under the word *antilempsis* which means “*to render assistance*,” “*to help*.” Those with this gift are led to offer assistance to those who are disabled in some way, i.e., the sick, the handicapped, the helpless, the grief-stricken.

Often a pastor is judged by whether or not he visits such individuals in their time of stress. A pastor may selectively decide to do this from time to time but it is not his job and certainly not his spiritual gift. His gift demands studying and teaching so that he might effectively prepare every member of the congregation to face the exigencies of life with doctrine.

There is an obvious place for helping those who are sick, injured, handicapped, grief-stricken, or otherwise overwhelmed by the events of life.