

IT'S YOUR SERVE

Spiritual Gifts and You!

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Study # 8

“THE GIFT OF GIVING!”

Romans 12:8

The Lord has called each of us to *something!* Like Timothy, who was twice commanded to “*stir up the gift of God which is within*” him, we are to remain ablaze for the Lord. Such is the gift of giving!

...he who gives, with liberality;

I. EXAMINING THE GIFT OF GIVING

- This gift operates quietly, yet is a lifeline of the ministry
- Two key Greek terms “*metadidomi*” and “*haplotēs*” reveal characteristics of this gift:
 - “Metadidomi” means, “to give; to share with someone.”
 - “Haplotēs” means, “to liberality, sincerely, generously.”
- The term means open-hearted, open-handed, giving out of compassion not ambition

It implies giving is an attitude in the heart and demonstrated in compassion toward people.

“The gift of giving is the special ability God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute to their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.”

- The gift of giving is NOT demonstrated when one tithes. Every Christian is expected and commanded to honor the Lord with money. In fact, believers are encouraged to give:
 - Consistently (1 Corinthians 16:2)
 - Liberally (2 Corinthians 9:6)
 - Sacrificially (2 Corinthians 8:3)
 - Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- This gift is not reserved for those who make lots of money. God does not look at the bank account before He distributes gifts to the Body of Christ.

II. ERRORS RESULTING FROM MISUSING THE GIFT OF GIVING

- 1st. Wrong motives (Acts 8:9 – 24)
- 2nd. Self-seeking praise (Matthew 6:2 – 4)
- 3rd. Produces Pride and Shame (Acts 5:1 – 11)

III. EVIDENCES OF THE GIFT OF GIVING

1st. The Jerusalem Church (Acts 2:44 – 45; 4:34 – 35)

2nd. Barnabas (Acts 4:36 – 37)

3rd. The Macedonian Church (2 Corinthians 8: 1- 5)

4th. The Corinthian Church (2 Corinthians 8:7)

5th. Dorcas (Acts 9:36)

6th. The Widow (Mark 12:41 – 44)

Do You Have the Gift of Giving?

_____ I contribute heavily to Christian causes.

_____ I would give I possessed only one dollar or one million dollars.

_____ I habitually give heavily of my income to the Lord's work, even if it means foregoing something I wanted for myself.

_____ I see myself as a person God blesses financially.

_____ The Lord sets the proportion of my giving.

_____ I am unpretentious and generous in my giving.

_____ I experience joy when I share in my possessions.

_____ I am fulfilled in supporting ministry.

_____ I recognize the principle "God owns everything I have."

_____ I am fulfilled when my giving challenges others to give also.

_____ I am willing to adopt a simpler lifestyle to have more to give to God.

APPLICATIONS

1. Remember God's promises in Luke 6:38
2. Examine your giving patterns
3. Examine your heart
4. Ask God for wisdom in your financial stewardship