

Spiritual Gifts: *Spiritual Gifts in Song – Part II*

(Giving, Apostleship)

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PART ONE

Spiritual Gifts in Song

Merry Christmas! It's wonderful to be able to say those two words and to celebrate their meaning.

Today we're going to do something a little bit different. As we begin to wrap up this series on spiritual gifts, we'll cover two gifts in the context of the gift of music. This will be a two-part presentation, with part two taking place in two weeks.

Though not gifted by God with the spiritual gift of music, I love our worship music. God ministers to our souls while we worship and praise Him. Through the gift of music, God *extends* and *amplifies* all of the other gifts He gives us. Through music, He indeed ministers to our souls – teaching and exhorting us, reassuring and reminding us of His divine and intimate and personal involvement in each of our lives.

Through the worshipful gift of music, God reminds us of three essential truths of life.

- The first essential truth is that our God is an awesome God, who is perfect, for whom nothing is impossible, and in whom we can place our complete trust.
- The second sublime truth is that we are His beloved children, whom He loves perfectly, immeasurably, unconditionally, eternally – and that He will literally move heaven and earth to come to our aid.
- The third eternal truth is that our God is so awesome and His love for us is so great that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us and to live in us, and, through Jesus Christ we are always in God's presence, we are always fully accepted and bountifully beloved by God, and we can do all things through Christ Jesus, who strengthens us.

The spiritual gifts of giving and apostleship know these truths and want to share them with others. The giver and the apostle desire to share the gospel with those who do not know God.

Thank you, Veronica, for that last song and those words from our heavenly Father: "How I love you, child, I love you." That knowledge is what we want to share with others.

Today we'll talk about giving. In part two we'll discuss apostleship.

The Spiritual Gift of Giving

The description in the Spiritual Gift Survey booklet says:

The gift of giving is the unique capacity to comprehend the financial requirements related to the growth of God's kingdom and to fulfill those requirements by contributing eagerly and generously. Essentially it is the ability to give sacrificially to the Lord's work.

A brief note on the gifts of giving and serving. The spiritual gifts of giving and serving are two sides of the same coin. Some give by serving, others serve by giving. Paul James spoke about the gift of serving in June.

The gift of giving serves by giving financially to support God's work. The giver has an innate vision to see the end result of his gift. Ray Boltz summed it up in his song, *Thank You for Giving to the Lord*. In that song, he envisions the scene in heaven where a newly-arrived saint meets all those whose lives he has touched without ever knowing it in this life.

Thank You For Giving to the Lord (Ray Boltz)

<http://www.audio.fln.org/song/detail.asp?strSongs=582>

*Thank you for giving to the Lord.
I am a life that was changed.
Thank you for giving to the Lord.
I am so glad you gave.*

The giver knows the transformational power of a relationship with God and he also knows that his financial gift will help God to reach out to those who need Him.

As we near the conclusion of part one, I encourage you to think about the spiritual gift of giving and to reflect upon its relationship with the gift we'll be covering next time – apostleship. Now, please sit back and listen to the words of this song – *Thank You For Giving to the Lord*. Picture yourself in the heavenly realm. Imagine the joy of those saints as they are united with the one who gave them hope. Experience a foretaste of what we will experience when Jesus brings us through the gates of heaven.

Thank you.

PART TWO

Good morning.

Peter said that we should express our gratitude to God today. I thank God for Jesus Christ. I thank God for my wife, Eileen. I thank God for this fellowship. And I thank God for bringing each one of you into my life.

Last time we spoke about the spiritual gift of giving in the context of spiritual songs. We saw how God uses our financial gifts to minister to His people and to reach out to those who do not know Him. Today we will discuss the spiritual gift of apostleship, or missionary – the end result of our financial gifts.

The Spiritual Gift of Apostleship

The Spiritual Gift Survey booklet says:

The gift of apostleship is the ability to adapt to a different culture in order to share the gospel. Essentially it is the missionary gift whereby one is enabled to minister one's gifts and callings cross-culturally.

In an earlier presentation, we addressed the gift of evangelism. Evangelism *spearheads* the church into the realm of darkness and is at the *forefront* of the Christian war against the strongholds of Satan. Evangelism *invades* the territory of the devil and *storms* the gates of hell.

The spiritual gift of apostleship (missionary) is essentially *cross-cultural* evangelism. The apostle goes into *all the world* to make disciples of every nation, tribe and tongue. The apostle has a *heart* for bringing the nations to God – it is the *cry* of his heart. And he trusts in God's promises to heal the nations and let His glory cover the earth.

Both the gifts of evangelism and apostleship have a heart for the lost and hopeless, a desire to bring the unchurched to God, and to bring healing to the nations.

Rita Springer's song, "You Said," captures the heart of the spiritual gift of apostleship, the missionary zeal of the apostle.

You Said (Rita Springer)

http://www.floodgaterrecords.com/store/rs_all_you_said.html

*You said, "Ask and you will receive whatever you need."
You said, "Pray and I'll hear from heaven and I'll heal your land."
You said, "My glory will fill the earth, like water the seas."
You said, "Lift up your eyes, the harvest is here, the kingdom is near."*

*You said, "Ask and I'll give the nations to you."
O Lord, that's the cry of my heart.
Distant shores and the islands will see Your light as it rises on us.
O Lord, we ask for the nations. O Lord, we ask for the nations.*

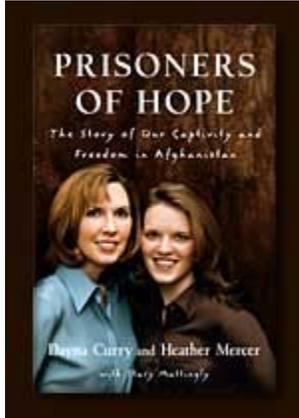
You have probably heard the remarkable story of two American missionaries imprisoned by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry were captured one month before the 9/11 attack and they were liberated 105 days later. Theirs is an inspirational story of courage, faith and love. Their book, *Prisoners of Hope*, sounds as if it could have been written by the apostle Paul. And their missionary spirit is evident throughout.

Early in the book, Heather Mercer writes about her teenage passion for overseas evangelism:

"Eventually – and it did not take long – I began dreaming of serving the poor overseas and expressing the love of Jesus to those who had never heard about him. My heart burned to go abroad. I came to a point where all I could imagine was going to the ends of the earth to serve the poorest of the poor. ... The thought of not going abroad, or the thought of doing anything else

with my life, broke my heart. ... As my vision about sharing God's love with the poor overseas became clearer, I had begun to pray this way: 'Lord, send me to the hardest place. Send me where others do not want to go – or are afraid to go.'" – Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, *Prisoners of Hope: The Story of Our Captivity and Freedom in Afghanistan*, Doubleday, 2002, pg. 20.

God answered Heather's prayers.



Heather and Dayna possess missionary zeal. Despite their experiences in Afghanistan, they long to return to that impoverished land to help the people that they have come to love. Theirs is indeed a passionate yearning to “serve the poorest of the poor.”

While in a Taliban prison, Heather and Dayna glorified God. They also wrote and sang several songs to His glory. Their CD is entitled: “Prisoners of Hope: songs of freedom.”

The lives of God's people testify to His glory and to the spiritual gifts that He has given to His children. The spiritual gift of music is a tremendous blessing to His people because through that gift we are able to more fully experience God and all of His spiritual gifts.

Praise the Lord!

Please sit back and listen to this prison song written and performed by Heather and Danya. *Fear Not* testifies to the essence of the gospel, that with God we have nothing to fear because He is forever with us.

Thank you.