

Spiritual Gifts: *Teaching & Shepherding*

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Approaches to Spiritual Gifts

There are any number of ways in which we can study and discuss spiritual gifts. We have varied our presentation of spiritual gifts.

- ◆ Some gifts have been presented *individually*, on their own, such as exhortation, faith and music.
- ◆ At times we have *contrasted* gifts, such as prophecy and mercy, to see how they *balance* one another.
- ◆ At other times we have presented two or three gifts together which have *shared* characteristics and *complement* one another. These include leadership and administration, or faith, hope and love.
- ◆ Another approach is to use *music* as a aid to internalize the significance of a particular gift.
- ◆ Author Charles Stanley uses another technique in which he presents both the *positive* and *negative* aspects of a particular gift. He presents the *benefits* of a gift used properly in the Spirit as opposed to the *consequences* a gift used improperly in the flesh.
- ◆ For some of the gifts, I have included *biblical examples* of those who were so gifted.
- ◆ Still another way to view the spiritual gifts is to see the *examples of Jesus Christ* – the *Christology* of the gifts.

Teaching & Shepherding

Today we will illustrate these varied methods as we look at the *similar* and *complementary* gifts of teaching and shepherding.

For this presentation we will use the biblical examples of Apollos as teacher and Timothy as shepherd. We will also look at Jesus Christ as the ultimate example of Teacher and Shepherd.

Acts 18:24-28 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born in Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

We see here that Apollos was “mighty in the Scripture,” “fervent in Spirit,” and “spoke and taught accurately.” These are all attributes of the gift of teaching. The teacher is also willing to be corrected so that he can teach more accurately.

The epistle of 1st Timothy is a *leadership manual* for shepherding and provides the qualifications of a shepherd. These *functions* of the *office* of shepherd illustrate the *nature* of the *gift* of shepherd. This leadership manual contains sections on sound doctrine, godly conduct, public worship, church discipline, relationship-building and other pastoral duties.

We see this paradigm personified in the life of Jesus Christ.

As teacher, Jesus *taught*. Jesus summarized His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*) and illustrated his lessons with parables (*Matthew 13*), even teaching “hard sayings” which turned some disciples away from Him (*John 6:60-66*).

As shepherd, Jesus cared for His flock, both teaching and protecting them. Jesus guided, exhorted and rebuked His disciples when necessary. His sacrificial love for those in His care was exemplified at the cross (*John 10:11-18,25-29*).

Jesus Christ as Teacher spoke hard sayings which turned some disciples away, while Jesus Christ as Shepherd died for all his brothers and sisters.

Simply put, the teacher tends to focus on the subjects being taught, on the truth being presented with a concern for the *accuracy* of the information being given, while the shepherd tends to focus more on people and relationships and the welfare of those under his care. The shepherd not only teaches, but he cares for, tends, guides, nurtures and protects the flock entrusted to his sacrificial care.

As we continue in this series on spiritual gifts, I hope that you will look at your gifts and the gifts of others from fresh perspectives. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and inspire your understanding and appreciation of these marvelous gifts with which we have been blessed.

Overhead One

Apollos

(Teacher)

Acts 18:24-28

- “mighty in the Scripture”
- “fervent in Spirit”
- “spoke and taught accurately”

Timothy

(Shepherd)

1st Timothy

LEADERSHIP MANUAL

- *sound doctrine*
- *godly conduct*
- *public worship*
- *church discipline*
- *relationship-building*
- *other pastoral duties*

Jesus Christ

Teacher. *John 13:13*
As teacher, Jesus *taught*. Jesus summarized His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*) and illustrated His lessons with parables (*Matthew 13*), even teaching “hard sayings” which turned some disciples away from Him (*John 6:60-66*) .

Shepherd. *John 10:11*
As shepherd, Jesus *cared for* His flock, both teaching and protecting them. Jesus guided, exhorted and rebuked His disciples when necessary. His sacrificial love for those in His care was exemplified at the cross (*John 10:11-18,25-29*).