

A List of Seven Distinct Gifts (vv. 6-8)

VERSE 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each

of us is to exercise them accordingly (ἔχοντες δὲ χαρίσματα κατὰ τὴν χάριν τὴν δοθεῖσαν ἡμῖν διάφορα, [*pres.act.part.nom.m.p. echo have + conj. de + noun acc.nt.p. charisma gift + prep kata according + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. charis grace + d.a.w/aor.pass.part.acc.f.s. didomi give + pro.dat.p. ego + adj.acc.nt.p. diaphoros different*]): **if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith** [ἔτε προφητεῖαν κατὰ τὴν ἀναλογίαν τῆς πίστεως [*conj. eite whether + noun acc.f.s. propheteia prophecy + prep kata + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. analogia proportion + d.a.w/noun gen.f.s. pistis faith*]);

VERSE 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching (ἔτε

διακονίαν ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ, εἴτε ὁ διδάσκων ἐν τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ [*conj. eite if + noun acc.f.s. diakonia service, ministry + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. diakonia “serving” + conj. eite or + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. didasko teach + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. didaskalia teaching*]);

VERSE 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he

who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness (ἔτε ὁ παρακαλῶν ἐν τῇ παρακλήσει· ὁ μεταδιδούς ἐν ἀπλότῃ, ὁ προϊστάμενος ἐν σπουδῇ, ὁ ἐλεῶν ἐν ἰλαρότῃ [*conj. eite or + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. parakaleo exhort + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. parakleiss comfort, encouragement, exhortation + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. metadidomi give, share + prep en + noun loc.f.s. aplothes generosity + d.a.w/pres.mid.part.nom.m.s. proistemi lead, manage + prep en + noun loc.f.s. spoude zeal, diligence, eagerness + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. eleeo show mercy + prep en + noun loc.f.s. hilarotes cheerfulness; 1x*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 6-8

1. Seven distinct spiritual gifts are featured here.
2. In 1 Cor. 12:8-10 nine spiritual gifts are mentioned; in 2 Cor. 12:28-29 nine gifts are mentioned; and in Eph. 4:11 four gifts are mentioned.
3. The selection here is sufficient to illustrate and reinforce the doctrine in vv. 3-5.
4. The bestowal of a gift at salvation is a function of God's grace.
5. Prophecy as a gift is a gift that was operative during the apostolic era.
6. This gift no longer is bestowed on believers as per 1 Cor. 13:8.
7. Certain believers were considered prophets in the early church (Eph. 2:20; Acts 21:10, 11).
8. This gift was to be exercised in the presence of someone who had the gift of discernment (1 Cor. 10:2).
9. The regulative principle with respect to this gift is seen in the phrase "according to the proportion of his faith."
10. This means that the one prophesying needed to be content with the information revealed to that person, not adding to or holding back what was revealed on a given occasion.
11. The gift functioned only when God desired to reveal something in the near future that the members of a given local church needed to know.
12. Next in the listing is the gift of service or ministry.
13. The gift has to do with ministering to the operational needs of a local assembly.
14. Both deacons and non deacons have this gift.
15. The control factor governing this gift is a need whether momentary or on-going.
16. Next is the gift of teaching which refers to communication of doctrine (such as teaching children, in-house seminary, etc.).
17. Exhortation (v. 8) is a specialized gift which is above and beyond the function any believer can engage in.
18. All of us are called upon to exhort/encourage one another (Heb. 10:25).
19. This gift is incorporated into the gift of pastor-teacher.
20. This function can be abused.
21. You do not go looking for someone to straighten out!
22. This gift augments the gift of pastor-teacher.
23. It is not his responsibility to contact believers who have left the church or whose attendance is not what it should be.
24. There are circumstances where he can take individuals aside, but that is infrequent.
25. Giving (v. 8) is a responsibility and command for all believers (2 Cor. 8 & 9).
26. But there is a gift that operates above and beyond the royal command to financially support the local church.
27. The applications under this gift should protect the privacy of the giver as much as possible.
28. Having ample financial means is not the criteria for having this gift.
29. The criterion is generosity ("liberality").
30. God blesses the believer with the means and faith to function under this gift.
31. The gift of leadership ("he who leads") would obviously compliment the office of deacon, though it is not restricted to that office.
32. In 1 Cor. 12:28 it is called "administrations."
33. This gift carries with it the ability to organize and direct others within the local church (projects, prep school).
34. "Diligence" is the watchword connected to this gift.

35. Slackness becomes painfully obvious in a believer who loses the zeal necessary to move projects forward.
36. The gift of mercy involves a close relationship between the one with the gift and someone in need.
37. “Mercy” denotes as do all the gifts a above and beyond the standard required of all believers.
38. The virtue enjoined on the believer with this gift is “cheerfulness.”
39. Sometimes the applications under this gift can be inopportune do to the object.
40. Believers who are under heavy testing need someone who is upbeat and knows just what needs to be done to provide aid to the on suffering.
41. Note that the first four gifts supply an exhortation with respect to the sphere of activity.
42. The final three in this listing provide an exhortation as related to the proper mental attitude the one exercising the respective gift must exhibit.