

The measure of Christ's gift

We pick things up this morning with our series on the individual spiritual gifts.

Last time, we saw the two major categories of gifts: temporary and permanent.

/There are two major categories of spiritual gifts found in the Bible: temporary and permanent.

Temporary and Permanent /slide graphic\

/a. **Temporary** spiritual gifts operated in the first generation of the church age, from AD 30 to AD 96.\

/There were three kinds of temporary spiritual gifts: **foundational, sign, and revelatory.** <pic>

/Foundational gifts laid the foundation for the church: introducing the Gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles, establishing the first congregations, and completing the canon of Scripture.\

Eph 2:19-22

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

/Foundation: apostles, prophets\

/Peter and Paul were apostles. They had supernatural abilities to preach the gospel and perform signs.\

Peter built the foundation for the Jewish church. Paul built the foundation for the Gentile church.

The foundation only needed to be built once.

/Sign gifts brought attention to, and confirmed the divine source of, the messengers and their new message.\

These were spectacular!

1 Cor 12:8-11

*8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of **miracles**, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of **tongues**, and to another **the interpretation of tongues**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

/Sign (manifestation, confirmatory, authenticating): healings, miracles, tongues. \

2 Cor 12:12

12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

/There is a good basis for thinking that the sign gifts ceased operating before the revelatory gifts did.\

Heb 2:1-4

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

/Revelatory gifts provided partial revelation to the early church while the canon of the New Testament was still being written.\

/In fact, in that first generation, the LORD provided many supernatural means for revealing new truths. \

1 Cor 12:8-11

*8 For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another **the interpretation of tongues**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

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/Revelatory: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, interpretation of tongues\

<pic>

/When Paul speaks of the gifts being curtailed or ceasing, he mentions one from each of these three groups\:

1 Cor 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy [foundation], they will be done away; if there are tongues [sign], they will cease; if there is knowledge [revelatory] , it will be done away.

/God provided uniquely gifted men – the apostles and prophets.\

/They were given the ability to perform miraculous signs like healing and miracles. \

This made an amazing first impression.

/Men were eager to give a hearing to what they had to say.\

And what they had to say was unprecedented.

The temporary spiritual gifts were absolutely necessary in order for the Christian faith to gain a foothold in the first century, in the Roman empire.

/b. **Permanent** spiritual gifts function throughout the Church Age.\

Let's turn to 1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Peter 4:10-11

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever **speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever **serves** is to do so as one who is serving*

by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

/There are two kinds of permanent spiritual gifts: speaking and serving.\<pic>

/Speaking: pastor-teacher, evangelist, teaching, exhortation\

/Serving: helps, service, administration, mercy, giving\

OK, let's get started with our examination of these individual spiritual gifts for the church.

We begin with the book of Ephesians.

Eph 4:1-16

*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve **the***

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

*7 But to each one of us **grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.** 8 Therefore it says,*

*"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."*

*9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And **He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,** 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of*

doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

/We have the handoff between the men who were gifted to build the foundation and the men who are given for the building up of the church.\

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

/The apostles and prophets of the first generation were succeeded by the evangelists and pastor-teachers (the men who pastor and teach).\

Notice who it is who gives these men to the church. The LORD Jesus Christ does.

The rest of the spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:7.

/But these men have been given to the church by **the LORD Jesus Christ.**\

/It's no accident that Ephesians 4:11 is the only verse in the New Testament that mentions the gift of evangelists plural. \

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εὐαγγελιστής

euaggelistes (yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'); a preacher of the gospel:

/The Greek word *euaggelistes* (yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace') means a preacher of the good news of the gospel.\

Euaggelistes Definition

1. a bringer of good tidings, an evangelist
2. the name given to the NT heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles

/The evangelist singular – one individual – is mentioned twice. The first mention is in the book of Acts. \

Acts 21:8

8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.

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This is not the same Philip as the apostle Philip.

/Philip is the only person who is called an evangelist by name in the New Testament.\

The word evangelist appears one other time.

2 Tim 4:1-5

4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

*3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**, fulfill your ministry.*

/Timothy was not an evangelist, but he did the work of an evangelist. \

What is the work of an evangelist?

/To help answer that question, let's examine the work of Philip the evangelist.\

Now Philip was appointed a deacon by the apostles in Jerusalem. That was an office. But Jesus Christ gifted him to be an evangelist.

Acts 8:1-8

8 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. 3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. 6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. 7 For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.

/First and foremost, an evangelist is gifted to preach the gospel to large groups of unbelievers.\

Unbelievers are drawn to them.

/They are supernaturally endowed with the ability to attract crowds of unbelievers. \
They listen to what the evangelist has to say.

Now Philip served during the first generation of the church. So he was able to perform miracles.

Evangelists today don't usually perform miracles (although God can do whatever He wishes).

Philip left the home church in Jerusalem and was sent to the city of Samaria.

/Evangelists are missionaries. They leave their geographic location (Jerusalem here) and travel to locations (Samaria here) as they are called by God to do so.\

The LORD blessed the gospel preaching of Philip (and later the apostles who followed Philip to Samaria) with a great harvest of souls.

/But then the LORD sent His angel took Philip from Samaria and sent him to spread the gospel to another country : Ethiopia. \

Acts 8:25-40

25 *So, when they [the apostles Peter and John who had come down to Samaria] had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.*