

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: Divine Design: New Testament Motivational Gifts

Key Passages: Romans 12: 3-8 ESV; 1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV

Romans 12:3-8 ESV

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

To Speak and to Serve / To the glory of God.

A yummy dessert is being brought from the kitchen to where the guests are seated. En-route it falls all over the floor and cannot be eaten. Here are the responses:

- Prophecy – “That’s what happens when you’re not careful.”
- Serving – “Oh, let me help you clean that up.”
- Teaching – “The reason that it fell is that it was too heavy on one side.”
- Exhortation – “Next time let’s serve the dessert in bowls before carrying it to the table, in order to not have this happen again.”
- Giving – “I’ll be happy to go down to the store and buy a new dessert.”
- Administration – “Tom, would you get the mop. Meg, please help scrape it up; and Kim, help me prepare another dessert.”
- Mercy – “Don’t feel badly. It could have happened to anyone.” (Relieve embarrassment.)

THE MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

Prophecy: “That’s what happens when you’re not careful.”

The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by speaking either foretelling or forth telling timely words from God. A person with the motivational gift of prophecy applies the Word of God to a situation so that sin is exposed and relationships are restored. He or she has a strong sense of right and wrong and speaks out against compromise and evil.

People with this gift ...

- Are driven by a desire to adhere to God’s revealed truth
- Are known for publicly communicating God’s Word, using words, messages, or pictures that are specific to the spiritual, physical, or emotional health of the congregation
- Find it easy to confront others whose motives are not up to God’s standards
- Have learned to hear the Holy Spirit and follow His leading
- Have a deep Fear of God and sense of justice

Prophecy – pros and cons – these are the eyes of the body of Christ

- Insight
 - Foresight
 - Act as watch-dogs in the church.
 - They warn of sin and reveal sin.
 - They are usually verbal and may come across as judgmental and impersonal.
 - They are serious, dedicated and loyal to truth even over friendship.
 - They are often intercessors.

Prophecy – Cons

- Can use improvement in speaking the truth in love.
 - They can be blunt and unfeeling, lacking tact.
 - They can be deceived to think they see everything as truth.
 - They can become discouraged when the way he feels doesn’t measure up to his concept of the Christian life.
 - They can come across as contrary for contrary’s sake.
 - They can be judgmental and impersonal.
 - They are loyal to truth over friendships and relationships.
 - There is no gray area with these people, only black and white.

Serving/Helping: “Oh, let me help you clean that up.”

The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering others assistance in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ. A person with the motivational gift of service takes joy in helping others accomplish their goals. This aptitude is sometimes referred to as the gift of “helps” or “service.”

People with this gift ...

- Are driven by a desire to assist others.
- Enjoy and seek out ways to serve behind the scenes.
- Rejoice in the success of others.
- Are often detail-oriented.
- Do not seek recognition for their efforts. “I just want to help.”

Serving/ Helping – Pros and Cons - These are the arms and legs of the Body of Christ.

- These are the arms and legs of the body.
 - They are concerned with meeting needs;
 - they are highly motivated doers.
 - They may tend to over commit,
 - they find joy in serving and meeting short-term goals.
 - This person remembers likes and dislikes of others.

Serving – Cons –

- Sometimes their motives can be misunderstood
 - They can be seen as show offs.
 - They can have a hard time saying, “No.”
 - They can disregard weariness in themselves and others.
 - They can give unrequested help that can avoid community decisions, that to them, seem like unnecessary red-tape.
 - They tend to move quickly and bypass authority.
 - Use personal funds to avoid delays.
 - They sometimes neglect God-given priorities, and authority, interfering with God’s discipline.

Teaching: “The reason that it fell is that it was too heavy on one side.”

The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by teaching sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education. A person with the motivational gift of teaching is motivated by a desire for others to learn and grow.

Individuals who have this gift ...

- Are driven by a desire to see others grow in knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
- Enjoy making the Bible clear and understandable to others.
- Seek out opportunities to speak biblical insight into daily situations.
- Often use metaphor, illustration, imagery, story, or other creative means to teach.
- Recognize a variety of ways to effectively communicate the Word of God, including speaking.

Teaching – Pros and Cons -These are the mind of the Body of Christ.

- The mind of the Body of Christ.
 - They realize their gift if foundational.
 - They emphasize accuracy of words and love to study.
 - They delight in research to validate truth.
 - Teachers discern other teachers.
 - Teachers clarify misunderstandings.

Teaching – Cons

- Teachers can be easily sidetracked by new interests.
 - Can be proud of knowledge,
 - can overemphasize credentials,
 - depends on human reasoning.
 - They can criticize practical applications,
 - shows off research skills.
 - Downfall of teachers is that sometimes they do not submit their research to the Holy Spirit and can become a philosophical pursuit.
 - A teacher can place their mind above Holy Spirit.
 - They can take research to extreme and argue minor points that can lead to division and strife.
 - They can be boring with their endless facts.

Exhortation/ Encouragement: “Next time let’s serve the dessert in bowls before carrying it to the table, in order to not have this happen again.”

The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by helping others live God-centered lives through inspiration, encouragement, counseling, and empowerment. A person with the motivational gift of exhortation/encouragement is motivated by a desire to lift others up and inspire them to thrive. The Greek for these words is “*paraklesis*”. It has a broad definition ranging from an admonition to comfort to a persuasive discourse or a strong urging; the heart of this word is to “come along side, to aid”.

People with this gift ...

- Are driven to inspire others and impact their lives positively for Christ

- Often desire to spur people to overcome difficult life situations.
- Desire to help coach people to reach their full potential in Christ.
- Usually are positive “you can do it” kind of people, who encourage with words and actions.
- Rejoice in others’ success

Exhortation – Pros and Cons -These are the mouth of the Body of Christ

- **mouth of the Body of Christ.**
 - like cheerleaders.
 - encourage other believers and are motivated by a desire to see people grow and mature in the Lord.
 - practical and seek positive responses.
 - fluent communicators.
 - accept people as they are
 - need a sounding board to bounce ideas off of,
 - witnesses by his life
 - easily make decisions
 - completes what he starts
 - has high expectations of self and others.
 - sees root problems.
 - discerns spiritual maturity and immaturity.
 - can transform problems into benefits.
 - is transparent and honest.

Exhortation – Cons

- Can be easily taken advantage of
 - Willing to give people whatever time needed to grow spiritually which can cut into family time and personal responsibilities.
 - Can arrive at conclusions before hearing all the facts.
 - In describing steps to growth may come across as cut-and-dry or cold.
 - Can become proud of visible results.
 - People sometimes feel like projects.
 - Interrupt others in their eagerness to give opinions or advice.
 - Can be outspoken and opinionated.
 - Shares private illustrations which might make some uncomfortable.
 - Can present truth out of balance.
 - Sets unrealistic goals.
 - Gives up on uncooperative people.

Giving/Contributing: “I’ll be happy to go down to the store and buy a new dessert.”

The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by joyfully supporting and funding various kingdom initiatives through material contributions beyond the tithe. A person with the motivational gift of giving/contributing is motivated by a desire to equip others with tools and resources to accomplish their goals or initiatives.

People with this gift ...

- Are driven to see others rejoice in God’s provision.
- Plan and purposely give over and above the 10 percent tithe, in order to see God’s kingdom advanced.
- Often prefer that their donations remain anonymous or low-profile.
- Strategically seek out ways to increase their resources, in order to contribute more for God’s use.
- See their resources as tools for God’s use.
- Recognize God’s ultimate ownership of everything.

Giving – Pros and Cons -These are the hands of the Body of Christ.

- Givers are the hands of the body.
 - They want their gift to be an answer to prayer.
 - is mindful that his giving does not corrupt.
 - confirms amount with counsel and reacts negatively to emotional pleas for finances.
 - These truly enjoy reaching out in giving.
 - They are excited by the prospect of blessing others.
 - they desire to give quietly, in secret,
 - will also motivate others to give.
 - alert to people’s needs.
 - give cheerfully.
 - give the best that they can, money, possessions, time, energy and love.
 - give high quality.
 - is resourceful and industrious, not gullible.

Giving – Cons

- Can sometimes wait too long to give.
 - Uses giving to shirk responsibilities to family’s needs.
 - Can hoard resources to self.
 - Can use a gift to control people.
 - Can feel guilty about personal assets and blessings from God.
 - Gives to projects rather than people.
 - They can enjoy people looking to them rather than God.

Leading / Administration: “Tom, would you get the mop. Meg, please help scrape it up; and Kim, help me prepare another dessert.”

The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth, applying strategies, and achieving success where God’s purposes are concerned. A person with the motivational gift of leading is motivated by a desire to organize people and groups to work together to accomplish more than they could alone.

People with this gift ...

- Are driven to motivate people — both individually and in teams — to work together in achieving goals for God’s kingdom.
- Exhibit a tendency toward huge visions for God and the ability to inspire others to work toward accomplishing those visions for his glory, and to bless others.
- Are naturally drawn into leadership roles.
- Naturally grasp the “big picture.”
- Are able to let go of responsibility and delegate it to others who are qualified.
- Identify the gifts of others and are able to mobilize them in teamwork.

Administration – Pros and Cons -These are the head and shoulders of the Body of Christ

- The head and shoulders of the Body of Christ:
 - Have ability to see the overall picture and set long-term goals.
 - can withstand opposition.
 - has broad perspective.
 - visionary
 - expects loyalty.
 - has an easy time delegating tasks.
 - They are good organizers.
 - Find efficient ways of getting work done.
 - Although they may not seek leadership they will assume it in vacuum.
 - Receive fulfillment when others come together to complete a task.
 - Enjoy working with others.
 - comfortable under authority.
 - decisive
 - Communicates clearly.
 - maintains zeal for a task.

Administration – Cons

- May respond with indifference to criticism.

- Can become upset when others don't share their vision.
- Can be considered outwardly calloused.
- Can neglect personal and family needs.
- Can view people as resources.
- Can build loyalty with favoritism.
- Can be unresponsive to appeals.
- Can overlook workers serious faults.
- Can overlook explanations and praise for jobs done well.
- Can measure his ability to persuade and misuse others.
- Can lose interest in a project when finished, overlooks maintenance.
- Finds repetitive work boring.

Mercy: "Don't feel badly. It could have happened to anyone."

(Relieve embarrassment.)

The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally. A person with the motivational gift of showing mercy is motivated by a desire to decrease suffering. Their actions are characterized by love, care, compassion, and kindness toward others.

People with this gift ...

- Are drawn toward opportunities to practically meet the needs of others.
- Devote significant time in prayer for the needs of others.
- Tend to place the needs of others ahead of their own.
- Grieve with those who grieve.
- Are most fulfilled when visiting people in need — in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, orphanages, villages, or wherever God directs them.

Mercy – pros and Cons -These are the heart of the Body of Christ.

The heart of the Body of Christ

- Easily senses joy or distress in others, empathetic
 - Sensitive to feelings and needs of others.
 - Are attracted to and patient with people in need.
 - Motivated by a desire to see people healed of mental and emotional hurts.
 - Meek in nature and avoid firmness.
 - Tremendous capacity to show love.
 - Typically cheerful and joyful.
 - Motivated to help people and have right relationships.
 - Gives up his own interests to help others.
 - Careful with his words and actions in order to avoid hurting others.
 - Deeply loyal to friends.

- Trusting and trustworthy.
- Avoids conflicts and confrontations.
- Always looks for the good in people.
- Ruled by their heart not head.
- Senses the spiritual and emotional atmosphere of a group or individual.
- Easily detects insincerity or wrong motives.
- Deeply sensitive
- Drawn to those of like mind.
- Intercedes for hurts and problems of others.
- Is a crusader of good causes.
- More concerned over mental and emotional distress than physical distress
- Is thoughtful.
- Measures his own acceptance by closeness.
- Realizes prophets are needed for balance.
- Doesn't like being rushed in a job or activity.

Mercy – cons

Indecisive

- Can take up offense.
- Can become depressed.
- Become possessive.
- Tolerates evil.
- Fails to be firm.
- Can easily hurt by others.
- Leans on emotions rather than reason.
- Empathizing too much with the suffering of others.
- The love and compassion can be misunderstood by the opposite sex.
- Can react negatively to God's purpose.
- Can cut off insensitive people.

The Body needs you and it needs you to be functioning in your gift.

FACTS ABOUT THE GIFTS

There are several significant points in this paragraph.

The gift is said to be singular, not plural.

- The one who _____
- You are the steward of it.

Some are speaking gifts.

- We would probably include prophecy, teaching, and exhortation. These might be termed more “public” gifts.
- Oracles from the Lord

Some are serving gifts.

- Here we would include serving, giving, facilitating, and showing mercy. These might be termed more “private” gifts.
- By the strength God supplies

All gifts are to be used for others.

- Serve one another.
- Individual members for the whole Body

All gifts are to glorify God.

- For His pleasure
- For His benefit
- For his glory

Everyone has received a gift

- Each to the measure of faith and according to the grace given us
- None greater than the other – do not think too highly of yourself or gift

Paul speaks of what I am referring to as motivational gifts as being according to the “measure of faith.” And “according to the grace”

They are Motivational gifts

Internally and divinely designed to motivated in such a way

And also According to your faith BE MOTIVATED to bless the church and glorify God

- God gives grace
- According to your faith

Challenge

Will you acknowledge the gift God has given you?

Will you increase in faith to walk in your gift in a godly way?

Will you steward your gift for the sake of the church and the glory of God?