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## **THE TEACHER**

We must go back to our scriptures that use this word teacher.

**Ephesians 4:11, “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and TEACHERS.”**

**I Corinthians 12:28-29, “<sup>28</sup> and God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, THIRDLY TEACHERS, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. <sup>29</sup> are all apostles? Are all prophets? ARE ALL TEACHERS?”**

**Romans 12:4-8, “<sup>4</sup> for as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same OFFICE: <sup>5</sup> So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, LET US PROPHECY according to the proportion of faith; <sup>7</sup> Or ministry, LET US WAIT on our ministering: or HE THAT TEACHETH, ON TEACHING. <sup>8</sup> Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”**

- A. Teachers and those that teach hold a well-defined and important place in the New Testament.
- B. The teacher is the only one mentioned by name in all three lists of ministry gifts.
- C. One can stand in the office of pastor and teacher, or prophet and teacher, or evangelist and teacher, and so forth. In other words, one can stand in more than one office. We separate the offices to define them.
  - 1. **Acts 13:1** names the five men who were either prophets or teachers, or prophets and teachers.

Acts 13:1 “**1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch CERTAIN PROPHETS AND TEACHERS; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen...**”

- a. Barnabas was a teacher (Acts 11:22-26; 13:1)
- b. Paul was a prophet and a teacher (Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:3; I Tim. 2:7)
- c. Both became apostles (Acts 14:14).

D. One who is a teacher but not a pastor (that is, he does not have the oversight of a flock) many times has a roving ministry among the churches.

1. If one is a pastor and a teacher (and often this is the case), he would not necessarily have a roving ministry, although he may go out at times to preach.

E. The teaching gift is a divine gift. God is talking about an office when He talks about the teacher (Rom. 12:4). He is talking about men or women who are called by God and are set by the Spirit of God to stand in that office to teach by supernatural ability.

1. We have left the impression that Sunday School teachers are the gift He is talking about.
  - a. The Early Church did not have Sunday School. Sunday School didn't start until the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
  - b. Naturally, a person who knows the Bible can teach what he/she knows. Any Christian can and should share with others what they know by teaching and helping them. But this is not that teaching gift God is talking about in these passages where the teaching ministry gift is listed.
  - c. Holy Spirit will drop into your spirit an unction that you receive as a divine endowment and enablement to teach. It is the supernatural endowment to teach, not just a human gifting.

F. A teacher is not a teacher merely by virtue of natural ability or a natural inclination to teach.

1. Natural ability and inclination may provide a background for this gift – but the teaching gift is not a natural gift; it is a *divine endowment* to teach God’s Word.
  - a. You may even know teachers who were teachers before they were born again. They may be saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and able teachers in Bible classes in church. It was right for them to do so, but this is not the ministry gift of teaching in demonstration. It is a natural ability.

G. No teaching ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit is dry. It will convey rivers of living water.

1. Paul described the teaching ministry as watering.

**I Corinthians 3: 6-9, “*6 I have planted, APOLLOS WATERED; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth anything, NEITHER HE THAT WATERETH; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth AND HE THAT WATERETH are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: YE ARE GOD’S HUSBANDRY [garden]...*”**

- a. A minister of the gospel was ministering in an area of the United States well known for greenhouses and nurseries. One elderly gentleman in the church invited the visiting minister to see the greenhouse where he tended the plants. The minister was amazed at what he saw. He said, “I’ve never seen such luxurious growth.”

Two years later the minister was back in the area. He asked to be taken to the greenhouse again. “The minute I walked inside, he said, I could tell something was wrong.” It was the same greenhouse. They had the same kinds of plants. But they were not as luxurious. There was a remarkable difference.

“It’s not like it was two years ago. What happened?” he asked the attendants. They knew what was wrong. They answered, “The older gentlemen who cared for the plants and *watered them correctly* died. We have someone else doing it now.”

- b. Many a work of God has been ruined because the watering process wasn't there to encourage people to cleave to the LORD and to become a beautiful garden for God.
  - c. When the watering process –that is, the teaching of the Word of God – is carried out by a spiritual gift because one is called and endowed to teach, it leaves people refreshed and revived, just as watering a plant leaves it revived and fresh.
  - d. If teaching does not leave people refreshed, it is simply not being executed and carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Apollos was a teacher. It was said of him, “he helped them much.”
- a. **Acts 18:27: “*27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, HELPED THEM MUCH WHICH HAD BELIEVED THROUGH GRACE.*”**
  - b. These people had already believed through grace – they were already saved.
  - c. In exercising this teaching gift, Apollos helped them much.

H. Divisions can be caused by unbelief and hardness of heart, even when teaching is in the power of the Spirit based on the Word of God.

- 1. Under the ministry of Jesus this happened. Some would not accept His teaching. On one occasion the Bible says, **“*From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him*”** (John 6:66).

I. A true teacher of the gospel of peace will never teach doctrinal error which will split the body of Christ. He will not cause division by what he teaches.

J. On the other hand, we cannot compromise on the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ.

1. In **Hebrews 6:1, 2** we have the *fundamental principles* of the doctrine of Christ. These things are fundamental and cannot be compromised.
  - a. Repentance from dead works.
  - b. Faith toward God.
  - c. The doctrine of baptisms
  - d. Laying on of hands
  - e. Resurrection of the dead
  - f. Eternal judgment.

K. Other things are not fundamental, and you do not want to create division.

L. Use wisdom.

1. Don't just go out and try to convert everyone overnight to the revelations God gives you. Some will never get it. Just love them anyhow, because the Lord loves them, and He is not going to forsake them.

M. The work of a teacher is to BUILD UP – not TEAR DOWN

1. Christ gave teachers for the edifying and building up of the Body of Christ (**Ephesians 4:11-12**).
2. To edify means to “build up.” He did not give teachers to divide the body.
  - a. Sometimes it is wisdom to avoid teaching certain truths for a period of time if those truths are causing confusion and division.
  - b. Paul himself said to the Church at Corinth and to the Hebrew Christians, in effect, “There are some things I would like to tell you, but you couldn't bear it, so I'm not going to tell you now.” (**I Corinthians 3:1, 2; Heb. 5:11-14**).

He still loved them but they were babies. They needed to grow up spiritually.

N. Teachers should be always ready and open to receive fresh glimpses of truth from the Word of God.

1. Revelation marks a teacher's ministry.
2. Be teachable. I would not listen to a teacher who was not willing to be taught.
3. Keep a humbleness of spirit and a humbleness of mind.
4. Keep an open mind and be always ready to learn.
5. Don't be a "know-it-all."
  - a. I'm still learning, aren't you? Wouldn't it be terrible if all you ever knew in life is what you know right now???
  - b. God brings us revelation truth from the Word of God, and when it comes, we often may say to ourselves, "It's a wonder to me that I've been so stupid."
  - c. The more you learn, you realize that you don't know as much as you thought.
  - d. A great and wise man once said, "We know so little, because the more we learn, the less we see we know."

O. Sometimes we get our ministry out of order. We may think we are a prophet but we are a teacher, or think that we are a teacher, and we are a prophet.

1. The teaching office *to the Church* is more important than the working of miracles or gifts of healings.
2. The working of miracles and gifts of healings accompany the evangelist's office. These gifts are given to draw the sinner and is not given *to the church*. (believers) The teaching ministry is more necessary to the Church because the saints need to be taught, edified, and matured by the teaching of the Word. Besides, working of miracles and gifts of healings (or any spiritual gifting) will never establish a Christian in faith. But the teaching of the Word will establish them.

Some feel the teaching gift is an inferior calling, but it is not. Remember, we all need one another!

## **OTHER MINISTRY GIFTS**

We have been studying the Five-fold Ministry gifts, but there are other giftings that have been given to the Church to bring it to maturity and to bring it into unity.

Our main verses have been:

### **Ephesians 4:8,11, 12**

***8“Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men...11and he gave some; APOSTLES, and some; PROPHETS; and some, EVANGELISTS; and some, PASTORS and TEACHERS; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”***

### **I Corinthians 12:28-30**

***28 and God hath set some in the church, first APOSTLES, secondarily PROPHETS, thirdly TEACHERS, after that MIRACLES, then GIFTS OF HEALINGS, HELPS, GOVERNMENTS, DIVERSITIES OF TONGUES. 29 ARE ALL APOSTLES? ARE ALL PROPHETS? ARE ALL TEACHERS? ARE ALL WORKERS OF MIRACLES? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?***

### **Romans 12:4-8**

***4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether PROPHECY, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or MINISTRY, let us wait on our ministering: or he that TEACHETH, on teaching: 8 Or he that EXHORTETH, on exhortation: he that GIVETH, let him do it with simplicity; he that RULETH, with diligence; he that sheweth MERCY, with cheerfulness.***

- A. **Ephesians 4:11** lists the fivefold ministry gifts – those who are preachers and/or teachers of the Word of God.
  
- B. The two other lists of ministries also contain those called as supportive to the fivefold ministry offices and adds further definition of some of the fivefold offices
  
- C. Taken together, these three passages of scripture reveal the fullest measure of the breadth of ministry Christ gave to the Church in ministry gifts.

1. Four Greek words are translated “gifts” in the New Testament.

2. The word translated “gifts” in relation to ministry gifts means a spiritual endowment. It comes from the Greek word “*doma*” which means a present; to bestow, to minister, to have power.

a. A Ministry gift is a spiritual endowment from God

b. If God calls you to an office, He endows you with what it takes to fill that office.

D. In the listing of ministry gifts listed in **Romans 12:6-8**:

1. We immediately recognize the prophet in verse 6

2. We immediately recognize the teacher in verse 7

3. “He that ruleth” is considered to be synonymous with the pastor in verse 8

a. That is because the pastor is the one who oversees and governs the local body.

4. In addition we find ministers in verse 7

5. Exhorters in verse 8

6. Givers in verse 8

7. Those who show mercy in verse 8

E. In the listing of ministry gifts in **I Corinthians 12:28** we see:

1. We find the apostles (v 28)

2. Prophets (v 28)

3. Teachers (v 28)

4. Miracles and gifts of healings are regarded as a distinct ministry gift (v 28)

a. We have already seen that these gifts have a special place in the ministry of an evangelist (**Acts 8:5-7, 13**)



- b. Miracles and gifts of healings are by no means confined to the evangelist's office alone.
5. Helps (v 28) (Gr. *Antilepsis* – relief, to take hold of, to support, to succor)
    - a. We find no adequate parallel for the ministry of helps in **Ephesians 4:11**)
  6. Governments (v 28)
    - b. Probably the same as pastors in **Ephesians 4:11**
    - c. Probably the same as “he that ruleth” in **Romans 12**
  7. Diversities of tongues (vs. 28, 30)
    - a. This is a definite ministry set by God in the Church
    - b. According to **I Corinthians 14:5**, this would correspond closely to the ministry of the prophet when it is accompanied with the gift of interpretation.

F. The divine source is emphasized in all three ministry lists. ***That source is God, not man.***

G. Some of these gifts, particularly those listed in Romans 12, may appear to be lacking in the supernatural element. *Yet all come from a supernatural source, given by the same Spirit, and given by grace.*

1. The supernatural endowment in the offices such as helps and governments may not be as spectacular as it is in some of the other offices, but it is just as supernatural.

## **THE OFFICE OF HELPS**

A. Right in the middle of the ministry gift list in **I Corinthians 12:28** of the “fivefold gifts” we see the ministry of helps.

1. The Church world has been hurt by recognizing only two or three ministry gifts such as Pastors and Evangelists.

2. Your calling might be the ministry of helps.

a. If that is true, then to try to get into another office is really intruding, and trouble will result.

1. Unknowingly, I believe many people who have been called to the ministry of helps and would have been a great blessing to the church have failed in their ministry because they did not stand in the helps ministry as they should have.

2. Oftentimes they have thought, *I sense the call to the ministry. Therefore, I must be a Pastor or an Evangelist, Prophet, Teacher, or Apostle.* They try to function in one of those offices and never really succeed because they weren’t called to those offices.

B. The actual Greek word translated “helps” occurs only in **I Corinthians 12:28**.

1. The Greek lexicon gives its meaning as a helper, or a reliever, someone that aids.

2. You can see what benefits and assistance this ministry can provide, especially as a supportive role to the fivefold ministry gifts.

3. Probably the best explanation of the Helps ministry is found in the related list in **Romans 12:8**: **“those who show mercy.”** (To help the afflicted).

a. According to Vine’s Expository Dictionary of the New Testament Words, the ministry of helps is “one of the ministrations in the local church, by way of rendering assistance, perhaps especially of help ministered to the weak and needy.”

b. The Amplified Bible translates **Romans 12:8** **“...he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness.”**

C. The one who helps must have the real equipment of divine grace and power.

D. **Romans 12:7** says, ***“Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering...”***

1. In the New Testament, the word translated “minister” is used generally to refer to all those who minister in sacred things, including the apostles.

a. First of all, in **Romans 12:7** the word “ministry” can be used as all-inclusive instruction that whatever ministry you are in, ***“let him that ministers wait on his ministry.”***

1. What does that mean? That means to be successful and to be able to minister effectively, you will have to take time to prepare yourself in the Word and to wait before God in prayer.

2. However, as the word “ministry” is used in **Romans 12:7**, it also seems to indicate a distinctive ministry from the others mentioned. It is probably referring to the ministry of a deacon (**Acts 6:1-6**).

a. This word “deacon” is used in **Philippians 1:1** and **I Timothy 3:8-13**.

b. It is used of Phebe in **Romans 16:1** and is translated “servant.”

c. The deacon’s ministry in the early days of the Church was especially connected with having charge of the alms of the assembly and being a minister to the poor and the sick.

d. The deacon’s ministry is a divine gift from Jesus Christ, the Head of the church. It requires more than mere natural ability to effectively fulfill this ministry, just as it does with any other ministry.

3. **Acts 6:1-6** describes the appointing of seven men to serve as deacons in the ministry of helps, which included Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas.

a. Philip started out in the ministry of helps (v 5). He was helping the apostles by waiting on tables so the Apostles could pray and give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. As Philip proved

himself faithful, God moved him on to become an evangelist. (Acts 21:8)

b. Stephen started in the ministry of helps and was used by God in a mighty way. (Acts 6:8)

c. The other five men are mentioned nowhere else. They apparently stayed in the ministry of helps.

d. Although the names of these five men are not mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament, if they were faithful in their office, they will receive as great a reward as Philip and Stephen.

4. Paul wrote concerning two that helped him: ***“Greet Priscilla and Aquilla my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles:”*** (Romans 16:3,4)

5. He also wrote of Mary in Romans 16:6, ***“Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us”***.

6. There are many others in the New Testament who fulfilled the helps ministry also.

E. The ministry of music. The ministry of music functions as a Helps ministry, supportive to the fivefold ministry.

1. What a help! What an aid! What an assist and asset is the ministry of music. The ministry of music is not a distinct office; it is the ministry of helps in operation.

2. It is an anointed ministry.

a. It is not just something someone does because they are talented.

b. God can use talent if people will consecrate their talents to Him.

c. It is very distinguishable to those who have the Spirit of God and are sensitive to things of the Spirit when one is ministering in song

with the anointing of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of helps than when one is “just singing.”

3. The prophet Elisha called for a minstrel. (II Kings 3:15-16) The music ministry can be a great help and assistance to those in the fivefold ministry gifts, particularly the prophet. When the minstrel played his musical instrument, the Holy Spirit came upon the prophet Elisha, and he prophesied.

a. The minstrel’s ministry of music was a great help and assistance for the prophet to move the Spirit.

b. The hand of the Lord came upon him means the Holy Spirit moved upon the prophet. Many times, in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is referred to as “the hand of the Lord.

c. Why do you suppose the prophet had the minstrel play? So that the minstrel would hinder him? NO!! So that the minstrel could help the prophet and be an assistance to him.

F. Anything that has to do with helping in the operation of the Church or with ministry could come under the ministry of helps.

1. People who work in a Church office for instance, serve in the ministry of helps. No church could function properly as it grows without that help. Thank God for the ministry of helps.

a. When the rewards are passed out, those faithful in the ministry of helps will receive the same reward as the Prophet, Apostle, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher that they have helped.

I Samuel 30:24 ***“but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, SO SHALL HIS PART BE THAT TARRIETH BY THE STUFF; they shall part (share) alike.”***

IN CONCLUSION: God does not reward according to the office we stand in. **GOD REWARDS FAITHFULNESS!!**