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BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 61

THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY PART 5
FIVEFOLD MINISTRY AND OTHER MINISTRY GIFTS

OTHER MINISTRY GIFTS

1. THE MINISTRY OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

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?”*

- A. Diversities of tongues (different kinds of supernatural languages) is here regarded as a definite ministry set by God in the Church.
- B. Being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance in the private prayer life of the believer is not the same as a *ministry of tongues*.
- C. What the Word of God is talking about here in I Cor. 12:28 and 30 is ministering to others through tongues and interpretation as a ministry gift.
 - 1. For instance, the office of the apostle, mentioned first, is not something that blesses and helps the apostle personally. Fulfilling the office of the apostle, obeying the calling of God to that office, and being spiritually equipped by the Spirit to stand in that office enables the apostle to minister to others.

Likewise, the ministry of the prophet is not for the prophet’s own personal use. The prophet is equipped by the Spirit of God to enable him or her to minister to others.

It is the same with the ministry of teaching. The teaching gift is not ministry to teach oneself. Of course, the teacher profits by their own ministry, but his teaching gift is to teach *others* and to bless and minister to others.

2. Diversities of tongues is in the same list with apostles, prophets, and teachers. The ministry of *diversity of tongues* is not a ministry for one's own private benefit. The ministry of tongues and interpretation is to be ministered in the public assembly in order to bless and help others. This ministry is not for laymen. *It is for those called to the five-fold ministry.*
- D. When the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks with other tongues, that is for his own private use and individual edification and prayer life – it is not for others.
1. Speaking in tongues in a person's personal prayer life is primarily a devotional gift.
 2. Paul said to the Church at Corinth, ***"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all,"*** (I Cor. 14:18), showing it was primarily a devotional gift to be used in the believer's prayer life in the praise and worship of God.
- E. All tongues in essence are the same, but in *purpose and use* they are different.
- F. Only a few of those who are filled with the Spirit and speak with other tongues will be used in the public *ministry of tongues.* Hence Paul asks, ***"...do all speak with tongues?..."*** (v 30). *The answer is obviously no.*
1. Some take verse 30 out of context and say, "speaking in tongues is not for every believer." They try to make the *ministry of tongues* synonymous with the gift of tongues every Spirit-filled believer has in operation in his own private prayer life. And it is not!
 2. Taking verse 30 in context, it is clear Paul is talking about the *ministry of tongues or diversity of tongues.*
- G. Actually, what Paul is talking about in **First Corinthians 12:28** when he lists "diversities of tongues" along with the ministry gifts of the apostle, prophet, and teacher, is something separate from the laity "giving an utterance in tongues." It is a ministry gift of tongues and interpretation. There are those called to the fivefold ministry who are called to minister that way, and it most closely approximates the office of the prophet.

1. Oftentimes when someone is ministering as a Pastor or Teacher or Evangelist, and knows the person and their life personally, they may ask a person that moves in the gift of tongues and interpretation to pray over a person in tongues and get the interpretation. This lets the person know that it is God speaking to them by divine revelation rather than just the familiarity of the person.

2. THE MINISTRY GIFT OF EXHORTATION

Romans 12:8 ***“Or HE THAT EXHORTETH, on EXHORTATION”***

- A. This is the only place exhortation is mentioned as a separate and distinct ministry.
 1. Usually, exhortation is regarded as a natural and essential part of almost every other ministry.
- B. The primary motivation of the exhorter is to bring encouragement either way of comfort or by stirring up believers.
- C. There is a distinctive ministry along this line.
- D. The exhorter stirs up those that are lost to be saved.
 1. Many times, an evangelist may turn a meeting over to an exhorter to give the altar call. They may preach for a while, but they stir up the people, exhorting them to be saved.
 2. Many times, we may call someone an evangelist but actually they are exhorters. Their ministry seems to be entirely along the line of stirring up people to be saved.
 - a. Those who stand in the office of the evangelist have supernatural gifts (miracles or gifts of healings) following their preaching. This happened in the ministry of our only New Testament example of an evangelist, Philip. A true evangelist has those gifts in operation in his ministry.
 - b. I am not discounting the office of the exhorter. It is an office! I am just saying we have some ministries named incorrectly.
- E. The exhorter also exhorts Christians with a message of encouragement and comfort.

3. THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

Romans 12:8 ***“Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: HE THAT GIVETH, LET HIM DO IT WITH SIMPLICITY...”***

- A. Giving was as much a recognized ministry as teaching or healing in the Early Church.
This is a ministry.
- B. We can all enter in the grace of giving, but some have a divine endowment from God to distribute:
 - 1. Personal wealth.
 - 2. Administration of united resources.
- C. Another translation renders it, ***“he who has wealth to distribute must do it with a single eye to God’s service.”***
- D. Those who have wealth to distribute should distribute correctly, in good places where it is used for God.
 - 1. Ministers of the gospel should take time to teach people about giving:
 - a. They should teach congregations about the scriptural ministry of giving.
 - b. They should teach those who have wealth to distribute it correctly where it can be used for God’s work.
 - 2. Some scoundrels who call themselves ministers, for instance, raise money for projects which do not exist. Do not just swallow something because it looks good. Learn to listen to your spirit.
 - 3. If God has given you this gifting, always pray and seek God about where to give your money.
- E. Some sense a call to the ministry, and *God has called them to the ministry of giving.*

In conclusion of our study on the five-fold ministry and other gifts given to the church, we understand that each of these gifts are gifts that God gives to the church. They are given for the equipping of the saints so that the saints can do the work of the ministry.

As for the fivefold ministry gifts: They are not people in laity. In the church as a whole many of these giftings have been ignored, and it has caused the church to be unbalanced. It would be like having a hand with missing fingers. Each finger works together with the thumb to be able to work in unity.

The fivefold giftings are given to bring unity to the body of Christ and are a necessary part of the church. Churches that do not accept their legitimacy for this day and hour are missing out greatly on what God intended for the church.

If you are in a church that does not believe in all of these gifts, then you too, are missing out.