

THE GIFT OF T E A C H I N G - A SPEAKING GIFT

Text Romans 12:7; I Cor. 12:28

I. WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THIS GIFT

- A. The gift of teaching was the God given ability to clearly explain the truth of God's Word and apply it in such a way that believers were spiritually edified.
- B. This gift involved more than just imparting Biblical facts and information to others. It evidenced itself with the power to bless others and help them on toward spiritual maturity.
- C. This gift linked the truth of God's Word from certain individuals to others which in turn was passed on from one generation to another. (II Tim. 2:2) Here we see Paul passing the truth on to Timothy who was to pass it on to faithful men who were to give it to others.

II. HOW THIS GIFT WAS EXERCISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. This gift was exercised very closely with the gift of prophecy or preaching.
 - 1. We find this to be true at the beginning of the church (Acts 5:42).
 - 2. We find this to be true in the church at Antioch (Acts 13:1; 15:35).
 - 3. We find this also evidenced by the apostle Paul while he was under house arrest at Rome (Acts 28:30, 31).

4. This was also evidenced in the ministry of our Lord (Matt. 4:23).
- B. This gift was also associated with and exercised very closely along side the gift of pastoring.
1. We see this in Eph. 4:11 where the word are really only one and refer to the same person.
 2. This is also evidenced in the qualification of a bishop or pastor (I Tim. 3:2). He should be "apt" or have a capacity for and a disposition toward helping others toward spiritual maturity.
 3. We find this also in reference to the Lord's servant in II Tim. 2:24,25. We may conclude then that the gift of teaching is essential to and appears along side the gift of pastoring.
- C. This gift was exercised by others in the early church and it was no doubt a widespread gift.
1. We notice that Aquila and Priscilla exercised this particular gift. (Acts 18:26)
 2. We find a reference for some of the women to teach the younger women (II Tim. 1:5; 3:14,15; Titus 2:4).
 3. Paul told the Colossians to teach and admonish one another (Col. 3:16).

III. HOW THIS GIFT OPERATES AND APPLIES TO INDIVIDUALS IN OUR DAY

- A. This God given ability to clearly explain and apply the Word of God can only be recognized and exercised by a faithful pursuit to learn the doctrines of the Word of God. This is what is meant by waiting on teaching (Rom. 12:7). One must know about salvation, the church in God's program, last things and etc. in order to teach others.

- B. Although an individual has been given the gift of teaching, before he can exercise it he must first be equipped by the teaching of someone else. These Biblical truths must be handed down to faithful men who will teach others also (II Tim. 2:2).
- C. If an individual has the gift of teaching he will find as he learns the things of God that he will be able to clearly explain and apply them to others in such a way that they are edified. Many Christians know the truth about many things in the Word of God, but because they do not have the gift of teaching they can't explain them to others in a way that blesses and helps them.

IV. WHAT IS OFTENTIMES MISAPPLIED CONCERNING THIS GIFT

- A. Sometimes people act flippantly and irresponsibly toward the stewardship which is associated with the gift. Some do not give themselves to the study and preparation which is needful. The teacher who only spends a few minutes on Saturday to prepare for Sunday's lesson should consider the admonition given in James 3:1.
- B. Many have the erroneous idea if a person who is unfaithful is given a position like teaching, this will force an individual to study and in the process it will make him faithful. This is in direct disobedience to the Word of God. A steward must first be faithful (I Cor. 4:2). Putting an individual in a position to teach when he does

not give evidence that he has this gift will result in lack of spiritual growth and maturity among believers in a church.