

The Gifts of Gab

1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Acts 18:24-28
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Earliest skills-- learning to speak
- Some relate the ability to speak in front of people to temperament
- God can even give a stutterer the Gift of Speaking

The Gifts of Gab

A. General Observations

- 1 Peter 4:7-8-- *"But the end of all things is at hand. Therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. An above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'"*
- 1 Peter 4:9-10-- *"Be hospitable to one another without grumbling." and "As each one has received a gift, minister to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God"*
- 1 Peter 4:11-12-- *"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers. Let him do it with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

1. Center on the communication of God's Word!

2. Expresses Divine authority.

- 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, 4-5-- *"And brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified...And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13-- *"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it, not a the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."*

B. Specific Observations about the "Gifts of Gab"

1. **Secondary Gifts**-- Those gifts that cannot stand alone but must be linked with another gift in order to benefit the body.

a. The Gift of a **Word of Wisdom** -- 1 Corinthians 12:8

- 1 Corinthians 12:8-- *"For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit."*

1) All of us have access to God's wisdom-- James 1

- James 1:5-- *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

2) Definition: *"God-given ability to express the insights from God's Word to help in a particular situation."*

- James 3:17-18-- *"But the wisdom that is from above", James says, "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*

3) Evaluative Statements:

- a) People regularly seek my advice about personal and spiritual matters.
- b) I readily anticipate and understand the consequences and implications of a person's actions.
- c) When I listen to a sermon, my mind is more on how does this apply to me or to someone else's situation-- rather than learning all of the details about the passage.
- d) I find it easy to apply God's Word to situations in life.
- e) I've been blessed with a high degree of "common sense"
- f) In the midst of conflict, I often see simple solutions.

b. The Gift of **Knowledge**

1) WARNING-- Knowledge can be dangerous!-- 1 Cor. 8:1

- 1 Corinthians 8:1-- *"We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."*
- 1 Corinthians 8:2-- *"If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know."*

- 2) Definition: *"The God-given ability to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the body."*
- 3) Evaluative Statements:
 - a) I am eager to learn, enjoying the process of research.
 - b) I have a very long attention span.
 - c) I retain unusual amounts of material.
 - d) I have the ability to figure out intricate relationships between Biblical ideas and passages.
 - e) I am more comfortable with ideas than with individuals.
 - f) I am interested in examining every little detail as I study the Bible.
 - g) I am constantly reading books to gain more historical and practical insight into God's Word.
 - h) After careful investigation and critical examination, I like to share my detailed findings with others.

2. Primary Gifts—Stand-Alone Gifts

a. The Gift of **Preaching**-- 1 Corinthians 12:9-10

- 1) Definition: *"The Divine enablement to proclaim God's truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally-sensitive fashion for correction, repentance, and encouragement."*
- 2) Example: Timothy
 - 2 Timothy 1:8-- *"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God."*
 - 2 Timothy 4:2-- *'PREACH THE WORD—Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.'*
- 3) Evaluative Statements
 - a) I speak the truth of God even when it is unpopular and difficult for others to accept.
 - b) I feel compelled to expose sin in the culture, church, or an individual's life in order to have people walk consistently with the truth.
 - c) I speak very compellingly to groups or individuals about obeying God's commands and teachings.
 - d) When I communicate godly truths, people are inspired to apply them and turn from their deception.
 - e) I stimulate others to use scriptural principles in making decisions in their private and public lives.
 - f) I am more saddened than lighthearted about life and its problems.
 - g) I am able to communicate and feel comfortable in front of a large group of people.

b. The Gift of **Teaching**

- 1) Comes with a WARNING-- James 3:1
 - James 3:1-- *"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."*
- 2) Definition: *"The God-given ability to accurately, clearly, and effectively communicate God's Word. It is the ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God to the lives of the listeners."*
- 3) Example: Apollos -- Acts 18:24-28
 - Acts 18:24-28-- *"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ."*
 - a) Seeks to accurately understand God's Word
 - Hard work
 - Thorough knowledge of Scripture
 - Teachable spirit
 - b) Seeks to clearly communicate God's Message
 - c) Effectively communicates God's Word
- 4) Evaluative Statements:
 - a) I enjoy studying the Bible and sharing practical insights that will help others grow and act in obedience.
 - b) I can organize biblical material and give systematic presentations which are appreciated by others.
 - c) When I teach others, I feel comfortable responding to questions.
 - d) Others have told me that they have changed because I've helped them understand a biblical truth or a personal issue.
 - e) I enjoy researching truth and effectively communicating it to others on their level.
 - f) I am analytical and draw conclusions based on data.
 - g) I enjoy challenging people with the truth.
 - h) I look for ways to illustrate the truth so that it is easy for others to understand.