

“The Support Gifts”

1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Acts 4, 9, 11, 15; 1 Peter 4
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- The “little people” behind the “BIG NAMES”
- Distinction between Service Gifts and Support Gifts

The Support Gifts

A. The BASIC GIFT: The Gift of Helps

- 1 Corinthians 12:28-- *“And God has appointed these in the church: first, apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”*
- 1. Definition: *“the special ability that God gives to some members of the body to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling the person helped to increase the effectiveness of his or her spiritual gift.”*
- 2. NT Example: Tertius-- Romans 16:22-- *“I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.”*
- 3. Evaluative Statements
 - a) When I hear of someone in need, I immediately offer my services .
 - b) I like to work behind the scenes so others can use their gifts more effectively.
 - c) I believe there is spiritual significance in the routine tasks I do .
 - d) When I see so many needs within the Church, I find it hard to say “no.”
 - e) I enjoy serving when it frees others to better accomplish their ministries.

B. SPECIALIZE GIFTS

1. Gift of Exhortation or Counseling

- Romans 12:6-8-- *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”*
- a. Meaning of “encouragement”
- b. Definition: *“The Special ability God gives to certain members of the body to minister words or acts of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.”*
- c. New Testament Example: Barnabas
 - 1) Motivated by needs in people’s lives
 - Acts 4:32-37-- *“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul: neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet, and they distributed to each as anyone had need. And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles feet.”*
 - 2) Believe in people
 - Acts 9:26-27-- *“And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”*
 - 3) Seeks to disciple others
 - Acts 11:22-26-- *“The news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”*
 - 4) Looks for others to encourage
 - Acts 13:1-3-- *“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who is called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now,*

separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."

- 5) Acts 15:36-40 -- People-oriented, not task oriented
- Acts 13:11-- *"Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.*
 - Acts 15:36-40-- *"Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.' Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God."*
 - 2 Timothy 4:11-- *"Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry."*

d. Evaluative Statements:

- 1) I gravitate towards those who are confused or troubled in order to encourage them.
- 2) I gently but firmly challenge others towards greater obedience.
- 3) I reassure those who need to take courageous steps in their faith, family, or life.
- 4) I gravitate towards broken people and desire to help them grow .
- 5) I strengthen those who are wavering in their faith by directing them to God's promises and truth.
- 6) I view trials as divine opportunities for growth.
- 7) I enjoy strengthening the weak and reassuring the unstable.

2. Gift of Giving

- Romans 12:8-- *"He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality."*
- a. Definition: *"The special ability to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness."*
- 2 Corinthians 8:2-- *"that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their generosity."*
- b. Motivated by people rather than projects or tasks
- c. Evaluative Statements
- 1) I like giving quietly--without public notice.
 - 2) I enjoy giving personally as a way to motivate others to give.
 - 3) I feel a sense of ownership in the projects and ministries that I support financially.
 - 4) I find fulfillment in sharing my money and possessions without expecting anything in return.
 - 5) When I know the resources I share with others are truly needed, I don't worry about whether they will be replenished.

3. Gift of Mercy

- Romans 12:8-- *"he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*
- a. Definition: *"The God-given ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for people who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems--and then to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds to alleviate the suffering."*
- b. Evaluative Statements:
- 1) I am able to empathize with suffering people and involve myself in their healing process.
 - 2) I enjoy ministering to people in hospitals, prisons, or nursing homes.
 - 3) I can easily look beyond a person's handicaps or lingering problems to see a life that matters to God.
 - 4) I patiently support those going through painful experiences, as they try to stabilize emotionally and spiritually.
 - 5) People have told me I get too personally and emotionally involved in helping needy people.

4. Gift of Hospitality

- 1 Peter 4:9-- *"Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling."*
- a. Definition: *"The God-given ability to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and/or shelter. It is the ability to make people feel welcomed and at home--whether in your own house or in the church."*
- b. Evaluative Statements:
- 1) I like to use my home as a place to minister to people in need.
 - 2) I enjoy meeting new people and helping them get acquainted with others in the church
 - 3) I spend time with visitors to make them feel comfortable and cared for.
 - 4) I spontaneously invite people to my house to minister to them, even though the house may not be totally presentable.
 - 5) I enjoy providing food and lodging for those in need.