

# MINISTERIAL GIFTING

## EPHESIANS 3:3-10

**EPH 3:7** Whereof **I was made a minister**, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me **by the effectual working of his power**. (8) Unto me, **who am less than the least of all saints**, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ**:

The Gk word for “effectual” is “energia”. Efficiency; energy, strong operation.

The Gk word for “power” is “dunamis”, meaning force.

Specifically; miraculous power, working of miracles.

Power, strength, violence, mighty wonderful works.

God desires to make effective anointed ministers; He wants to anoint and gift them for effective ministry. Unfortunately, the ministry is made up of men and women who do not have supernatural gifting in operation. The scripture is clear on what ministry is and how it comes into being. God also chooses those who the world would not necessarily choose. Paul said he was the least of the saints, but God gave him the ability to preach “the unsearchable riches of Christ”. (Eph 3:8)

**EPH 4:11** And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.

**1 COR 12:28** 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.

The Bible says in verse 31, “earnestly covet the best gifts”. God only called a certain number of “Ascension Ministries”. Notice the words “gave some” (Eph 4:11) and “set some in the church” (1Cor 12:28). It does not say “none”, it says “some”.

There are not many called into higher ministry. The reason is that God must gift them first. God put miracle power into the hands of Moses and then instructed him to go into Egypt in order to set God’s people free.

God called Paul and Barnabas in a prayer meeting where prophets and teachers were praying. These men were mature ministers, who had been preaching and teaching for some time. (Acts 13:1-2)

**Act 13:1** 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, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Act 13:2** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.**

READ 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

The Bible says in verse 31, earnestly “**covet the best gifts**”

The Greek word for “gift” is “charisma”. It is a divine gratuity, a spiritual endowment; miraculous faculty.

**ROM 12:6** Having then **gifts differing** according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, [let us prophesy] **according to the proportion of faith;**

There are different spiritual gifts given by God, and variations of faith levels of those operating spiritual gifts, hence variations in effectiveness of the ministers.

**2 TIM 2:20** But in a great house there are not **only vessels of gold** and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and **some to honour** and some to dishonour.

The honourable vessel is the vessel sought after by God for ministry.

Paul was a chosen vessel that would bear (carry) His name.

**ACT 9:15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for **he is a chosen vessel** unto me, to **bear my name** before the Gentiles, and king, and the children of Israel:

**LUK 5:3** And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon’s, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, **launch out into the deep**, and let down your nets for a draught. 5. And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless **at thy word I will** let down the net

Peter experienced the greatest fishing catch of his life. This natural miracle of provision was beyond his natural fishing ability and knowledge.

**He was being made ready to “catch men”** - (Luke 5:10)

JN 7:15 And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, **having never learned?** 16. Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me.**

Jesus spoke great wisdom, which must have given people the idea He had studied with professors. When we study the Word of God we will speak like educated spiritual men. Wisdom ultimately comes from God.

**ACT 4:13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **unlearned and ignorant men**, they marveled; and **they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.**

Peter and John may have been natural uneducated men, but the people recognized supernatural gifting and anointing.

God does not see education as a prerequisite for service. In fact many times higher education can be a hindrance. One does not need a master's degree to be more obedient. Natural gifting or education (man's wisdom) has nothing in common with God's election of men and women and the gifts that God gives them. The Apostle Paul was probably the most educated apostle of his time. However, Paul was only interested in the demonstration of the power of God.

**1 COR 2:4** And my speech **and my preaching (was) not** with enticing words of **man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of **the Spirit and of power:**

**JAS 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to him.

The reading of the book Proverbs can increase the believer's wisdom, for it full of wise sayings.

**ISA 50:4** The Lord **GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned**, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, **he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.**

**ROM 11:29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

In other words if we maintain our walk in the Spirit our gifting will remain.

**MK 4:24** And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

**MAT 10:20** For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

**MAT 10:7** **And as ye go, preach**, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **Heal the sick**, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **8. freely ye have received freely give.**

**1 TIM 4:14** **Neglect not the gift that is in thee**, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. **15** Meditate upon these things; **give thyself wholly to them**; that thy profiting may appear to all. **16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. **15** Meditate upon these things; **give thyself wholly** to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Spiritual gifts are not demonstrated or stated to congregation as one would present himself in a job interview. Our submission to God's river flow of anointing will be noticed by the body of Christ.

The Bible says, "our spiritual gifts make way for us".

**2 TIM 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God**, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Our gifts must be continually stirred to keep the freshness (of God's ability) flowing in our (spirit) inner man. We all open the windows in our earthly houses. Similarly, it is necessary to freshen up our spiritual houses.

Fresh spirit – fresh impartation!

**1 TIM 1:18** This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest **war a good warfare**;

Ministry is spiritual warfare. To wage a good spiritual warfare we must use all the gifting that God has given us. Timothy's gifts came by the prophetic office. Paul's prophetic word was sure and Paul wanted Timothy to walk in the blessing of it.

**ACT 19:6** And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

The early church incorporated prayer and fasting to ensure that better direction and greater gifting was imparted to ministers by the laying on of hands. Paul certainly demonstrated the anointing resident in his life. (Act 19:6)