

I. Review

- A. Staying true to our calling as a church– (Gather, Equip, and Commission) The scriptures make plain that the growth and maturity of the spiritual gifts happens through intentional focus, desire, and shepherding. The abundance or lack of the expression and maturity of the spiritual gifts are directly related to the intentionality of the church family to those gifts. (1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1)
- B. Progression of Maturity (Goals) - We believe that there are distinct areas of intentionality that work in a progression that must be focused upon fostering a culture of spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12-14)
 - 1. Understanding - What they are and how they are supposed to function?
 - 2. Activation - What yours are and are you positioned to function in them?
 - 3. Unity - The gifts are dispersed within the body in such a way that mandates walking in love in order to function as a body.
 - 4. Maturity - Seeing an increase of love, wisdom, and power unto the measure of the fullness of Christ.
- C. Gifts we have covered so far in this series. (Apostle, Encouragement, Pastoral, Wisdom, and Leadership.)

II. Gift of Prophecy

- A. Prophetic Gift - Receives and articulates the heart of God in a personal current context in order to correct, exhort, and encourage the body. Commonly receives revelation from Jesus concerning people or situations through dreams, open visions, mental pictures, impressions, imputed emotions, inner voice, audible voice, and physical manifestations. (Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)
 - 1. National and Social Media Prophets - These cultural expressions of prophecy have very little biblical support. Both the function of the gift of prophecy and the accountability that goes along with it are meant to function in a close community of believers doing life together (local church). (1 Cor. 14:24-29)
- B. Strengths - The gift of prophecy is extremely powerful in its effectiveness in encouraging, comforting, and exhorting the body. The gift brings confidence of direction or vision generally in a conformational way.

God also uses it to break down barriers of the heart and mind to open them up for evangelism, correction, and maturity in their faith.

- C. Weaknesses - The gift of prophecy is strongly driven by intense internal conviction and intuition. Because of this, individuals who have the gift of prophecy are very vulnerable to personal offense, and internal and external deception. Due to the nature of the gift of prophecy, individuals with this gift also have a stronger tendency to validate their relationship with God through their gift compared to other gifts.

III. Gift of Teaching

- A. Teaching Gift - The gift of teaching is the ability to uniquely impart biblical instruction, instill doctrine, and explain or expound verse-by-verse upon the written word. Teachers desire to produce wisdom and maturity of understanding in the body. Teachers understand and articulate the scriptures in a comprehensible way. They are authoritative in presenting, defending, and supporting doctrine or truth through the written word. They place a high value on proper exegesis and a restlessness with scriptural obscurity. (Mt. 28:20; Mk 6:34; Acts 18:24-28; Col. 1:28)
 - 1. Informational not Transformational - It is a common misconception that knowing or understanding truth is the same thing as transformational revelation. It is not. Only the Holy Spirit can transform the heart. The teaching gift understands and presents theological truth to the individual's mind. The transfer of that truth from the mind to the heart can only be done by the individual cooperating with the Holy Spirit to lay hold of that truth for themselves.
- B. Strengths - The teaching gift is extremely effective in establishing individuals by helping them understand and relate to the doctrine (truths) of their faith. Teachers establish and build up the church by instilling truth. The gift does not simply inform, but rather informs in such a way that is understandable, relatable, and assists the body to lay hold of theological truth for themselves. The gift of teaching also commonly manifests apologetically against deception and false doctrine.
- C. Weaknesses - The gift of teaching lends itself to overconfidence in doctrine alone and will tend to neglect the need for the transformational power of the Spirit.

Teachers tend to work against the life-giving nature of the scriptures outside of immediate written context, and the wonder of the mysteries of God. Individuals with the gift of teaching are also predisposed to being puffed up in their own minds and not be teachable themselves.

IV. Collaboration/Need

- A. These two gifts are highlighted multiple times in scripture as gifts that offset the strengths and weaknesses of each other's giftings in a beautiful and lifegiving way. Where the teaching gift is weak on the ambiguous mysteries of God and living breathing nature of the scriptures, the prophetic person excels. The prophetic person who is easily misled by internal and intuitive leanings is now shored up exponentially by the exegesis, and hermeneutical work of the teacher.
 - 1. Scripturally - God oftentimes puts these gifts together in order to give the body the nourishment that every joint supplies.
 - 2. Personally - I have walked in some measure of the gift of teaching for over 20 years and I have found prophetic people to be the most offputting personally and yet possibly the most necessary and effective in personal ministry to the body. I have grown to appreciate this gift in helping augment my gift, especially when it comes to direction in corporate ministry and messaging, and personal direction and understanding.

V. Lifegroups Discussion

- A. Take some time to identify and interview individuals in your group that have the teaching or the prophetic gift. What would they add or disagree with? How does their gift manifest and what goes on with them internally and externally.
- B. How can these two gifts be seen working together in a more effective or intentional way in the following spheres?
 - 1. Church Gatherings
 - 2. Lifegroups
 - 3. Day to day life