



Balance of the Gifts and the Word

1. A pastor's first priority is prayer and study of the word (Exodus 18:20, Acts 6:4).
 - a. Study of the Word – *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).
 1. Sermons affect more people at one time than anything.
 2. Counseling is just one on one teaching.
 - b. Prayer – Praying for the people and praying in tongues.
 1. Pastor prays for the congregation to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Colossians 4:12).
 2. Pastor praying in an unknown tongue – edifies himself.
 - a. This makes the pastor sensitive to the Holy Spirit for service.
 - b. Also, makes the pastor sensitive to the Holy Spirit direction for service.
 3. Prayer also brings the Holy Spirit presence to the sermon.
 - a. Anointing on a sermon brings “rabbit trails, side trips,” giving help for individuals who need it.
 - b. This is when preaching becomes prophesying.
2. Most preaching mistakes are not from a lack of study, but a lack of prayer.
 - a. You can teach every point and still miss the mark.
 - b. You can follow the Holy Spirit and miss points yet hit the mark.
3. The purpose of the Holy Spirit's presence in the church service:
 - a. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit the service is dry.
 1. The pastor is filled with information but little or no inspiration.
 2. Inspiration and anointing is needed in all church areas – praise and worship, the gifts of the Spirit in the people, and the ministry of the word.
 - b. A service, like a sermon, is part scripted and part throwing caution to the wind of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Most church service mistakes are not a lack of preparedness but of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide in any or all areas.
 - d. Two views of church service preparation:
 1. Study of the word with little prayer.

Ex. Practicing music strengthens our performance: “The better we do, the better the service will be.”
 2. Study of the word but more prayer puts emphasis on our ability to work with the Holy Spirit.

“The better we hear the Spirit, the better the service will be.”

- e. Successful service = preparedness plus sensitivity.
 - 1. What “seems” right at the moment as opposed to what is planned – heart or head?
 - 2. Study may create the sermon we want. But the Spirit’s touch makes the sermon the people need.
- 4. Three ways the Holy Spirit’s presence enters service:
 - a. Praise and Worship – Through musicians and vocalists.
 - b. The Sermon – Through the pastor.
 - c. The Gifts – Through the people. Trust them.

The Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12)

- 1. The gifts are listed but uses and instruction are missing.
 - a. Each gift is uniquely used in the person.
 - b. No two people operate the same gift the same way.
- 2. Use of the gifts are throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament:
 - a. The Leaders:
 - 1. The ministry of the Old Testament prophet.
 - 2. The ministry of Jesus.
 - 3. The ministry of Jesus’ disciples.
 - 4. The ministry of the New Testament apostles.
 - b. The People:
 - 1. The gifts were and are to be used in the New Testament believers’ lives.
 - a. Through the utterance gifts in the church service.
 - b. Through the other gifts in witnessing (Acts 1:8).

The Purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit in the New Testament in Church

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” 1 Corinthians 14:1

“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:4

- 1. Follow after love (1 Corinthians 13).
- 2. Desire spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12).
- 3. Prophecy (1 Corinthians 14).

Gifts and the Word in Church

- 1. We have no specific definition, rules, or guidelines for the use of the gifts in our personal life in chapter 12.
- 2. God gives instruction of how the three utterance gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy) are used in the church service – chapter 14.
- 3. Early New Testament pastors knew of questions about tongues.

4. God is just as concerned with offending the sinner as we are and has made provision for not hurting the least.

Edification For All is Needed in the Church Service

*“Even so you (congregation), since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, **let it be** for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)*

1. Compare this to verses 2 and 4.
2. Think in love for the good of everyone (chapter 13).
3. This is not a chance for church members to show their knowledge or give their sermons as prophecy.
4. Speaking in tongues in your private life edifies you.
Speaking in tongues, interpretation, and prophecy in church should edify the ones present.
5. Yet, the sermon edifies more people than anything else.

Most Importantly In Church is Teaching the Word

“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all (in private life); yet, in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.” (1 Corinthians 14:18-19)

1. In church, the gifts should rarely replace the Word.
2. Pastors need to be open to the direction changes of the Holy Spirit. There can be some services of all worship and the gifts.
3. Most services will have some gifts or none, but the teaching of the word as dominant.

It Is Alright to Limit the Gifts But Not the Word

*“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you (congregation) come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let** all things be done for edification. If anyone (congregation) speaks in a tongue, **let** there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and **let** one interpret. But if there is no interpreter (congregation), **let** him keep silent in church, and **let** him speak to himself and to God. **Let** two or three prophets (congregation) speak, and **let** the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another (prophet) who sits by, **let** the first keep silent. For you (prophets) can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.” (1 Corinthians 14:26-33)*

Paul is speaking to the pastor – the one who allows.

A Pastor Must First Instruct Before He Can Allow

1. Pastors, trust your people to hear the Holy Spirit but direct them.

- a. Pastor, divert from your message at the Holy Spirit's leading.
- b. If *you* can hear, teach, and trust *your people* to hear.
- c. Meet with all who are interested in being used the Holy Spirit.
Give them guidelines, not to be self-centered but to be a blessing.
- d. Teach the people to trust themselves to hear the Holy Spirit.
2. *"Whenever you come together..."* (vs. 26)
 - a. All services are open to the Holy Spirit, especially Sunday a.m.
 - b. Instruction must be given by the pastor (vss. 27-28).
3. *"Let all things be done for edification..."* (vs. 26)
 - a. Everyone coming into the church have something, but do not necessarily need to give it. The pastor sets limits.
 - b. Does it fit time constraints and the number allowed?
 - c. Will it edify, exhort, and comfort?
 - d. Could it be for an individual not for everyone?
 - e. Examine and weigh what you have been given.
4. Let tongue and interpretation be limited. (vs. 27-28)
 - a. Let the number of people giving a tongue be two or at most three.
 - b. Let one interpret for all or a different one for each.
 1. This must be a total of three in combination of prophecy and/or tongue and interpretation.
 2. Each in turn.
 3. Do not interrupt. The Holy Spirit does not interrupt Himself.
 4. Wait for silence to speak out. This is usually after worship.
 5. If you have a tongue and are not sure there is an interpreter, keep silent, pray for the interpretation, or give the utterance as a prophecy.
5. Prophets are limited in number of utterances.
 - a. Two or three can speak – like those giving tongues from the congregation.
 - b. Other prophets present can judge.
 1. Who can judge a prophet's word better than another prophet?
 2. It is the same with pastors and teachers.
 - c. One prophet can build on the word of another. The first should keep silent and not interrupt the second.
 - d. Prophets, as well as anyone operating in the gifts, can control when to start and stop their utterance.
 - e. Everyone present, including prophets, should respect the leadership of the church and not try to dominate.
 - f. Gifts without order bring confusion.
6. *"Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order"* (vss. 39-40).
 - a. Pastors should take the lead in the gifts – especially prophecy.
 1. Set an example to the congregation to step out.

2. Encourage them to step out at the Holy Spirit's prompting.
7. In the days of the early church pastors were fearful of tongues causing division. The same happens today.
 - a. Do not try to eliminate tongues and interpretation.
 - b. Do not strive to only have prophecy so no tongues will be given and cause confusion.
 - c. Do not forbid the people to speak with tongues to be interpreted.
 - d. Tongues before interpretation is usually because sinners are present.
8. After utterances gifts are used, explain constantly from scripture.

You Can Still Begin and End Your Service On Time

1. Jesus:
 - a. Was born on time.
 - b. Entered the ministry on time.
 - c. Died, resurrected, and ascended on time.
 - d. Yet, had time to operate in the gifts during that time.
 - e. He will return on time.
2. Your people will appreciate starting and ending on time.

Why Do People Leave Churches That Have the Gifts?

1. Ministers do not explain what has happened.
2. Ministers and congregations become used to the gifts and expect everyone to simply understand.
3. Visitors occupy seat of the *uninformed* (vs. 16), not the angry or skeptical. If they are uninformed, teach them.
4. Take time to explain why the gifts are given and used and where they are found in the New Testament.

Summary

1. The Word is the most important.
 - a. It is eternal.
 - b. It is for everyone.
 - c. It is the most important and longest part of the service.
2. Gifts are not as important but necessary.
 - a. Temporary.
 - b. For a few – the rest observe.
 - c. It is the shortest part of the service.
 - d. Not necessarily for every service.
3. You always remember the word more than the gifts.
4. The main purpose of the church service is for the perfecting of the saints, not just getting people saved.
 - a. The gifts bless a few and convict sinners of salvation.

- b. The word is for believers and their growth. To equip them to do the word of the ministry – winning souls.
- c. During the teaching of the word, salvation should always be weaved in to bring sinners to salvation.
- 5. The gifts do not produce maturity. The Word does (Psalm 103:7).
 - a. The Corinthians came behind in no spiritual gift but were the most carnal of all churches.
 - b. Jesus said those who only seek signs are “evil and adulterous” (Matthew 12:39).
- 6. The pastor needs to take control of the order of the church service and instructing people about gifts.
- 7. After the utterance gifts, take a short time to explain.
- 8. “In order” includes “on time” – order is appreciated.
- 9. There is no scripture telling us to limit the word. But an entire chapter telling us to limit the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in Tongues

Personal use
 Mainly outside church
 I speak to God
 I do not understand
 Praise and prayer
 Builds me up
 Mind is unfruitful
 For all believers
 Anytime I want

The Gift of Tongues

Church Service
 Inside church
 God speaks to the church
 Needs interpretation
 Words of edification, instruction, and comfort
 Builds up the congregation
 Should be understood
 Not for all believers
 As the Holy Spirit wills