

**The Big Picture Series Volume Two**

# **Painting the Picture**

**Knowing your  
spiritual gifts and  
moving in them**

**Tim Gibson**



# Recommendations

*“Rev. Timothy Gibson is a gifted teacher with a prophetic ministry. In this book he gives a detailed explanation concerning spiritual gifts, and they are illustrated using the metaphor of an artist’s clothes, brushes and paint colours. I strongly recommend this book as it can guide you to discover your spiritual gifts. An invaluable book not to be missed in your reading hour.”*

Pastor Song Meng Liang (Senior Pastor of Church of Singapore (Bukit Timah))

# The Big Picture

## Volume 2



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moving in them

**Tim Gibson**

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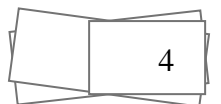
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# Foreword

Discovering and growing in our God given spiritual gifts is one of the most exciting adventures a Christian can have. Ralph Mattson, in his book *“What’s My Calling?”*, says, *“We are not surprised if worldly people experience confusion in their careers and life-decisions, but something’s wrong when people who claim to know God cannot figure out what they’re supposed to be doing.”*

Some Christians are spiritual risk takers who step out in faith seeking to utilize every gift that God has given them. Others act more like spiritual caretakers - they want to know about God’s giftings and gather and analyze them, but out of either their perceived wisdom or fear, they play it safe and never maximize what has been entrusted to them. There is also another group who behave more like spiritual undertakers. They are like the unfaithful servant in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) who sadly take their gift and bury it. Not only is there no fruit but tragically they end up losing what they were first given. For there is a principle in the Kingdom of God that the reward for work well done is more work, and the reward for God’s giftings well used is greater gifting.

In this excellent book Tim Gibson takes you on a journey through the Scriptures and his own personal experiences to help us to know what we are supposed to be doing in God’s work. As you read you will not only gain understanding but also the desire to step out in God with a thankful heart for His grace that not only saves but now also empowers and equips you to partner with Him in revealing His love and power to this world.

Pastor David Holdaway

Author of *“The Captured Heart: Guarding Your Heart In a World of Compromise”* and many more books.

*For Shendy, my caring wife and my three  
inspiring kids, Melody, Gideon and Matthew.  
Reach for the stars.*

# Introduction: Painting our Piece

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:10

**F**ather God has envisaged a glorious canvas of future hope, a master painting so spectacular that all the masterpieces of man through history, and those to come, pale into insignificance in its shadow. This masterpiece, His plan and purpose for mankind and all creation, His Big Picture, is revealed in the Bible.

In the first volume of this Big Picture series, *Picture Perfect*, I showed from Scripture what that Big Picture is and the need for us to have eagle-like vision to see the wonderful picture God has made us a part of in Christ. I outlined God’s great plan to redeem fallen creation and establish the fullness of His Kingdom. This is a plan that He calls us to be part of as we enter the vision first given to Adam and Eve, to be conformed to His image, blessed to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion.

We are not only called to see and be a part of Father God’s great painting, but to actually be involved in placing His colourful, creative brushstrokes on this canvas of History (His story). In the first book I also showed that each one of us has a *‘sphere of calling’* within His big picture. We are called (with an ant-like calling) to paint a little portion of the wider painting by walking in the good works He has prepared beforehand for us. To paint in this *‘sphere of calling’* God equips us with all the things that are needed: The artist’s skills, clothing, tools and the different colours of paint.

## **We’re part of His Masterpiece**

Matthew Simpson<sup>1</sup>, an American pastor of the 19th century once visited some of the great buildings of Europe. There he saw mosaics -- pictures made up of small pieces of stone, glass, metal, and shell. Simpson wrote, *“The artist takes these little pieces, and polishing and arranging them, he forms them into a grand and beautiful picture. Each individual part of the picture may be a little worthless piece of glass or marble or shell; but, with each in its place, the whole constitutes a masterpiece of art. So I think it will be with humanity in the hands of the great Artist. God is picking up the little worthless pieces of stone and brass that might be trodden underfoot unnoticed, and is making of them His great masterpiece”*.

Each of us individually is His workmanship in Christ. When we invite Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Saviour we are polished and fashioned to be a mosaic piece that fits seamlessly into His Big Picture. In this book we look at what makes up the individual parts of God’s Big Picture (each piece of the mosaic in the

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted by Gwen Smith in her article, *Mosaic Majesty*, 2007.

illustration given above) and how He fashions us to be the person we are meant to be.

### **We're not just parts of the painting but also Artists painting it.**

Throughout Scripture we see a strange phenomenon of impossible possibilities. Jesus is the Lamb of God, but He's also the Great Shepherd. He is the Great Sacrificial Offering, but also the Great High Priest that offers it. We are parts of God's building, the Church, but also labourers helping to build it. We are part of God's Big Picture, but, at the same time, we are to be artists painting that picture. We are His masterpieces but also called to have a hand in painting His masterpiece, by walking in His ways that are prepared for us and letting Him work through us.

Looking from this perspective we could say that the part of God's Big Picture we're called to paint is our '*sphere of calling*'. The shape of our piece that we are called to paint represents our natural skills, good desires, abilities, personality and learning experiences. Our artist's clothing represents our Equipping gifts (or Ministerial Gifts<sup>2</sup>) and the tools and brushes we use to paint are our Engaging gifts (or Motivational Gifts). The different paint colours we use to paint the picture are our Empowering Gifts (or Manifestation Gifts - these are the spiritual gifts that actually powerfully intervene in people's lives in the areas we minister, to manifest God's present working that we will examine in more detail further on in this book).



Throughout this book I will slip in pieces of my own story as I have sought to find my part of God's mosaic, put on my painter's clothing, pick up my brushes, dip them into the colours of His Spirit, and let Him paint through me. Sometimes I have seen His glorious masterpiece unfold through me, but on other occasions the paint has splashed all over me or others and has made a mess. In every instant, the Master Artist has always been there to encourage, correct, aid and inspire.

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<sup>2</sup> I will explain the meaning of these different gift categories as we go through the book.

# CHAPTER ONE

## The Gift of the Master Artist



*“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.””* Ephesians 4:7-8

### Jesus is the Master Artist

**T**here is a true incident in the life of Joseph Mallord Turner<sup>3</sup>, English painter, who invited Charles Kingsley to his studio to see a picture of a storm at sea. In rapt admiration, Kingsley exclaimed, *“It’s wonderful! It’s so realistic! How did you do it?”* The artist replied, *“I went to the coast of Holland and engaged a fisherman to take me out to sea in the next storm. Entering his boat as a storm was brewing, I asked him to bind me to the mast. Then he steered his boat into the teeth of the storm.*

*The storm raged with such fury that at times I longed to be in the bottom of the boat where the waves would blow over me. I could not, however. I was bound to the mast. Not only did I see the storm in its raging fury, I felt it! It blew into me, as it were, until I became a part of it. After this terrible ordeal, I returned to my studio and painted the picture.”*

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<sup>3</sup> The Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator  
([www.fredericksburgchurchofchrist.com/illustrations/illustrate.htm](http://www.fredericksburgchurchofchrist.com/illustrations/illustrate.htm))

Jesus is the Master Artist. He's our creator (Colossians 1:16) and we're created in Him and for Him. He's been through it all first so we can be like Him. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians that they were to be like-minded with Christ in the way He humbled Himself to serve God's purposes, went through the storm, and walked the way of the Cross:

*"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* Philippians 2:5-8

He has shown us how to paint our part of the picture as He is the Pattern Son. In 1 John 2:6 the Apostle John writes, *"He who says he abides in Him (Jesus) ought himself also to walk just as He walked"*. Using our allegory of painting we could comment on this by saying *"We are to paint our part in God's picture just as Jesus did whilst He was on earth."* This, of course, does not mean that we imitate Him in dying for the sins of mankind or performing miracles that point to our deity! It does mean, however, that we follow His lead in humble obedience to the Father, move in the power of the Holy Spirit and partake in His sufferings in walking the way of the Cross.

In Berlin art gallery is a painting by German painter Adolf Menzel (1815-1905). Only partially finished, it intended to show Fredrick the Great speaking with some of his generals. Menzel painted the generals and the background, but left the king until last. He put the outline of Fredrick in charcoal, but died prior to finishing.<sup>4</sup>

Many Christians come to the end of their life without ever having put Christ, the King, into His proper place, center stage in our painting. To paint our part properly we must fix our eyes on Jesus, *"the author and finisher of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2). It's only in Him and through His Spirit that we can truly finish our life's painting well.

In my Christian walk I am constantly brought back to my Saviour's earthly life and ministry as I struggle to do His will. Jesus reveals to me a beautiful pattern for life and ministry as I ponder and meditate on what I read about Him in the Gospels. In chapter six I will look more at Christ's example for us to follow as we endeavour to paint our part.

### **We are artists in Him**

Psychologist Abraham Maslow, in *"Motivation and Personality"*, theorized that in the hierarchy of human needs the need for *"self-actualization"* is the necessary final step for full development of the personality. He wrote, *"A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be. He must be true to his own nature."*<sup>5</sup>

In the same way, we were born again to be spiritual artists, painting His part for us in the Big Picture. Before we're truly born of His Spirit we may see something of his call on our lives, but we will remain powerless to move in that call.

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<sup>4</sup> Marching Orders, Karl Laney, p. 45

<sup>5</sup> Abraham H.Maslow, Motivation and Personality, New York, Harper, 1954

I was raised by good parents and brought up to be a good Church of England (CofE) boy. I thank God that my parents enrolled me, at the age of about ten, to go through the CofE confirmation classes in my local village church<sup>6</sup>, as it's through these classes that I heard some of the basic teachings of Christianity and was exposed to the teachings of the Bible. Indeed I had a sense at that young age that God had some plan for me. However, this '*religious*' training could never save me from my sins and make me a new creation, enabling me to have a dynamic relationship with the Master Artist. Indeed, this training could well have put me off religion for good, because the Vicar who taught us, who was almost completely blind, would often turn up half drunk for the classes and then promptly tootle off down to the village pub once he had finished. This led me to believe religion was blind, hypocritical and powerless to change us to be better people, which of course it ultimately is.

It was at the age of twelve in 1977 that I discovered that religion does not save, but only a relationship with God does. One weekend I was cycling down to the village shop to buy some bread for my mum when I saw a strange sight in my friend's front garden. A rather rotund American was standing beside a sketch board explaining a picture he was drawing on it to an enraptured group of kids that included some of my friends. Laying down my bicycle on the pavement besides the garden, I went to sit down on the grass with the group and listen to what this crazy American had to say.

Norman (the crazy American's name) was drawing a picture of a cliff with people falling off it. To the right hand side of this cliff was a large chasm and on the other side was another cliff leading to a land of glory and purpose. He was explaining that religion and doing good or being a good person cannot get us across this chasm and we all need saving from falling off this cliff. This rang true in my young mind and I kept on listening. Then Norman drew a cross to bridge the chasm and explained that this cross represents Jesus and what Jesus has done for us through His death at Calvary, resurrection on the third day and ascension to heaven. He told us that it is only by God's grace (undeserved favour) that we can be saved and we need to repent of our sins, have faith in Jesus and invite Him into our hearts to be born again, made into new creations so we can cross the chasm and enter into the fullness of the meaning of the picture he was showing us.

There, on the small square patch of grass, I gave my heart to the Master Artist and was born again, a new baby artist in the making. From then on I started attending discipleship classes and grew in my relationship with God. However, this church was extremely conservative and against any teaching concerning the relevance of the supernatural spiritual gifts for today. Indeed they taught that Speaking in Tongues is of the Devil and the supernatural Gifts of the Spirit ceased with the early Apostles. I started to witness hypocrisy in the church leaders and a powerlessness to launch into this glory and purpose Norman had been pointing to. As a result I slowly drifted away from God and the church and was a backslider for a few years.

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<sup>6</sup> St. Mary the Blessed Virgin, Great Houghton, Northamptonshire

It is in our new nature to paint, but without the Master Artist to empower us and paint through us we will be impotent in our calling and fall away as I did. We need help to paint in the way that He has shown us.

### **The Master Artist sends a Helper**

In St. Peter's, Cologne, Herbert Lockyer<sup>7</sup> relates, there are two pictures of the crucifixion of Peter, that stand side by side, and the existence of these two pictures is explained in this way:

In the beginning of the 19th century, when Napoleon came and ransacked the city, he robbed St. Peter's of one of those two pictures - the original - and took it away. While the first picture was taken away from the city, the artist, in the absence of the original, painted another picture. In time the original was restored, and the two were placed side by side. Experts now say that there is so little difference between the two pictures you cannot tell which is the original.

In the absence of the original, the artist painted another identical picture. Now, that is true of the glorious work of the Spirit. The Original, Jesus the Master Artist, is not here in the same way He was as we see Him in the Gospels. He is in heaven *"at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us"* (Romans 8:34). But the Holy Spirit is here, and He is the Master Artist's gift, the Helper, sent to enable us to paint the part of the picture God is calling us to paint.

*"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."* John 15:26

God the Father's free gift to us is salvation through His Son Jesus (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 9:15), placing us as part of His Big Picture. God the Son's gift to us is the Holy Spirit, the Helper, who enables us to paint our part in His Big Picture. He is Christ's gift (Ephesians 4:7). When Christ ascended to heaven *"He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men"* (Ephesians 4:8), meaning that He was like a Roman General coming home, victorious from battle, leading the captured enemy in triumphal procession and throwing out gifts to all his subjects as he willed. The Holy Spirit is the Gift, but in Him are many gifts (the Gifts of the Spirit) that, as we shall see, are the clothing, tools and different colours of paint that enable us to paint our part in His Big Picture.

### **God started it; you finish it with His inspiration**

Leonardo da Vinci had started work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it, choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying his own natural genius. Then suddenly he ceased, the painting still unfinished, and summoning one of his students he invited him to complete the work. The student protested that he was unworthy and unable to complete the great painting the master had begun. But Da Vinci silenced him with these words: *"Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?"*<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Herbert Lockyer, All the Doctrines of the Bible, Zondervan, 1964, p92

<sup>8</sup> Illustration on sermoncentral.com shared by John Perry of Potter's House.  
(<http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-john-perry-stories-examplesoffaith-75836.asp>)

That which God has started, may we be inspired to complete with excellence and reverence, using the gifts given to us by our Divine Teacher to His honour and glory. Just as the early disciples were to continue the work of Christ throughout events described in the book of Acts, so we are to continue His work as His body, the Church, here on earth. We do this, as they did in Acts, through the enabling and empowering of Christ's gift, the Holy Spirit:

*"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."* Luke 24:49

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Acts 1:8

There are seven things we must do concerning this gift:

### **1. We must realize what Christ's gift is.**

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."* John 14:16-17 (NKJV)

When I first became a born again Christian if you had asked me what Christ's gift is I would have answered "*Salvation*". Now I know that salvation is the Father's Gift (Salvation through His Son, Jesus). Jesus' gift to His Church is the Holy Spirit. Yes, the Bible passage I have quoted (John 14:16-17) says the Father is the one who "*gives us another helper*", the Holy Spirit, but it is at the request of Jesus, so is ultimately His gift to us.

At first this gift was forbidden to me by the teaching I had in my first Church. It was not until I left my home and went to university in London that I would realize what Christ's gift really is and, indeed, how important it is.

### **2. We must freely receive the gift.**

*"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV)

Legendary Spanish artist Pablo Picasso was virtually unknown when he painted his famous portrait of American writer Gertrude Stein in 1906. Picasso gave the portrait to Miss Stein since, as the artist himself recalled with a smile, at that time in his career "*the difference between a gift and a sale was negligible.*" Some years later, the portrait attracted the interest of millionaire art collector Dr. Albert Barnes, who asked Miss Stein how much she had paid Picasso for it. "*Nothing,*" she replied. "*Naturally, he gave it to me.*" Dr. Barnes was incredulous that such a priceless work of art could have been a gift.<sup>9</sup>

If you've ever thought about the gospel for very long, you can probably appreciate Dr. Barnes's incredulity. Think of what we have been given in Christ: forgiveness, eternal life, and all the riches of heaven, all at a cost we could have

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<sup>9</sup> Our salvation: Past, present and Future, Grady Scott, 1999  
([http://www.churchesofchrist.net/authors/Grady\\_Scott/eph2v1-10.htm](http://www.churchesofchrist.net/authors/Grady_Scott/eph2v1-10.htm))

never paid! But that's not all; we have the privilege of sharing this treasure with others. But the greatest gift of grace is the Holy Spirit Himself. In Him are all the gifts. The Holy Spirit is the seal bearing the image of Christ (Ephesians 1:13), enabling us to paint the image of Christ, the Master Artist, in our lives and in His creation. The Holy Spirit endows and empowers us with His gifts of grace.

After backsliding in my Christian life for about four years I finally came back to the Lord in 1985 when I was in Imperial College, London. Simon, my next door neighbour in Tizard halls of residence, was a born again, spirit-filled Christian and I saw something in him I did not have in my Christian life. One night I was really depressed and felt compelled to go and speak to Simon. As I was about to knock on his door it opened and I almost knocked him on the head! He was going for the Christian Union meeting and asked me to go with him. That night the speaker was talking about what Jesus has done for us in His death, resurrection and the sending of the Helper, the Holy Spirit. I felt like the speaker was speaking just to me the whole time and at the end I recommitted my life to Jesus and decided to find out more about the Holy Spirit.

Soon after my recommitment I started going to Holy Trinity Brompton Church<sup>10</sup>, right behind my halls of residence. It was there that I enrolled in an Alpha Course<sup>11</sup> (an informal course for pre and new believers). At the end of the Alpha Course we had a Holy Spirit Weekend where we went to a big mansion in the countryside to have teaching on the Holy Spirit, ending with a time of praying for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit over our lives to equip us with the power gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) and empower us for witnessing for Him (Acts 1:8). All the way through the book of Acts you see this two-step experience (conversion then a later baptism with the spirit) – Acts 19:1-6 gives us just one example:

*“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”*

*So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”*

*And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”*

*Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”*

*When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”*

This promise was not just for the early Christians but is for every subsequent generation (Acts 2:38-39).

It was during this time that I realized I needed to be baptized with the Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33). Water Baptism is full

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.htb.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.alpha.org/>

immersion in water but Spirit Baptism is to be fully immersed in the Spirit. Yes, when we are Born Again the Spirit of God lives in us and we are baptized into the body of Christ, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:13), but there is a “*second blessing*” after salvation where not only does the Spirit live in us but we live and move in the Spirit. This is called Spirit Baptism or Baptism in or with the Holy Spirit.

On the last day of the Holy Spirit weekend we all gathered in the main meeting room in a large circle to be prayed for to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. I was ready to receive and knew that if I asked in faith for the Holy Spirit I would indeed receive Him:

*“If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* Luke 11:11-13

Nicky Gumbel, who was teaching us during this weekend, just came through the door to the room and stood at the opening. He simply said “*Come Holy Spirit!*” In an instant I saw a white light bathe all of us and I saw a vision of a huge dove coming to rest in the centre of the circle. I felt waves of joy and power come over me and a sensation like harmless but powerful electricity pulsating through my body. What I can remember of that time is that I just could not stand still for the joy that I was feeling and I started running around the room. Then the room seemed too small so I went outside and started running around the circular gravel driveway. There was a bubbling up within my spirit and I opened my mouth to find a new language starting to burst forth.

It was at this point I stopped dead in my tracks.

Was this the dreaded “*Speaking in Tongues*” that I was starting to utter and had been taught was from the Devil? At that moment I quenched the Spirit and although I continued to experience breakthroughs in understanding the Bible, deeper times of prayer and fellowship with the Lord and witnessing my faith to others with boldness, I was not fully opening up this new gift.

### **3. We must then open and wholeheartedly use our gift.**

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* 1 Peter 4:10

Rossini was once presented with a watch by the King of France—of which he was justly proud. Several years after, showing it to a friend, he was told that though he had possessed it so long, he did not know its real value. “*Impossible,*” said Rossini, whereupon the friend, taking the watch, touched a secret spring, at which an inner case flew open, disclosing a beautiful miniature painting of Rossini himself.<sup>12</sup>

This is characteristic of a certain type of modern Christianity. It values its ethics and is acquainted with and appreciates much of its teaching, but it has not discovered the inner secret which gives it its supreme value. The portrait of

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<sup>12</sup> Portrait of a Fruitful Believer, Kenneth Morris (<https://sermons.logos.com/submissions/2625-Portrait-of-a-Fruitful-Believer#content=/submissions/2625>)

Christ is still hidden. When the secret spring is touched and the Face of Christ is recognized, the whole attitude of mind and theory of values is changed. The secret spring for the Christian is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, where the Spirit comes to reveal the face of Christ and unlock His full power in and through us, revealing so much more of Him.

*“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?”* (John 14:9) Christ said to one who called himself a disciple and an intimate. The Apostle John lay as dead before a revelation of the one he thought he knew so well but didn’t really know at all (Revelation 1:17). In both cases what was needed to see more of Christ was a revelation of Him by the Spirit, and this is exactly the same for us today.

The extent to which we open up God’s gift of the Spirit to us is the extent to which we will see more of Christ and His Image will be formed more and more in us. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 8:29 *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* This is clearly in the context of the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives if you read the preceding verses from verse 1. The Holy Spirit is the seal that carries the image of Christ upon our lives (Ephesians 1:13-14), and it is therefore imperative that we fully open up and open up to the gift of the Holy Spirit.

After I was baptized with the Spirit on the Holy Spirit Weekend I saw that God started to reveal more and more of His Word to me. As I read the Bible, things I previously could not understand were opened up to me and as I prayed there was a greater sense of His presence and guiding. However, because I stopped short in praying in the new language that was bubbling up in me on that day, I had not fully opened up to the working of the Spirit and there was still so much more of Christ that I was missing.

It was several months, during which my friends spent time praying for and encouraging me to move more in the Spirit and pray in Tongues, before I allowed the free flow of the Spirit through me and spoke excitedly in a spiritual tongue. When this happened, and I continued to pray in tongues privately, I noticed a definite deepening of my relationship with God and I seemed to know Him more and know more of His ways for me. Indeed I could hear more of His guidance and started getting more involved in the Christian Union, in leading a small Bible Study group and sharing my faith with greater boldness. I also started hearing God’s calling to go on mission trips to France, Spain and Morocco, where I would receive my calling for fulltime missionary and, eventually, local church work. This is all because I wholeheartedly opened up this special gift.

Bertoldo de Giovanni is a name even the most enthusiastic lover of art is unlikely to recognize. He was the pupil of Donatello, the greatest sculptor of his time, and he was the teacher of Michelangelo, the greatest sculptor of all time. Michelangelo was only fourteen years old when he came to Bertoldo, but it was already obvious that he was enormously gifted. Bertoldo was wise enough to realize that gifted people are often tempted to coast rather than to grow, and therefore he kept trying to pressure his young prodigy to work seriously at his

art. One day he came into the studio to find Michelangelo toying with a piece of sculpture far beneath his abilities. Bertoldo grabbed a hammer, stomped across the room, and smashed the work into tiny pieces, shouting this unforgettable message, *“Michelangelo, talent is cheap; dedication is costly!”*<sup>13</sup>

We should not merely coast along with our talents, be they natural or spiritual, but be dedicated to unlock the full potential God has for us. This is only done by opening up wholly to the Holy Spirit’s work in us and through us. Although I did not initially open up fully to this wondrous gift, I had great dedication to go deeper and found myself wholeheartedly opening up to the Holy Spirit so He could paint more effectively through me.

#### **4. We must not question God’s choice of colours (gifting).**

*“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills”* 1 Corinthians 12:11.

David Jeremiah relates the true incident of when Raphael was engaged in painting his celebrated frescoes. He was visited by two cardinals who began to criticize his work, and found fault without understanding it. *“The Apostle Paul has too red a face,”* said one. *“He blushes to see into whose hands the Church has fallen,”* answered the angry Artist.<sup>14</sup>

When the Holy Spirit starts manifesting His supernatural gifts through us we may find the way He does so is not to our liking, just as the cardinals thought of Raphael’s painting. We now know that Raphael, a master painter, chose exactly the right colours and, in the same way, the Holy Spirit will work through us in exactly the right way. Let us not be like these cardinals but allow Him to manifest as *“He wills”* (1 Corinthians 12:11).

At first I questioned the Holy Spirit’s use of speaking in Tongues through me, but later I began to see His wisdom and the fruit of such a gift. Indeed I can remember a time when Speaking in Tongues probably saved my life. This was when I was on a mission trip in Sabah and myself and another pastor went swimming in the sea. A long way out we found ourselves surrounded by jellyfish that were stinging us from torso to toes. We both started speaking loudly and unceasingly in Tongues and swimming to the beach. When the lifeguard came to us on the beach (even he was too afraid to rescue us with so many jellyfish) he marveled that we were unhurt as previous cases needed to be taken to hospital or even proved fatal!

Later, as the Spirit continued to manifest more and more supernatural gifts through me, I saw His wisdom as lives were being touched and His will was being outworked.

I can vividly remember one time soon after being released in speaking in Tongues, I was in Holy Trinity Brompton church on Sunday and worshipping the Lord. Halfway through the songs the worship leader said that the Spirit was moving mightily in the building and we should all allow the gifts of the Spirit to flow. As they said this I felt a warm sensation in my hand, a gentle burning. Being new to the move of the Spirit I asked the person next to me what this

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<sup>13</sup> From Gary Inrig, A Call to Excellence.

<sup>14</sup> David Jeremiah, Turning Toward Joy, David C. Cook, 2006, p95

meant and they said it was often a sign that the gift of healing was being released. The person on my other side heard this and said they had a bad back that needed healing. I laid my hand on her back and prayed for healing in the name of Jesus. The lady I prayed for leapt up to her feet saying she felt something like electricity run down her back. Then she smiled gleefully and said that the pain had gone!

When Jesus sent the disciples before Him across the Sea of Galilee and they got caught in a life threatening storm, He came to them walking on the water. The Bible tells us that *“in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.”* (Matthew 14:25). Jesus was coming to them and about to call Peter to walk into the miraculous by stepping on the waves, but all they saw was a scary ghost and they were filled with fear. During that time Jesus was physically with them but later He sent His Holy Spirit to come to them and empower them. Older Bible translations use the term Holy Ghost instead of the Holy Spirit. Often, Jesus sends the Spirit to us but we’re afraid and see a scary ghost instead. However, when Peter realized it was indeed Jesus He launched out on Jesus’ word and walked on the water, walking into the miraculous. In the same way we must see that the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the empowering of the Holy Ghost, is of God as the Holy Spirit Himself is God.

Was I expecting that these were the colours the Spirit would use to paint through me? Certainly not! Indeed I was shocked in both cases. I was like the disciples in the boat seeing a ghost walking on the waters. However, like Peter, I began to see this as truly being of God and stepped out of the boat as He willed. Speaking in Tongues was something I thought was from the Devil but I found it to be the tongues of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1). The way the gift of healing came shocked me as much as it did the lady who was healed, but was a wonderful blessing to both of us. We must not question God’s choice of colours but simply yield to the Spirit’s working and by faith move in the gifts as He wills.

##### **5. We must “live out” the gift.**

*“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”* 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Rev. G. P. Eckman tells the story<sup>15</sup> of a young English artist who stood before his canvas one day painting a picture called *“A Lost Woman.”* As the work grew under his hand, his soul became more and more engrossed in the tragedy he was trying to portray. It represented a stormy night in winter. A poor woman, thinly clad, with her babe pressed to her bosom, was wending her way

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<sup>15</sup> Fredericksburg Church of Christ, 507 N. Llano St., Fredericksburg TX 78624, <http://www.fbg-church.org/>

along a dark, deserted street. Faint lights flickered here and there, and all doors were closed and barred. As the artist depicted the agony on the unfortunate woman's face, his emotion deepened, and he threw his brush aside and exclaimed, *"Why not go out and seek to save the actually lost?"*

In that instant, he forsook his studio and resolved to prepare himself for the ministry. He entered Oxford University, supporting himself by the aid of his brush till he had finished his course. He then plunged into the work of rescuing the perishing, which took him through the slums of London to the dark regions of Uganda. This is the story of Bishop Tucker of Africa, and, as a modern reproduction of the spirit of Jesus, it helps one to understand the Master's attitude toward the lost and those God is calling us to.

The Gifts of the Spirit are not merely to entertain, to paint a wonderful picture that people can *"Ooh!"* and *"Ah!"* at. They are not toys but tools. They are the living embodiment of God's calling for us and must be used in the context of compassion for a dying world.

The moment the Gifts of the Spirit were activated in my life the Lord was calling me to *"live out"* what these gifts are all about – reaching the Lost. After Tongues and Healing the next gift the Holy Spirit manifested through me was the gift of supernatural Faith. All of us are to have faith for salvation and daily living in Christ, but there is a special gift of faith that comes to step out into greater things for the Lord. As a naturally shy and introverted young man, and a home-loving mummy's boy, I would not have normally stepped out into risky activities. However, when a team from a missions organization, called World Horizons, came to our Christian Union and challenged us to go with them on a mission trip to Morocco, I felt faith rise up in me and I signed up to go, not knowing where the money would come from or what I was in for.

In my last book, *Picture Perfect*, I shared the story of how the Lord prepared me for this trip by arranging for me to meet a Muslim from that country, preparing me to reach this people group with the love of Jesus and be filled with His compassion for them. As I was praying in my room for this trip the Lord gave me a vision of a Muslim man coming towards me near South Kensington Underground station. It was very detailed and I saw what he was wearing plus the fact he was carrying two plastic shopping bags.

Immediately, I went to this station and waited. There were very few people around and no one matched the man I saw in the vision. However, there was a Muslim Centre nearby and soon many were pouring out of it after prayer time. As a result I had dozens of Muslims coming towards me and I asked the Lord to show me the one in the vision. Then, at the back of the crowd I saw him, carrying the bags and wearing the same clothes I had seen. As he came towards me I prayed under my breath that God would help me to approach him. As he was about to pass both his bag handles broke and his shopping went sprawling all over the pavement. I leapt forward to help him and he was so happy that I did and stopped to chat with me. As I shared Jesus with him I just felt the compassion of the Lord flow through me and knew this was a preparation for my trip.

This was the start of my calling to go to the nations, eventually to South East Asia and be based in Singapore, and all because I chose to “live out” the gifts He was releasing in me.

## **6. We must be His hands, painting the gift as we have received it.**

*“As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” John 17:18*

*“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” John 14:12.*

There is a true story<sup>16</sup> that tells of a church in Strasbourg that was destroyed during the Second World War. After the bombing, the members of this particular church went to see what was left and found that the entire roof had fallen in, leaving a heap of rubble and broken glass. Much to their surprise, however, a statue of Christ with outstretched hands that had been carved centuries before by a great artist was still standing erect. It was virtually unharmed except that both hands had been sheared off by a falling beam. The people hurried to a sculptor in town and asked if he could replace the hands of the statue. He was willing, and he even offered to do it for nothing. The church officials met to consider the sculptor's proposition -- and decided not to accept his offer.

Why? Because they felt that the statue without hands would be the greatest illusion possible that God's work is done through His people. In a very real sense that's true. Jesus Christ chooses human hands. Sometimes they seem to be the most infirm hands, the least potentially successful hands, or the least qualified hands -- but those are the hands He uses.

Nanette Elkins<sup>17</sup> writes in her blog ‘*Hope in the Healing*’, “*One of the greatest examples of the apostles being the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the early Church is found in the third chapter of the Book of Acts. Peter and John were on their way to the Temple to pray, like they did every day at around three o'clock. There was a man who was lame from birth being carried in. Every day, he was put beside the Temple gate, the one they called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple.*

*When the lame man saw Peter and John, he asked them for money too, but Peter said, “Look at us! I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazarene, get up and walk!” Acts 3:4-6 (NLT). According to the Word, and the Name of Jesus, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed! He jumped up and began to walk! The Bible said he went “...walking, leaping and praising God...into the Temple with them.” Acts 3:8 (NLT).*

*Peter and John were being the Hands and Feet of Jesus! Jesus had already ascended into Heaven. He had told the disciples to wait for the Promise of the Father, the Comforter, which He would send. And He did! They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2. And the Church is born. We are the continuance of the Early Church. We are Acts 29! And the only way we can continue to write that 29th chapter is to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus.”*

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/pastor-resources/illustrations/gods-people-11560015.html>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.hopeinthehealing.com/2013/08/07/be-the-hands-and-feet-of-jesus/>

Just as the early disciples received the call to be the hands and feet of Jesus so I found the Lord was calling me to step out for Him in the power of the Holy Spirit. For me it was a clear call to leave my family, my homeland and go to a place the Lord would show me. This call came to me on my twenty first birthday, as I was on a mission trip to Morocco. We had travelled right down to the south of the country and were spending a night in sleeping bags in the Sahara desert. I awoke at four o'clock in the morning (not a usual thing for me, but on this trip we travelled early to avoid the heat of the day) and, by torchlight, had my quiet time with the Lord. My Bible reading on that day was Genesis 12:1-3, but verse one leapt out at me:

*“Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.””*

This became a living word to me as I literally heard the voice of God within me saying this was not just for Abram but also for me. These literal words to leave one’s family and nation and go to another country as the Lord leads, to be a blessing, are not for everyone, but for me this was a very real calling. It was a call to be the hands and feet of Jesus according to the gifts He was equipping me with. We will all have that call but its outworking will be as unique as each star in the sky and each grain of sand on the beaches of this world.

Not long ago Kathleen Harris wrote the song *“You are the only Jesus some will ever see.”* Below are some of the words to that song. Let these words wash over your soul and stir you up to cry out for more of the Spirit of the Living God, so you can go forth in His power and be His hands and feet in your home, your workplace, your school, your local streets, your nation and even in the nations.

### **You are the only Jesus some will ever see.**

*“If not you, I wonder where  
they will ever find the  
One who really cares.  
If not you, how will they find  
The One who heals the broken hearts  
and gives sight to the blind?  
If not you, I wonder who,  
will show them love,  
and love alone can make things new?  
If not you, how will they learn  
there’s One who’ll trade their  
hopelessness for joy in return?  
Because you’re the only Jesus some will ever see.  
You’re the only words of life, some will ever read.  
So let them see in you the  
One in whom is all they’ll ever need.  
You’re the only Jesus, some will ever see.”*

## 7. We must see the gifts as our passport!

*“A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.”*  
Proverbs 18:16

Gustav Dore, the famous artist, lost his passport while traveling in Europe. He was at a certain boundary post between two countries and the officer in charge asked him for his passport. Dore fumbled about and finally announced, *“I have lost my passport, but it is all right. I’m Dore, the artist. Please let me go in.”* The officer replied, *“Oh, no. We have plenty of people representing themselves as this or that great person! Here is a pencil and paper. Now, if you are Dore, the artist, prove it by drawing me a picture!”*; Dore took the pencil and drew some pictures of scenes in the immediate area. *“Now, I am perfectly sure that you are Dore. No one else could draw like that!”*, the officer said as he allowed the great artist to enter the country.<sup>18</sup>

When I was baptized with the Spirit there were many gifts that were released, but there was one that surprised me the most, even more than Speaking in Tongues. This was the gift of singing spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19), a form of the Gift of Prophecy. At school I auditioned for the choir but, even after my first line, the music teacher dismissed me, as I was so out of tune. I was not naturally endowed with an ability to sing well.

However, after my Baptism with the Spirit, I found new songs rising in my spirit and, as I would sing, either in tongues or in understanding, the sound was beautiful and anointed.

As I started singing out in small groups, people were testifying that this was truly a gift from the Lord and a blessing to them. Doors began to open for me to minister and later I found myself in demand to lead worship times in small groups and to this day I lead worship in my Church, both in the service and the Tuesday night prayer meeting (sometimes singing in Chinese, which I don’t speak fluently).

Another gift I found rising up in me was the gift of Teaching the Word of God with anointing, insight and life-touching effect, at first in small groups and then later in churches and missions organizations.

When I was twelve years old and only just Born Again, I remember taking a spiritual gifts evaluation in my church (the church did not believe in the supernatural gifts but still accepted the gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8 (see Chapter Four)). My results showed that Teacher was clearly my main gift, meaning the spiritual gift of teaching the Word of God. At that time I didn’t really believe the results as I was very shy and wouldn’t even say *“Boo!”* to a goose. Even if you’d have asked me to teach the Bible to sheep in a field I would have run away from the task at lightning speed.

However, after I was baptized with the Spirit, I found a boldness to teach His Word rising up within me and the Lord started giving deeper insights and revelation that I started to share in small groups. Again, doors started opening for me to teach in churches and missions meetings.

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<sup>18</sup> Our Daily Bread, January 6, 1993.

Indeed, in more recent times I have found these two gifts marrying together as I minister in teaching/preaching with prophetic songs coming forth over groups or individuals, especially as I minister overseas in other churches.

Truly, I have found that God's spiritual gifts to us, if opened and used, are like a passport that opens the way for us to minister in His call on our lives.

## Do You Get The Picture?

### Time to reflect:

- Have you received the Baptism of the Spirit?
- If not then what must you do to receive it?
- If yes, what gifts have you seen being released?
- Review the seven things we need to do concerning the Holy Spirit:
  1. *We must realize what Christ's gift is.*
  2. *We must freely receive the gift.*
  3. *We must then open and wholeheartedly use our gift.*
  4. *We must not question God's choice of colours (gifting).*
  5. *We must "live out" the gift.*
  6. *We must be His hands, painting the gift as we have received it.*
  7. *We must see the gift as our passport!*
- How far have you progressed in moving in the Spirit? Which of these numbers above have you reached?

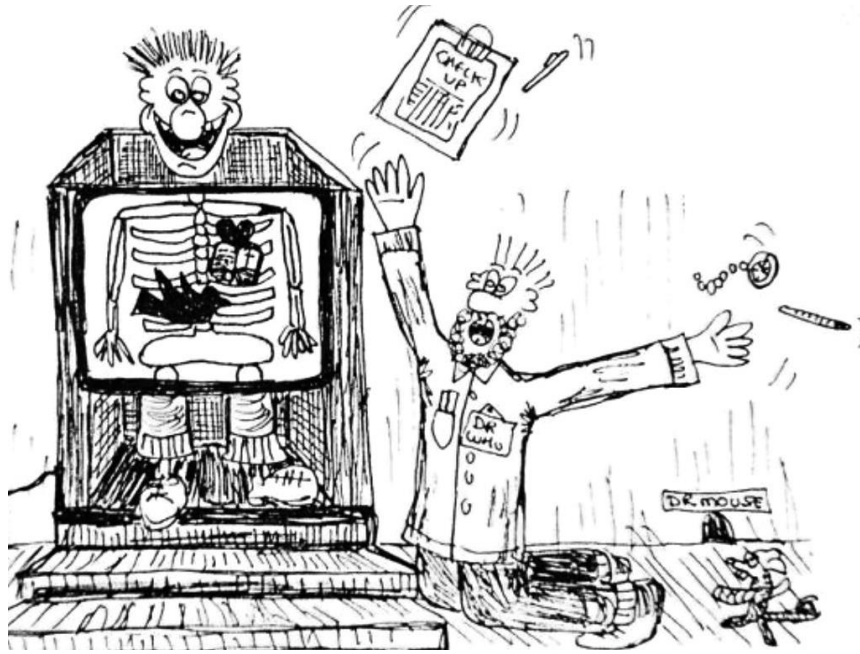
I have reached number \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g. I have reached number 2 as I have been Spirit Baptized, freely receiving the Gift, but have not wholeheartedly opened up to all the gifts, such as speaking in Tongues).

- What must you do to release more of the Gift in and through you?

# CHAPTER TWO

## What the Gifts Are and Are Not



*The gifts are activated by the Spirit of God and are not inborn.*

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” 1 Corinthians 12:1-7*

**B**efore we look at what the Spiritual Gifts are, it is important to state what they are not. As we will see, they are completely an act of God's grace towards us and have nothing to do with our natural ability, upbringing, training or that which is pushed upon us by our surroundings. Without the Spirit of God it is impossible to move in the Spiritual Gifts, which means that before we are Christians these gifts are not released in us and before we are baptized with the Spirit the Manifestation gifts are not usually available to us.

## What the Spiritual Gifts are not.

### (1) Our Shape that was in God's mind before time.

*"For you have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they were all written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."* Psalm 139:13-16

Once, a wise old botany teacher was speaking to a group of young and eager students. He gave them an assignment to go out by the side of some lonely road and find a small, unnoticed flower. He asked them to study the flower for a long time. *"Get a magnifying glass and study the delicate veins in the leaves, and notice the nuances and shades of colour. Turn the leaf slowly and observe its symmetry. And remember: this flower might have gone unnoticed and unappreciated if you had not found and admired it,"* he told his students.

When the class returned after carrying out the assignment, the wise old teacher observed: *"People are just like that unnoticed flower, too. Each one is different, carefully crafted, uniquely endowed. But you have to spend time with a person to realize this. So many people go unnoticed and unappreciated because no one has ever taken time with them and admired their uniqueness."*<sup>19</sup>

Even before we were born, God has been shaping us into a unique shape. From our mother's womb He has knitted us together with a special personality blend, certain natural abilities and heart's desires. Even as we come into this world and grow up, there are life experiences and learned skills that He allows us to acquire that are all part of our shape, our special calling. We could put this in the acronym:

**S**kills (learnt)  
**H**earts desires  
**A**bility (natural)  
**P**ersonality  
**E**xperiences<sup>20</sup>

The story<sup>21</sup> is told that an admirer ran up to Michelangelo and asked how he sculpted the famous statue of David that now sits in Accademia Gallery in the city of Florence. How did he craft this masterpiece of form and beauty? What was he thinking? How did he work with the rock so that he produced this exquisite human figure? Michelangelo replied with this strikingly simple description: *"First",* he said, *"I fixed my attention on the slab of raw marble. I studied it, sketched a few simple pencil drawings on it, and then chipped away all that wasn't David."*

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<sup>19</sup> Cavanaugh, "Notice and Observe Others," The Sower's Seeds, 53.

<sup>20</sup> Adapted from Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. I have changed "S" from Spiritual Gifts to Skills to match what I'm saying here.

<sup>21</sup> Greg Cootsona, Say Yes to No, Doubleday, 2009, Chapter 1

The questioner was stunned. When pressed to go further, the artist offered an explanation: *"In every block of marble I see a statue as though it stood before me, shaped and perfected in attitude and action. I have only to hew away the rough walls that imprison the lovely apparition to reveal it to the other eyes as mine see it."* He discerned, imprisoned inside the crude block, a beauty that had to be released. And so he laboured with all the genius and persistence he could muster. And what emerged from the rock has amazed and fascinated viewers ever since. Some even call it the greatest sculpture that has ever existed.

In the same way, God has had in mind, from the beginning, the perfect shape we are to be crafted into. Just as David was crafted with shepherding and musical skills that developed into vital elements of his God-ordained ministry as King and Shepherd of Israel (2 Samuel 5:2), so God is shaping our lives from the time we are born. David himself was intensely aware of this crafting process in his own life, as is seen in Psalm 139 (quoted above).

There is a famous prayer of St. Irenaeus<sup>22</sup> that says, *"It is not thou that shapest God but God that shapest thee. If thou art the work of God, await the hand of the artist who does all things in due season. Offer Him thy heart, soft and tractable, and keep the form in which the artist has fashioned thee. Let thy clay be moist, lest thou grow hard and lose the imprint of His fingers"*.

Like the Potter's clay we must remain soft and malleable, so that His hands complete this shaping process, and that we can be a vessel of honour for His glory:

*"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."* 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Looking back over my life I can see that God has been shaping my life in a unique way that fits perfectly into the calling He has for me. Only as I humbly submit to Him as the Potter, and realize that I'm not the potter of my life, can I realize the full potential of the shape God has given me.

Coming back to the acronym, **SHAPE**, let me share with you something of the shape God has given me and how this has shaped (excuse the pun) the ministry God has called me to. Remember, these are not spiritual gifts, but the natural shape that God has created us with and is shaping us into. It is this uniquely shaped vessel that He will use to outwork His purposes.

### **Skills (learnt).**

*"As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom."* Daniel 1:17a

We pick up certain skills due to our personal background that are actually the Lord's equipping for our *'sphere of calling'*. Daniel and his friends had exceptional skill in studying, and this helped them to be recognized in Babylon and be witnesses, even to the king. For Daniel, this skill was essential in his calling as *"ruler over the entire province of Babylon"* (Daniel 2:48).

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.bdrc.org/who/prayer.html>

There are several skills that I learnt even before I launched into ministry that, looking back, I can see the Lord was equipping me with for the future. One is guitar playing, that I picked up at Secondary School<sup>23</sup>. I've always loved the guitar and, when there was a chance to learn classical guitar, I leapt at it. However, our teacher, who also taught German, soon eloped with the French teacher to Germany and the guitar classes were over! But I had learnt enough so that later, after I was baptized with the Spirit, I borrowed a guitar and spent hours playing worship songs and adding to my guitar skill.

My guitar playing is a skill I learnt that would later be combined with the gift of spiritual song that the Lord had dropped from heaven. Now I use this skill in small group prayer and other meetings, and it has been a vital part of the ministry the Lord has led me into.

Another skill I learnt from my school and university days was how to be self-disciplined in study and skilled in academic work. This was greatly beneficial to me later as God called me to Theological training at Bible Schools in Singapore to prepare me more fully to use the gift of Teaching.

As an aside, I believe that going to Bible School, Theological College or Seminary must be a calling, not just a *'logical'* step of preparation. I've seen people go through such schools and either lose their faith or divert from their true calling, all because they were not called to be there in the first place. Some gifts, especially the Gift of Teaching, demand a much deeper knowledge of Scripture and the Lord will usually call people with this gift into such further education.

My calling to Bible School came when I was in mission training with World Horizons, a British mission organization based in South Wales. After graduating from Imperial College with a degree in Chemistry with Management, the Lord had called me to join this organization in 1988. Initially my father, who had paid for me to go through Imperial College, was opposed to the idea of me joining this organization, but my call was so strong that I prayed for the Lord to change my father's heart so I would not break His law of dishonouring my parents (Exodus 20:12). As I graduated I told my father that I still felt God wanted me to join World Horizons. His answer both surprised and thrilled me. He said something like, *"Tim, I don't agree with you joining this organization, but I give you my blessing"*.

It was during a lunch break at our missions training centre that a team had come back from South East Asia and were sharing back to us as we ate. I was not taking much notice of what they said until they talked about their visit to a Bible School, where the Principal, Dr. Paul Tan, invited any one of us to study there. As they said the name of the Bible School, *"Tung Ling"*, I heard what seemed to be an audible *"ting ling"*, a bell ringing! As a result of this, I shot straight up and stood there saying I would go. At the same time another student also stood up and said he also heard a bell ringing.

After many confirmations, such as money coming in as a gift to me that covered three air tickets to Singapore (there happened to be three of us going and I paid for us all), I found myself, at the age of twenty three, saying goodbye to my family at the airport with all I owned in the world on my back, and going to the land God was showing me.

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<sup>23</sup> Wollaston School, Wellingborough, England. (<http://www.wollaston-school.info/>)

Once in Singapore I set myself to study in Tung Ling Bible School<sup>24</sup> for just over two years until I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Theology. This marked the beginning of my South East Asian call and since then I have been led to get a Masters in Religious Education and continue to study. The study skills I learnt whilst at Imperial College have been invaluable to me in my theological studies, even to this very day.

### **Hearts desires.**

*"Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart."* Psalm 37:4

Even though the heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9), there are certain good desires the Lord places there, even from our mother's womb. Later these desires form part of our calling. These desires could be drawings towards ministering to children, to certain people groups or to be involved in some kind of activity that could ultimately further God's Kingdom, such as teaching others the ways of God, which was a strong desire I've had, even from before I was born again funnily enough.

When I was in Secondary school I found my heart being drawn to those being bullied. In one instance there was a half Chinese boy called Jonathan whose mother was Malaysian Chinese and his father was a white Englishman. Being the only Asian-looking person in the school he was a target for bullying and name calling. I refused to join in this and became his good friend. We became quite a good badminton double and shared a passion for bird watching (Ornithology). Later, after God called me to Singapore, he came to visit my wife and me with his wife, who he had just married.

Another instance was a Jewish boy (every one called 'Earley', after his surname Earle). He was the only Jew in my school and he constantly had anti-Semitic comments thrown at him plus other horrible names. Again, I became his friend and helped him through the difficult years at school.

It's interesting that two distinguishing aspects of my calling are that I'm called to minister in South East Asia particularly and have a strong drawing to Israel and the Jewish people. Indeed our church prays regularly for Israel and the Jews and in 2014 we sent our first full-time staff to Israel.

One Biblical example is Nehemiah whose heart was drawn to rebuild Jerusalem after hearing news that it was still broken down.

*"It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." So it was, when I heard these words that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."* Nehemiah 1:1-4

Other Jews in captivity would have heard this news and been unaffected, or, at least, not affected as much as Nehemiah was. He had a God-given heart for the

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.tungling.org.sg/>

restoration of Jerusalem that led Him to go into deep prayer and intercession with fasting for the walls of Jerusalem to be rebuilt. During this prayer, Nehemiah realized he was the one God was calling to go and lead this restoration. God fulfilled his heart's desire.

One couple I know from England were with World Horizons and were seeking the direction of the Lord. As they sat down to watch the film *"The Killing Fields"*, they both cried and felt the Lord's drawing to go and minister in Cambodia. This was a heart's desire both had, and it was unlocked as they saw this film. To this day they are faithfully serving God there and have established an orphanage and a vocational training centre, all because they followed their God-given heart's desire.

### **Ability (natural).**

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."* Colossians 3:23-24

There are natural abilities that we have that are not necessarily developed skills. Yes, they may be developed, but there is a natural spark that is there from birth. These natural talents may be musical, artistic, athletic, mathematical or many more such abilities.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed, *"Every person must have a concern for self, and feel a responsibility to discover one's mission in life. God has given each normal person a capacity to achieve some end. True, some are endowed with more talent than others, but God has left none of us without talent. Potential powers of creativity are within us, and we have a duty to work assiduously to discover these powers."*<sup>25</sup>

Guitar playing was a skill I learnt, with much time and effort, and it did not really come naturally to me. However, drawing, especially cartoons, was something that came naturally to me without much effort.

When I was about nine or ten years old, I can remember that I took a few years to develop a cartoon city on a huge paper mural that I could roll up and store when not working on it. It contained hundreds of houses, shops and streets with unique cartoon inhabitants all doing different things and it amazed my parents, siblings and friends who saw it. Unfortunately I do not know where this is now.

This natural ability developed as I went to secondary school. I started illustrating my school notes with cartoons. Unfortunately many teachers saw them as distracting doodles and told me to stop drawing them or I would be disciplined! In contrast, my History and Economics teacher, Mr. Blake, loved them and urged me to draw more in my homework and assignments, as they illustrated main points of his teaching and brought home the message. Often he would hold up my drawings to the class to illustrate his points.

During my time at Tung Ling Bible School I was assigned to teach at various churches and would illustrate my teaching with cartoons. I was even commissioned by one church to draw a series on Jonah for their Sunday school class. On

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<sup>25</sup> Brian Cavanaugh, TOR, source unknown, personal journal entry ([http://www.appleseeds.org/Your\\_Giftedness.htm#7](http://www.appleseeds.org/Your_Giftedness.htm#7))

graduating and working with World Horizons in Singapore, I was involved in missions training and drew many cartoons to illustrate the teachings, some of which are used in this book at the start of every chapter.

These days I don't have much time to draw cartoons but I do use my artistic talents to create PowerPoint presentations and illustrate my messages.

Sometimes we mistake natural giftedness for spiritual gifts. We will see this is not Biblical thinking. Just because someone is naturally gifted at oration (public speaking) that does not mean they have the Spiritual Gift of Teacher or Pastor or even Evangelist. It could be an indication that one such gifting is present but there again one may be naturally a very poor speaker (as Moses felt he was) but still be called into a ministry that demands public speaking.

It is important to note that a person may be talented in one area (e.g. playing a musical instrument) but it may not be a spiritual gift. Such ability becomes a spiritual gift when it meets Biblical criteria through a current God-given experience. Prior to this experience the ability either lies dormant because of unawareness, or finds expression through wrong motives and self-sufficiency.

Many years ago there was one brother who invited me regularly to his small group Bible Study. He was a talented guitarist and had been involved in a secular band. He would lead the worship before handing the time over to me to share the Word of God. However, he was performing on the guitar but not leading us into real worship of the Father in spirit and truth. People just admired his guitar playing but were not drawn into the presence of God. He was a talented guitarist but did not have the spiritual gifts needed of a worship leader. Later, jealousy and carnality split this group up – that's what happens when you minister in the flesh and not the Spirit.

Below is a chart<sup>26</sup> showing the difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts:

| <b>NATURAL TALENTS</b>  | <b>SPIRITUAL GIFTS</b>  |
|---|---|
| Talents are natural.  | Gifts are supernatural.   |
| Talents are inherited from one's parents, ultimately from Adam. | Gifts are received from God.  |
| Talents are received at birth; they are natural endowments.     | Gifts are received at the time of the new birth (for Motivational gifts) and baptism with the spirit (for Manifestation gifts). |

<sup>26</sup> Taken from <http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org/lochurch/talents.htm>

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|--|--|
| <p>Talents are possessed both by saved people and by unsaved people. There are many unsaved people who are very talented (musical ability, artistic ability, athletic ability, mathematical ability, etc.).</p>  | <p>Gifts are possessed only by saved people, those who are members of the church which is His Body. An unsaved person might mimic a spiritual gift, but it is counterfeit and limited to self-activity (e.g. - a false prophet, a false teacher, etc.).</p>  |
| <p>A man may be very talented as a Teacher in the public school system or at a prestigious university. He may be recognized as an outstanding teacher by all of his co-workers. He may be very talented when it comes to communication skills and oratory. He may even win the "Teacher of the Year" Award.</p>  | <p>This same man, upon believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, may not receive the gift of teaching. Spiritual gifts are determined by God not by any natural talents which a man may possess. If this same man should receive the gift of teaching it is above and beyond and distinct from any natural teaching talent which he had. It is something that he did not have prior to new birth (Note that the spiritual gift of Teaching is teaching the Word of God and not a secular subject).</p> |
| <p>For full effectiveness talents need to be developed. A person who is naturally skilled musically must still learn to play an instrument, often demanding years of practice. Most professional athletes not only have natural talent but they have developed this talent through years of practice and hard work.</p>  | <p>Gifts need to be exercised and this can only happen as the believer stays spiritually healthy and grows "in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). The proper exercise of spiritual gifts requires spiritual growth and maturity (Ephesians 4:13-16).</p>  |
| <p>Talents possessed by believers ought to be surrendered and consecrated to the Lord and used for His honour and glory. Example: A skilled guitarist playing for and evangelistic event "as unto the Lord." – some may have to be given up and never used again, others may be sanctified and used for His glory.</p>   | <p>Gifts are given by God for the outworking of God's life as expressed by the Body of Christ. When the Body is healthy the life of God is manifested and God is glorified (compare 1 Corinthians 14:24-25).</p>   |
| <p><i>"There is a difference between natural talents and supernatural gifts. Talents come through the genes of natural inheritance; gifts directly by the Lord. Talent comes from the first Adam and, however attractive, is still a part of man's fallen nature. The gifts come by the Holy Spirit, as it pleases Him"</i><sup>27</sup> Carlton Helgerson</p> |  |

<sup>27</sup> Carlton Helgerson, The Local Church, pages 34-35

## Personality.

*“As in water face reflects face,  
So a man’s heart reveals the man.”*

Proverbs 27:19

K.B. Napier writes: *“Personality is not a single factor. Personality includes our physical, mental and spiritual characteristics....how we walk, talk and think; how we dress, eat and write. Everything we ever do or say or think is combined in the thoughts of others; to others, this mixture of things constitutes our ‘personality’. So, how we are in life and how we respond, is our ‘personality’. Obviously, if this is what it is, it also includes sin. Personality defects or flaws (i.e. a bad temper), are the result of temptations which have not been faced and thwarted, but which have been succumbed to and completed. That is, instead of applying prayer and a true Christian response when we are tempted (i.e. to be hateful), we simply do whatever our ‘old man’ dictates and we sin. When we constantly respond in this way to the same kinds of temptation, we build up a formidable mass of sin which is noticed by others and which they call our ‘personality’. Sin is sin! Personality CAN be changed and MUST be changed when error is prevalent, otherwise our witness suffers. There is such a thing as a Christian personality...it is found in the Christian who acts out his belief in the Lord and obeys His commands. He will still sin, but when he does so, he will repent and change, willingly. When this is an ongoing process, then what was previously a sin-centred and obviously flawed personality, will become more Christ-like.”<sup>28</sup>*

Agreeing with the above quote, I would also add that there are definite defining factors of personality that differ from one person to another and can be grouped into obvious, discernible personality types. These types are neutral and one is not better than the other. They are God-given personality types that He has given us for a reason and they are perfectly suited to the task He is calling us to.

On the way back from my mission trip to Morocco in 1986 we stopped overnight in a cheap hotel that had small rooms, enough to fit two people each. Our leader paired me and another guy called David Davis to stay in one room together. We had never spoken to each other during the whole trip and I was quite jealous of him, as he was a pure extrovert, very gifted in guitar playing and singing, a natural leader and one who got on well with everyone, especially the ladies. The only thing I had in common with him from this list was being a good singer and I was picking up guitar quite competently. However, in every other respect I was the polar opposite. Painfully shy, introvert, a born follower and extremely awkward in my attempts at friendship, I couldn’t have been more different to David.

That night, however, he started to speak to me and I learnt a very important lesson. At first there was an awkward silence as I was thinking what to say. His extrovert personality eased out some conversation from me and then he asked me an unexpected question. He asked, *“What do you think of me?”* I answered that I was actually quite jealous of him, wishing I could be more extrovert, more decisive in leadership and more natural in relating to others. He looked genuinely taken aback and exclaimed that, on the contrary, he was very jealous of me, that I

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<sup>28</sup> Christian Personality – Is There Such a Thing?, K. B. Napier  
([http://www.christiandoctrine.net/doctrine/outlines/outline\\_00018\\_christian\\_personality\\_web.htm](http://www.christiandoctrine.net/doctrine/outlines/outline_00018_christian_personality_web.htm))

seemed so calm and self-contented, not needing to perform to others to be accepted.

We concluded our talk by saying that God had made us with very different personalities and they were both very good, with some flaws that came due to sin. We need not be jealous of each other but embrace who God has made us to be and live for His glory.

Looking back at this talk I can say that it had quite a profound effect on me. I started to be comfortable with who God has made me and to enjoy being an introvert and a deep thinker who loves to sometimes be alone to recharge. Indeed, this personality is perfect for what I see God calling me to, a Teacher of God's Word (in both writing and speaking) and one who waits on the Lord in worship and prayer, rising up in prophetic song.

God has blessed me with a wife, Shendy, who is the exact opposite of me, a pure extrovert, and we complement each other greatly, especially in the ministry. From our union we have three kids, two who are extroverts (Melody, our oldest, and Matthew, our youngest) and one who is an introvert (Gideon, the middle one). It amazes me how we can have kids that may look similar to us but who have personalities that are worlds apart. There's a reason for this. Ultimately (beyond genetics), personality is God-given and given for the purpose of making us effective in our callings.

### **Experiences.**

*"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NKJV)*

God allows us to go through certain experiences, good and bad, as we grow up that can be used as an integral part of His call on our lives. He will use all these things to work for good in our life's purpose.

The great composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) lived much of his life in fear of deafness. He was concerned because he felt the sense of hearing was essential to creating music of lasting value. When Beethoven discovered that the thing he feared most was coming rapidly upon him, he was almost frantic with anxiety. He consulted doctors and tried every possible remedy. But the deafness increased until all hearing was gone. Beethoven finally found the strength he needed to go on despite his great loss. To everyone's amazement, he wrote some of his grandest music after he became totally deaf. With all distractions shut out, melodies flooded in on him as fast as his pen could write them down. His deafness became a great asset.<sup>29</sup>

Beethoven became the master musician he was meant to be through the terrible experience of losing his hearing. He did not let this experience drown him but instead saw the good in it and allow it to take him to the next level.

Another story shows us the reality that bad experiences of the past can be used as a great blessing in the present and future. Gary Smalley and John Trent relate this story of David<sup>30</sup>:

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<sup>29</sup> Daily Walk, August 9, 1993

<sup>30</sup> The Gift of Honor, Gary Smalley & John Trent, Ph.D., pp. 56-58

During the Vietnam War, David went through rigorous training to become part of the ultra-elite Special Forces team the Navy used on dangerous search-and-destroy missions. During a nighttime raid on an enemy stronghold, David experienced the greatest trial of his life. When he and his men were pinned down by enemy machine-gun fire, he pulled a phosphorus grenade from his belt and stood up to throw it. But as he pulled back his arm, a bullet hit the grenade, and it exploded next to his ear. Lying on his side on the bank of a muddy river, he watched part of his face float by. His entire face and shoulder alternately smoldered and caught on fire as the phosphorus that had embedded itself in his body came into contact with the air.

David knew that he was going to die, yet miraculously he didn't. He was pulled from the water by his fellow soldiers, flown directly to Saigon, and then taken to a waiting plane bound for Hawaii. But David's problems were just beginning.

When he first went into surgery—the first of what would become dozens of operations—the surgical team had a major problem during the operation. As they cut away tissue that had been burned or torn by the grenade, the phosphorus would hit the oxygen in the operating room and begin to ignite again! Several times the doctors and nurses ran out of the room, leaving him alone because they were afraid the oxygen used in surgery would explode!

Incredibly, David survived the operation and was taken to a ward that held the most severe burn and injury cases from the war. Lying on his bed, his head the size of a basketball, David knew he presented a grotesque picture. Although he had once been a handsome man, he knew he had nothing to offer his wife or anyone else because of his appearance. This made him feel more alone and more worthless than he had ever felt in his life. However, his wife later came and fully accepted him, despite his horrific injuries. She helped nurse him back to life.

In the weeks and months that followed David's wounds slowly but steadily healed. It took dozens of operations and months of agonizing recovery, but today, miraculously, David can see and hear. On national television, we heard David make an incredible statement: *"I am twice the person I was before I went to Vietnam. For one thing, God has used my suffering to help me feel other people's pain and to have an incredible burden to reach people for Him. The Lord has let me have a worldwide, positive effect on people's lives because of what I went through. I wouldn't trade anything I've gone through for the benefits my trials have had in my life, on my family's life and on countless teenagers and adults I've had the opportunity to influence over the years"*.

David experienced a trial that no parents would wish on their children. Yet in spite of all the tragedy that surrounded him, God turned his troubled times into fruitful ones.

In my own life I have not experienced such dramatic events as Beethoven and David, but there are experiences that have shaped my life and God is now using in the ministry He has led me into. I've already related the story of how I helped the two boys at school who were being bullied (one a half Chinese whose mum is from Malaysia and one a Jew) and how this has shaped my love for South East Asians and the Jews.

What I didn't say is that I experienced much bullying myself. There was one time a gang of about seven boys, led by the chief bully, Dinsey, chased me down the school corridor to the library, wanting to beat me up. As I got to the library door I turned around to find Dinsey was almost on top of me. I held out my fist and he ran straight into it! This gave me time to open the door and be saved as the discipline master, Mr. Cain, appeared from a side door, promptly taking the bullies up to see the Principal.

Through these experiences I have a built in empathy for people and people groups who are bullied or down trodden. Indeed, a lot of the ministries I have been involved with in countries around Singapore have been with groups others have bullied or looked down upon.

## **(2) Christian responsibility.**

It is also important to realize that the Motivational gifts are not the same as what all Christians are required to do. Following is a list of some of the things that are names of various spiritual gifts but also responsibilities all Christians are called to take seriously:

### **Giving**

*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

As we will see, there is a Motivational Gift of Giving, but this does not mean we are not to give unless we have this gift. It is every Christian's responsibility to give tithes and offerings, but the person with a gift of Giving will give to a greater degree and frequency.

Paul does not say to the Corinthians, *"Let those with the gift of giving give as he purposes in his heart"*, but he says *"let each one give"*.

God is a giving God (just think of John 3:16) and, if we are to be like Him, we need to be givers too. Regular tithing is the basic discipline of giving and all Christians need to at least be giving the tithe. The tithe is 10% of your income (usually net income, but if you want gross blessing you know what to do!). The tithe should be given regularly (each time you get your salary) and given *"into the storehouse"* (Malachi 3:10), meaning into your local place of worship.

Offerings are any gifts that are on top of the tithe and can be given into church or Christian organization projects, world missions or directly to missionaries, church workers of those in need as the Lord leads.

I do not have the Gift of Giving, but have faithfully given my tithes since becoming a Christian and can honestly say that I've never been in serious need, though I have been through financially tough times due to my calling.

Once I joined World Horizons I was *"living by faith"*, meaning I was trusting God for financial provision to do His work. I have made it a point not to ask for money but to *"pray it in"*, living by Matthew 6:33 (*'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you'*) and James Hudson Taylor's quote, *"God's work, done God's way, will never lacks God's supply"*<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>31</sup> J. Hudson Taylor: God's Mighty Man of Prayer by Eugene Myers Harrison (<http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/biotaylor3.html>)

When I first joined World Horizons missions organization I was amazed at God's faithfulness in providing. I never asked for finances but saw people coming to regularly support me financially because God told them to.

My first lesson in giving above and beyond tithing was on my mission trip to Morocco in 1986 where we started off travelling through France and stopped for a few days in an old school, sleeping in sleeping bags on the classroom floor. One day, one of the missionaries, Bill Rigden, came through to stay a night with us on the way back to HQ. I felt the Lord challenge me to give all the money I had to him and I simply obeyed Him. In the natural this was crazy as it meant I had no money for the rest of the trip, which was about two more weeks. However, when I woke up the next day I found an envelope under my pillow containing three times the amount I had given. God is good!

Later, in 1988, when the Lord called me to go to Singapore, He provided enough money for three air tickets. One was mine and the other two were for Bill Rigden and his wife Sarah. Years later, in 1998 (Israel's Jubilee year), Bill and Sarah would pay off a substantial sum my wife and I owed in rent that we were unable to pay. Truly, as we give, much more will be given to us.

There are many other stories I could tell of sacrificial giving and God's miraculous provision but the point here is that, even if we do not have the Gift of Giving, all born again believers in Christ are called to give and give regularly and cheerfully.

## **Evangelism**

*"But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."* 2 Timothy 4:5

We are all to evangelize, but those with this gift will do it to a greater degree and with more concerted effort. Timothy was not called to be an evangelist but Paul encouraged him to do the work of an evangelist. Indeed, evangelism should be the natural lifestyle of every believer in that they live out the life of Christ and, when given the opportunity, use words to share the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Peter exhorts the believers of the Dispersion (and, by extension, all believers) to *"always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"* (1 Peter 3:15).

We must not say, *"I'll leave evangelism to the church workers"*, as it is every Christian's responsibility.

## **Intercession**

*"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men."* 1 Timothy 2:1

There are those who are called to a special ministry of Intercession as we will see in Chapter 4, but all Christians should intercede for others. Intercession is basically standing in the gap for others, praying for their salvation or for some particular need they have, such as healing, provision or wisdom.

In 1988 when I joined World Horizons mission organization I was fully aware that the organization was termed a prophetic, intercessory group and I had been

on a few mission trips with them prior to joining, witnessing how much emphasis was put on prayer, especially intercessory prayer.

The founder of Word Horizons, Rowland Evans, is a man called to intercession, and he expected all of us to go deep in intercession, identifying with those we prayed for even to the extent of living on the income and resources of the people group we were targeting (these were often the poorest of the poor). Rowland himself made it a point of living on a bare minimum and his times of intercessory prayer lasted hours, sometimes days.

Some, having this gift themselves, found this quite natural, even exhilarating, but I struggled and found our group times of intercession to be long (often whole days), tedious and boring, as I do not have this gift. However, I did learn the importance of intercession and incorporate the lessons I learnt from my time with World Horizons into my daily life to this day.

## Teaching

*“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: <sup>2</sup> that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; <sup>3</sup> the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.” Titus 2:1-2*

*“And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.” 2 Timothy 2:24-26*

*“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:28*

In the passages above we see that Paul was encouraging the mature church members and leaders to teach others the things of God. This is really the heart of discipleship, that all of us are called to be involved in, at both the receiving and giving end. As we mature in the faith God expects all of us to teach others the principles of God to some extent but not all of us will be called with the Gift of Teaching.

This is the gift that God has endowed me with since new birth which I am growing in daily. Constantly I have ideas flying around my head as to teaching material for Bible books and topics. I can spend hours and hours studying and preparing teaching materials for Bible seminars, sermons, classes and so forth and not want to stop as it is so edifying and exciting to me. However, my wife would go crazy if she did this as she does not have this gift, though she can and does teach His word in small groups and one on one to great effect.

## Serving

*“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13*

There is a special Gift of Serving where the person will be caught up in hidden acts of service but all believers are called to serve one another in love, even as Christ took the *“form of a bondservant”* (Philippians 2:7). Indeed, servanthood is to

be one of the distinguishing marks of all Christian leaders, whether they have the Gift of Serving or not.

### **Exhortation**

*“But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”* Hebrews 3:13

*“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

There is a special Gift of Exhortation such as Barnabas had (as we will see in Chapter 4), however, every Christian is to daily encourage and exhort others, being one who blesses, builds up and speaks life to others rather than cursing, tearing down and speaking death.

### **Mercy**

*“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.’”* Zechariah 7:9

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”* Matthew 5:7

*“Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?”* Matthew 18:33

All Christians are to show mercy even as they have been shown mercy. However, with the Gift of Mercy, that person is motivated as a lifestyle to even seek out people they can show mercy to and make it a significant part of their ministry.

### **...and many, many more**

Indeed, there are times when it is our Christian responsibility to move in the basic motivations of many of the other gifts as well, even though we may not have that gift. There are specially gifted ministries of miracles and healings but all Spirit baptized believer *can “lay hands on the sick, and they will recover”* (Mark 16:18). These gifts simply take those responsibilities further into a calling upon our lives, where this motivation becomes something much more in us and through us.

### **(3) Fruit of the Spirit**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”* Galatians 5:22-23

The Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit are different. The Fruit of the Spirit is to do with character and the Spiritual Gifts are to do with ministry. Many Christians think that the more Fruit you have the more Gifts you will have or vice versa. This is simply not the case. Indeed, they can even be mutually exclusive, which means that they are not necessarily dependent on each other. Someone may move seemingly powerfully in the Gifts but have very little Fruit, as we see in the following passage:

*“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”* Matthew 7:22-23

Just think of the many “*anointed*” ministers who moved seemingly mightily in the gifts of healing, miracles or words of knowledge, but who were later revealed to be living in moral failure at the same time. Paul writes that the “*gifts and calling of God are without repentance*” (Romans 11:29), meaning that God’s gifts can still be used even when we are living in unrepented sin. Those receiving such gifts will still be blessed, but those moving in the gifts and still in sin will be condemned. One sad example of this is the ministry of John Alexander Dowie (1848-1907).

Charles A. Jennings records that “*The divine healing miracles that the Lord performed under the ministry of Dr. Dowie ranged from instantaneous cures of every disease and malady from simple broken bones to cancer and gunshot wounds to insanity. One of the most prominent and publicized miracles was the healing of Miss Amanda Hicks of Clinton, Kentucky. She was instantly healed of terminal cancer in the final stage. Miss Hicks was the president of a denominational church college and the cousin of President Abraham Lincoln. Her church authorities summarily dismissed her from her position in their denial and protest against modern day divine healing miracles*”.<sup>32</sup>

Kevin McDermott writes that “*In 1901 Dowie proclaimed himself "Elijah the Restorer" and began to wear High-Priestly robes. This caused many disciples to fall away; the subsequent decrease in income combined with the expenses of building Zion marked the beginning of Dowie's slide into bankruptcy. It was at this time that rumors of his polygamous teaching and activities, use of alcohol, and extravagant lifestyle began to gain currency, not only in the world, but also within the Church.*”<sup>33</sup>

Dowie continued to perform healings and miracles whilst living in deception, Biblical error and moral failure, showing it is possible to move in the powerful gifts of God whilst His fruit lies rotten.

Others may show forth much fruit in terms of godly character but not move in the gifts at all. Indeed, in my own experience I often find that people who attend non charismatic churches are often more mature in their character than those in charismatic ones.

But, in reality, both are needed. We are told in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 that gifts without love (the main characteristic of all the fruit) are like an unclear sound causing the opposite effect of what God desires. The more Fruit of the Spirit we bear, the more we should know of the Lord to move out and use the gifts He graciously bestows upon us.

The Fruit of the Spirit is related to our *authority* and the Gifts of the Spirit relate to our *power*. If you think of a Sheriff, they may have a badge saying “*Sheriff*”, but without the gun they lack power (2 Timothy 3:5). On the other hand, a man with a gun but without the sheriff badge has the power but lacks the authority (such as was the case in Matthew 7:22-23).

Look at the chart below to see the differences between the Fruit and the Gifts...

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<sup>32</sup> Life & Ministry of John Alexander Dowie compiled by Charles A. Jennings

<sup>33</sup> A Biography of John Alexander Dowie (1847-1907) by Kevin McDermott

|  <p><b>Fruit of the Spirit</b><br/>(Galatians 5:22-23)</p> <p><b>SINGULAR (Love)</b></p>   |  <p><b>Gifts of the Spirit</b><br/>(Ephesians 4:11;<br/>Romans 12:6-8; 1<br/>Corinthians 12:8-10)</p> <p><b>PLURAL (Many)</b></p>   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Start growing at New Birth (John 20:22-23)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Spirit living in us.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Developed by faith.</i></li> <li>4. <i>We are owners of.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Given to all believers.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Spiritual character</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Who we are in Him.</i></li> <li>- <i>Grows internally</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>7. <i>Is permanent.</i></li> <li>8. <b>AUTHORITY</b> (<i>exousia</i>).</li> <li>9. <i>Cannot be abused.</i></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Fully released at the Baptism with the Holy Spirit(Acts 2:4)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Us living in the Spirit.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Received by and operated in faith.</i></li> <li>4. <i>We are stewards of.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Given to specific believers.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Spiritual service</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Who He is in us (Ephesians 3:7)</i></li> <li>- <i>Operates externally</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>7. <i>Will cease (1 Corinthians 13:8-10)</i></li> <li>8. <b>POWER</b> (<i>dunamis</i>).</li> <li>9. <i>Can be abused.</i></li> </ol> |

#### **(4) Rewards**

*“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” Matthew 16:27*

Another thing the Spiritual Gifts are not are rewards. Rewards are earned but gifts are not. There’s a clear theme through the New Testament of saints being given rewards when Christ returns due to their faithfulness in carrying out His will and His works in their lives. The spiritual gifts certainly enable us to do this but they are not given as a reward for good works done but as a gift out of a heart of unconditional love.

All the gifts that I am talking about in this book are gifts of grace, totally undeserved and given because our God loves us. I will pick up on this theme during the course of this book.

#### **The Balancing Act**

All the above things that the Spiritual Gifts are not need to be balanced with what they are. A person may be living out the person God has made them to be, displaying much Fruit of the Spirit, moving in Christian responsibilities, yet lacking the power of God by His Spirit through the Gifts to really impact lives and events for the Kingdom of God. Vice versa, a person may move powerfully in the Spiritual Gifts but be far from the person God has made them to be, lacking in the Fruit of the Spirit and failing in their Christian responsibilities. The two sides need to be balanced out in our lives so that we don’t just have authority and no power or power and no authority.

The following diagram illustrates this point:



## What the Gifts Are.

### The Three Types of Spiritual Gifts

We have seen what the Spiritual Gifts are not, now we will look at what they are. As we have already seen, Spiritual Gifts come with the Gift, the Holy Spirit. Before we were Born Again it was impossible for us to have any of the Spiritual Gifts as we did not have the Holy Spirit living in us. Only at our salvation did these gifts start to be given to us. According to 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 there are three distinct types of Spiritual Gifts:

*“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”*

Verse 4 says, *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”* The word translated *“diversities”* here is the Greek word *‘diairesis’* which means *‘a distinction or variety’*<sup>34</sup>. This refers to the three kinds, or varieties, of Spiritual Gifts that are listed after this. The Greek word for *‘gifts’* in this verse is *‘charisma’*, meaning *‘a gift of grace’* and denoting *“His endowments upon believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the churches”*<sup>35</sup>. Here it is used as an all-inclusive word describing all the types of gifts that come to us through the Holy Spirit and is the word from which we derive the modern term *‘charismatic’*, coming from the root *‘charis’*, meaning *‘grace’*. This means that all these gifts are totally undeserved, and they are not given to us because of any good we have done.

This word (*‘charisma’*) is used primarily as a blanket term for all the gifts that we are to eagerly desire and utilize until the Coming of the Lord:

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<sup>34</sup> Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, Strongs number 1243.

<sup>35</sup> Vines Expository dictionary of the New Testament, G5486

*“So that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1:7.*

*“But earnestly desire the best gifts.” 1 Corinthians 12:31a*

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 4:10*

‘Charisma’ is used also of the Ministerial gift (office gift of pastor and teacher) that Timothy received through the laying on of hands:

*“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.” 1 Timothy 4:14*

*“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” 2 Timothy 1:6*

It is also used to describe the Manifestation “gifts of healings” (1 Corinthians 12:9).

However, in Romans 12:6 ‘charisma’ is used specifically of the list of Motivational gifts, probably because these are the majority of the gifts we see so that this covering term is more descriptive rather than another one.

Now we will look at the three types of gifts that are listed above. In the passage quoted (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) the terms ‘ministries’, ‘activities’ and ‘manifestation of the Spirit’ are used to describe the different types of gifts. I will use the terms ‘Ministerial’, ‘Motivational’ and ‘Manifestation’ to describe these three categories of spiritual gifts:

### **Ministerial gifts (these are the equipping gifts).**

*“There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord” (v5)*

The Greek word used for ‘ministries’ here is ‘diakonia’ where we get the word ‘Deacon’, an office in the church. This word is often used in connection with the seven men chosen to serve the church community and free up the Apostles to spend more time in prayer and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:3-6). However, the word is also often used specifically to refer to the apostolic ministry (Acts 1:17, 25; 6:4; 12:25; 21:19 and Romans 11:13). It seems, therefore, that the word is being used here to refer to particular offices in church leadership.

These are the Church ministry offices that are referred to in Ephesians 4:

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12-13*

As this passage says, there are five basic offices in church life that are given as gifts to the Church to equip the believers to do the work of the ministry (‘diakonia’). So these five roles are ministry equipping roles, each one specializing in equipping the saints for particular areas of activity.

These are gifts that the ascended Lord Jesus has given to the Church. Paul quotes Psalm 68:18 in verse 8 where he says:

*“When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men.”*

Here, the Greek word for 'gifts' is 'doma', which "lends greater stress to the concrete character of the "gift", than to its beneficent nature"<sup>36</sup>. Hence, in this context, the gifts here are actually people.

These people gifts will start off as people who have the motivational gifts of apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding and teaching and are given to those who will move in a ministry office in a Church, Para-Church or Missions organization. They will not necessarily be 'fulltime' in these organizations but will have leadership roles in them. I believe they corporately can be referred to as 'Elders' (see the next chapter for my full description of these five gifts).

### **Motivational gifts (these are the engaging gifts)**

*"And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all" (v6)*

The second category concerns the activities the Holy Spirit enables us to do. The Greek word used for 'activities' (or in some translations, 'operations') is 'energeia', where we get the word 'energy' from. It is used in Scripture to describe the power of God, especially in the resurrection of Christ (Ephesians 1:19; Colossians 2:12), the energizing of God's people (Ephesians 3:7; Colossians 2:12) to do His work. Therefore, this category refers to the gifts commonly known as the Motivational or Engaging Gifts, as they are given by God as particular motivations in us to do something in His strength and energy. They are the gifts that engage in His work. In Romans 12 we find a representative list of these gifts is given:

*"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." Romans 12:6-8*

The word 'charisma' is used again for 'gifts' here as has been explained above. These are basic God-given motivations that all Christians will have to serve the body of Christ and reach out to the lost world. Again we see that these gifts are given according to the grace (underserved favour) of God towards us, not due to how spiritual we are, how well educated or rich we are, how naturally talented we are, but simply according to his unconditional love.

These gifts are given from new birth by Father God and no one has all of them, but each one of us will be given a gift-mix of two or three of these, sometimes more.

The above list is not exhaustive and there are many other motivational gifts as seen in other parts of Scripture. We will be looking at the most common of these gifts in Chapter 4. Each of us will have one to three dominant motivational gifts.

### **Manifestation gifts (these are the empowering gifts).**

*"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another*

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<sup>36</sup> Vines Expository dictionary of the New Testament, G1390

*gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” 1 Corinthians 12:7-10*

The nine gifts referred to in verses 8-10 are the power tools of the Motivational Gifts. The Greek word '*manifestation*' used here is '*phanerosis*', meaning a powerful '*revelation*' or '*shining forth*'. These are different to the other gifts (hence the use of '*but*') as all of them are available to all believers ('*given to each one*'). Each believer will only be given a few of the Motivational Gifts from new birth, but all Manifestation gifts are available to each Spirit-filled believer, as He wills.

They are released with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and are tools to help each motivational gift operate more effectively, with power and anointing. Every Spirit-filled believer can dip into this toolbox and use any of these gifts as the Spirit wills. Certain Manifestation gifts will predominate according to the Motivational gift you are moving in at the time. We will explore this in more detail in Chapter 5.

This third category of gifts completes the gracious offerings of the Trinity to us – Jesus gives the Equipping gifts, the Father gives the Engaging Gifts and the Spirit Himself embodies the Empowering gifts.

## **The Gifts are the tools of our calling.**

For Adam to be able to carry out his God-given calling in the Garden of Eden he needed certain gifts and abilities. To tend and keep the garden what are the specific gifts he would need? Gardening would be a main one, with animal husbandry, botany, taxonomy not to mention numerous others. In the same way we will see that there will be main gifts needed in our God-given calling that the Lord has equipped us with. Identifying our God-given gifts will show us the kind of callings we are to be involved in and knowing our calling will confirm the need for certain gifts.

For example, someone has received a call of God to the mission field from a developed to an underdeveloped country. Their call is to primarily be involved in planting churches in unreached areas so they would at least need the gift of apostleship with the power gifts of faith, healings and miracles.

Someone who feels called to train students for the ministry in Bible School would need at least the gift of teaching with the revelation gifts of word of knowledge and word of wisdom.

One who feels called to set up and lead a prayer house for the nations would at least need the prophetic gift of intercession with the manifestation gifts of prophecy and faith.

A person who feels called into hospital ministry (praying for / ministering to the patients) would need the motivational gift of healings and mercy plus the power gifts of faith and healings.

The examples are as many as there are believers, but I think you get the idea.

## **Paul's calling and the gifts he needed.**

As I close this chapter I want to look at the example of the Apostle Paul. Read the following verses to see God's call on his life and the various gifts given to him to fulfil that call:

*“So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’” Acts 26:15-18*

*“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:1-6*

Taking these two passages together we see that Paul’s calling was to plant churches among the Gentiles. He was sent forth into the missionary field meaning that His main Ministerial gift (office of leadership) was that of an Apostle. The main motivational spiritual gifts needed for this call were Apostleship and teaching along with the power gifts of faith, miracles, healings and words of wisdom and knowledge. In Paul’s ministry that’s exactly what we see.

## **My Calling and the gifts I need.**

As I have shared with you, the Lord has revealed to me my main Spiritual Gifts of Teaching and Prophecy. Whilst I was at Tung Ling Bible School the Lord further revealed through many prophecies that He is calling me to be a *‘polisher of arrows’* (from Isaiah 49:2), one who trains up, prophecies over and sends out many arrows from His Vineyard (the Church), into dark areas of this world. In a vision I saw many bright arrows being launched out especially from Singapore going into the nations that are the darkest.

Amazingly, when I first started ministering in the church I now work in (Church of Singapore (Bukit Timah)), I realized they had this same vision. The first youth camp I was asked to share at in this church had the theme *“Polished Shafts”* and each person wore a T-Shirt saying *“I am a Polished Shaft”!*

However, as I will show you in my next book, *The Picture Process*, realizing and entering our call and the full realization and walking in our call are two different things. I started off excitedly ministering and believing in an immediate fulfilment of this vision, but to this day, over a decade later, I have only seen a small portion of this vision come to pass. There are many reasons why this is, but the major one is that God is working in me first before the outworking of His call through me can come to pass. What we need to do is trust in Him and faithfully walk in His ways as He leads us step by step. More of this in my next book.

# What is your calling and what are the gifts you need?



In the next three chapters we will look at each category of spiritual gifts in detail. The Ministerial gifts will reveal the particular Artist's uniform that we wear. The Motivational gifts will reveal the types of paint brushes we are to use to paint God's picture. The Manifestation gifts reveal the nine different colours in the artist's palette that we can use in our calling.

As you go through these categories I will give you tools to help identify what your main gifts are. There are questions you need to ask yourself and there is an analysis you will need to fill in.

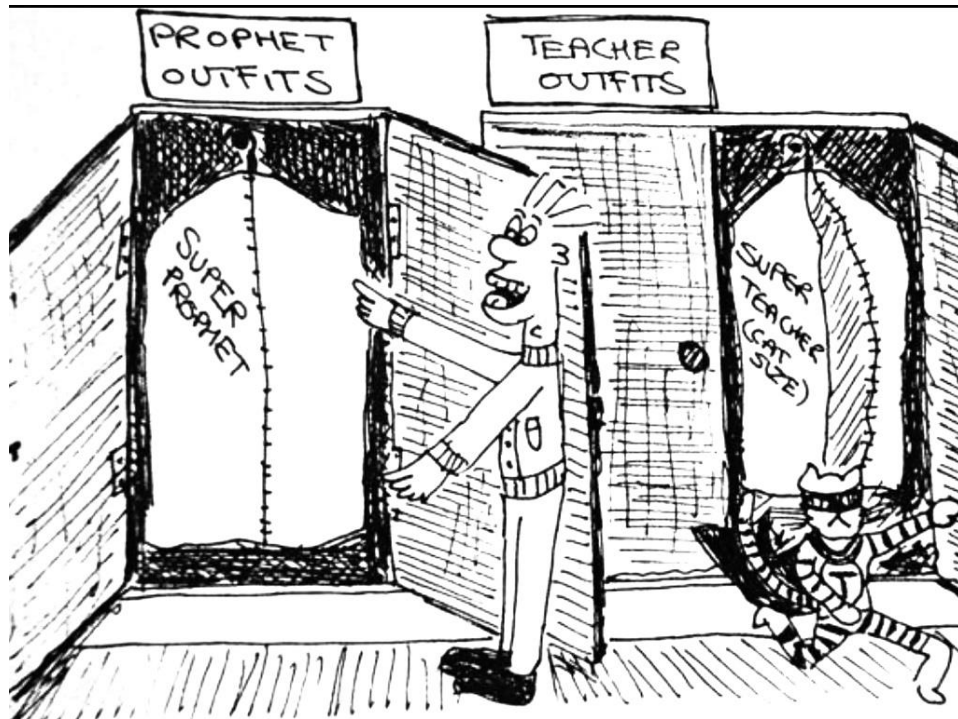
## Do You Get The Picture?

### Time to reflect:

- Was there anything you thought the spiritual gifts were that you now realize they are not?
- What are the spiritual gifts as a whole? Think about the gifts you can positively identify in your life. What are they? How can you use them more?
- What are the three categories of spiritual gifts? Think about the gift you identified above and put them under the correct category.
- What do these gifts reveal about the area of you calling?

# CHAPTER THREE

## The Artist's Clothes



*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13*

### **Don't wear the enemy's uniform.**

**T**he will of God never has been and never will be accomplished by those who are not totally obedient to Him. During the American Civil War, it is said that there was a man who was sympathetic to both sides. He lived, you see, in a border line state. Finally, he decided that he would affect a compromise. He put on a mixed uniform, wearing the Confederate gray coat, and the Union blue trousers. All went well, it seems, until he became engaged in a hard fought battle, when the Federals shot him in the coat, and the Confederates shot him in the seat of the pants!<sup>37</sup> Now, there's a moral to this highly improbably story. If you are going to serve in an army you must wear its full uniform. God has given five specific uniform types that we will look at in this chapter. We must put off all uniforms of this world and fully wear the uniform He

<sup>37</sup> The Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator

gives us, just as we are exhorted to put on the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:11) and to put on Christ (Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27).

As I mentioned earlier, at the age of twelve the Lord revealed to me that I had been given the gift of teaching when I was born again. However, at first I refused to believe this because I was wearing another uniform, the uniform of fear. As a young man I was full of fears, even after being born again. I had many irrational fears, such as the fear of things falling on my head, the fear of spontaneous combustion and especially the fear of what people thought about me. Because of this I was extremely reluctant to speak in front of crowds, or even before a few people.

It was when I was going through missions training in South Wales in 1988 that I had a significant breakthrough. Before joining World Horizons I had spoken in small groups and some churches but it was a mixture of teacher and fear uniforms that I was wearing. During my missions training I went for counseling and was led through powerful faith confessions from God's word, coming against the spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). I would go to a nearby beach and shout above the raging of the waves *that "God has not given me a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of power, love and a sound mind"*. After some time I found faith rising up in me and I was able to shrug off the uniform of fear and start to put on my teaching uniform more and more.

When I finally stepped out in faith to Singapore I found myself boldly teaching the Word of God as I was placed on assignments in various churches, teaching children, youth and adults with a newly found confidence in the Lord. Of course, there are still times, even to this day, that I'm tempted to put on some of the uniform of fear and intimidation, but these times are getting lesser and lesser.

For you it may not be the uniform of fear that plagues you but there are also uniforms of pride, rejection, low self-esteem, rationalism, skepticism, humanism, materialism, criticism, gossip and many more. You must put off these uniforms and put on the Christ-given motivations given to us as a gift in the person of the Holy Spirit.

### **Different uniforms, different ministerial gifts**

When Missouri pastor Clyde Leonard introduced his cousin Ted Blaylock to the congregation of Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church, Clyde recalled how the family thought Ted would never amount to much. *"All he wanted to do was doodle and draw."*

Doodling and drawing have taken Blaylock to a successful career as a painter and sculptor. His art has provided him a platform for sharing his faith in Jesus.

Blaylock dates his salvation experience to a Methodist camp in the Perryton area where he grew up. But after his family moved to East St. Louis, Illinois he began to stray from church.

Ted did hold on to his determination to become an artist - through marriage at a young age, through the birth of four children, through a good-paying job as a steamfitter, through to his wife suffering a heart attack at age 27. Her illness drove him to his knees, and he told God, *"You can have the art, the money, and the rest of my life."*

Blaylock disagrees with people who say God doesn't make deals. *"He'll do anything. He wants to reach the lost and the backslidden."* In Bible study, Ted recalled, he kept landing on passages that said, *"If you're ashamed of me, I'll be ashamed of you."*

To symbolize his life, he painted a Colorado wilderness scene with three crosses on a hill. He put a *"not for sale"* sign on it and took it with him to art exhibits.

*"When people would ask me why it wasn't for sale, it was testimony time."*

Blaylock sees his witnessing encounters as pieces of clay in a sculpture God is creating. *"He doesn't want us to be mediocre. He has a job for us to do."*<sup>38</sup>

Coming back to our metaphor of a painter to describe the spiritual gifts we can say that Blaylock wears the Evangelist uniform; he is literally a painting evangelist. Other leaders will wear the Teacher's uniform or the Prophet's uniform and so forth.



In the above picture you see that there are different professions – a builder, a doctor and a plumber. Each one has a unique set of skills and a uniform to declare what they are. This can be related to our Ministerial bent that I am looking at in this chapter.

Each also has main tools that they use such as the drill, clipboard and plunger in these examples. These represent the Motivational gifts, the main God-given motivation and function a person has. In the metaphor of an Artist that I am using in this book, these gifts would be the different types of paint brushes. Chapter 4 explores this further.

However, to get the job done, each also has a toolbox with tools to help them in their trade. Each may have a hammer, but that hammer will be used in different ways. The builder will use his hammer predominantly to knock in nails, the doctor to test his patient's reflexes by hitting just below their knee, and the plumber may use the hammer to knock pipes into place. The toolbox relates to the Manifestation gifts given to us with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. These will manifest according to the Ministerial and Motivational gifts we are moving in, differing in their specific use just as the above professions use the same tools in different ways. In the illustration I am using in this book of an Artist, the toolbox would represent the Artist's palette of paint colours, with nine main colours as I will show you in Chapter 5.

Let us now look at each of the five types of uniform God distributes to the Church:

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<sup>38</sup> Tim Palmer, Baptist Press 1999 (with Goshen.net) <http://www.baptistpress.org/>

## Apostle

There is great division in opinion today as to whether Apostles function in the Church now or not. Some would say a definite 'yes' and label their leaders 'Apostle so and so'. Others would say a definite 'no' and say that the office of Apostle was only relevant in the founding of the Early Church and has now ceased. Others would say there's no such thing as an Apostle with a capital 'A' today but that the apostolic gifting still functions in the Church.

Firstly, let us review what the Bible says. The Greek word *apostolos*, "apostle," is a compound from the preposition *apo*, "off," "away," and *stello*, "to send." Thus it means, literally, one that is "sent off" on a mission. The following definition of Apostle is taken from Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology:

*"In the New Testament 'apostolos' is applied to Jesus as the Sent One of God (Hebrews 3:1), to those sent by God to preach to Israel (Luke 11:49), to those sent by churches (2 Colossians 8:23; Philippians 2:25), and most often, to the individuals who had been appointed by Christ to preach the gospel of the kingdom. This latter category, however, is understood differently by New Testament writers. For example, Luke-Acts uses the term "apostle" to refer almost exclusively to the Twelve, while Paul uses it in relation to a broader group of individuals. The expression "all the apostles" in 1 Corinthians 15:7 seems to include more than the twelve referred to in verse 5. James is considered here, and in Galatians 1:19, to be an apostle. Barnabas is referred to as an apostle in Acts 14:14 (11:22-24; 3:1-4). Paul calls Andronicus and Junias apostles in Romans 16:7. In this broader sense, an apostle was a witness to the resurrection of Christ, sent by him to make disciples of all nations."*

The Biblical qualifications of an Apostle are:

1. They are eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ (Acts 1; 10:39–41; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:7–8).
2. They are directly appointed by Christ (Mark 3:14; Luke 6; Acts 1:2, 24; 10:41; Galatians 1:1).
3. They confirm their mission and message with miraculous signs and wonders. (Matthew 10:1–2; Acts 1:5–8; 2:43; 4:33; 5:12; 8:14; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3–4).

What we can deduce from all the above is that the term 'Apostle' was not simply reserved for the twelve who were physically chosen by Christ when He was on earth. The term continued to be used of others who were not around during Jesus' earthly ministry, but functionally continued to be apostolic in nature, if not in title. Paul was clearly called an Apostle, though he did not see the pre-resurrected Christ. He was appointed as an Apostle as he met the three qualifications above. There are also the other named apostles, such as Andronicus and Junias, who must also have met these qualifications, though it is not specifically recorded.

All of this leads us to a clear conclusion that the ministry of the Apostle continued as the early Church grew and there's no indication that it was meant to cease functioning. Indeed, I believe this ministry is meant to function today, though it can and has been abused. We need to demystify the meaning and function of the Apostle and what it means to be apostolic.

In classical Greek it was frequently connected with the sending off of a ship or a naval expedition, and it was also used for the commander of a squadron and for an ambassador. An Egyptian papyrus from the second or third century A.D. speaks of the *logos apostolou Triadelphou*, "the account of the ship of Triadelphus." The papyri also show that, from the ship itself, the meaning of the word was transferred to its cargo, for that also was "sent." Not only was the cargo called *apostolos*, but also the documents that represented the ship and its cargo, so that the word might refer to an order for the dispatch of a vessel, a bill of landing, or even an export license. At the same time, in common as in classical Greek, *apostolos* might refer to a person.<sup>39</sup> Thus Josephus<sup>40</sup> uses it of ambassadors sent by the Jews to Rome.

Some Christian writers (notably Bill Johnson) say it was a secular term used by the Romans to describe special envoys sent out to change the culture of the empire. These envoys were supposedly sent to certain, previously unreached, territories and charged to subdue, conquer, convert, instruct, train and establish the new subjects in the culture of the Roman Empire.

Therefore, the Apostle is one chosen of God and sent with a special mission to plant and lead a new Kingdom work in the nations, furthering the Kingdom of God into previously unreached areas. Apostles do not assign that name to themselves and a person is not an Apostle just because they lead a mega organization. They are Apostles because that call of God is very evident on their lives and they clearly have been sent on a mission to plant some new and pioneering work in the nations that brings God's Kingdom culture where it previously was not.

Apostles are pioneer missionaries, such as William Carey and Hudson Taylor were, who launch into unreached areas to plant a new church or a Christian presence in that area, but not all who are termed 'missionaries' can claim that title. Many missionaries go to newly reached areas to help in other functions such as teaching or evangelism or mercy ministry. These are not Apostles but they are very much a part of an apostolic movement. I came out to Singapore with a mission organization and led mission's team to many Asian nations, but I am not an Apostle.

Apostles may also be sent within a so called 'Christianised' area but with a pioneering ministry or message the Church has neglected. Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947) was called the "Apostle of Faith" as he brought a radical new message and ministry of moving in faith for miracles and healings to the Body of Christ.

So, in conclusion, the office of Apostle is still relevant to the Church today. An Apostle is one who is sent forth by God with a mission to plant a new work for God's Kingdom, bringing God's Kingdom culture in areas previously overrun by the kingdom of darkness. They equip the church by imparting apostolic vision, revealing and challenging believers into the missional call of the church.

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<sup>39</sup> H. G. Liddell and R. Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, vol. 1, p. 220; J. H. Moulton and G. Milligan, The Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament, p. 70

<sup>40</sup> Antiquities xvii. 11. 1

## Prophet

As with the Apostle, there are many today that are of the firm opinion that the office of Prophet is an office which no longer exists in the body of Christ. The foundation of such an argument is based in the notion that Prophets only predict the future. Since all the future events that affect the body of Christ have been clearly delineated with the completion of John's book of Revelation; it would seem that the role of the Prophet is obsolete. In spite of all this, a careful examination of the scriptures indicates that the office of Prophet is to be alive and well in the Body of Christ today.

The Hebrew word for Prophet is the word *nabi* from a root meaning *"to bubble forth, as from a fountain,"* hence *"to utter"*. This Hebrew word is the first and the most generally used for a prophet.

This word is first explained in Numbers 12:6-8:

*"Then He said,  
"Hear now My words:  
If there is a prophet among you,  
I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision;  
I speak to him in a dream.  
Not so with My servant Moses;  
He is faithful in all My house.  
I speak with him face to face,  
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;  
And he sees the form of the Lord.  
Why then were you not afraid  
To speak against My servant Moses?"*

In this passage the Prophet is seen as a seer behind the vision of God, thus a spokesman for God. Simply put a prophet is *"one who speaks for God"*. This is clearly seen in the following verses:

*"Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."* Jeremiah 1:9

*"And I have put My words in your mouth;  
I have covered you with the shadow of My hand,  
That I may plant the heavens,  
Lay the foundations of the earth,  
And say to Zion, 'You are My people.'"* Isaiah 51:16

Here we see that both Jeremiah and Isaiah were Prophets and as such were anointed to speak what God spoke. Prophets were immediate organs of God for the communication of his mind and will to men:

*"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."* Deuteronomy 18:18

In this sense we can deduce that the entire Word of God is a prophetic work since it was written by men who received its content from God.

Foretelling the future was not a necessary part of being a Prophet. In fact; such declarations were the exception, and not the rule. In general the greatest role of

the Prophet was in the correction of the church (or nation of Israel) and the proclamation of moral truths which are connected to the character of God, and the foundation of His government in the church.

In New Testament times the Prophetic office was continued. Jesus was referred to as a Prophet (Luke 13:32-33; Luke 24:19; John 4:19). It is interesting to note that little is depicted about the role of the *“New testament prophet”*. This can also be said of the other offices in the body of Christ. It is therefore no stretch to assume that the role of the Prophet is essentially unchanged from its function and duty in the Old Testament, only the context has changed.

If we carry over from Old Testament to New Testament, the role of the Prophet is:<sup>41</sup>

1. To Speak for God
2. To exhort and direct the body of Christ.
3. Considered high in its order of importance:  
*“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 Corinthians 12:28  
*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers”.* Ephesians 4:11
4. To be judged when they speak in an open congregation:  
*“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.”* 1 Corinthians 14:29
5. Not simply one who speaks out under the unction of the gift of prophecy. The Prophet is an office. The individual in that office will almost certainly operate in the gift of Prophecy as well as other revelation gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, distinguishing of spirits) but should not be limited to this. Elijah for example operated in the gift of miracles.
6. Not necessarily preaching. It has been assumed by many that anyone who preaches is a prophet. While that is certainly possible, it is not a rule.
7. To be in control of their gifts and be able to function decently and in order (this principle applies to all gifts and their use).  
*“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”* 1 Corinthians 14:32
8. Not exclusive to men. Women can also be Prophetesses:  
*“On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.”* Acts 21:8-10  
*“Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.”* Judges 4:4
9. To tell individuals or groups of future events and to admonish those persons or individuals with regard to those events.

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<sup>41</sup> Adapted from *The Role of the Prophet in the New Testament Church* by Rev. Mark J. Dibois, Ph.D., 2000.

*“And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’” Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.” Acts 21:10-12*

In conclusion we see that the office of Prophet is very much a part of the New Testament Church and is as essential today as it was in the days of Elijah or Jeremiah. Their role is to aid the Church and its members in hearing from God and to place them on the correct path in God’s purposes. There are some New Testament Prophets that use their gifts to predict the course of Churches or individuals. Prophets operate primarily in the revelation and vocal gifts and they are maintainers of order in themselves and the Body of Christ at large. They equip the believers by pointing them in the right direction and teaching them to hear and respond to the voice of God.

## **Evangelist**

The Apostle Paul told his son in the ministry, Timothy, *“Do the work of an evangelist”* (2 Timothy 4:5), but what exactly is an Evangelist? According to Kittel<sup>42</sup>, the word *“euaggelistes”*<sup>43</sup> means ‘a messenger of good’, one who proclaims glad tidings. But, as we have seen, all Christians are called to do this, so what really distinguishes someone as an Evangelist?

Philip is our sole biblical example of an Evangelist. This is what we know from the Book of Acts about Philip: He was not Philip the Apostle mentioned in the Gospels (only very, very few scholars suppose that the same person could have been an apostle and a deacon). He was one of the seven deacons chosen by the first Christian community to manage the distribution of food to widows when a conflict arose because Greek-speaking members of the community thought Hebrew widows were receiving preferential treatment (Acts 6:1-7).

When the Jerusalem community was scattered due to persecution, Philip moved to Samaria where he proclaimed the gospel, cast out demons and healed. Many Samaritans believed and were baptized, including a magician named Simon. It was apparently necessary, however, for two apostles - Peter and John - to travel to Samaria to lay hands on the newly baptized Samaritans in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17). So Evangelist Philip’s work seemed to include proclamation, casting out demons, healing and baptizing.

Perhaps the most illuminating story about Philip as an Evangelist is the story of the Ethiopian eunuch which seems especially told to illustrate the work of an Evangelist. Philip is told in a dream to go to a certain place where he discovers a eunuch, a court official from Ethiopia, reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip used this opening to tell the Ethiopian about Jesus and then baptized him (Acts 8:26-40).

As opposed to the contemporary focus on preaching and proclamation to large crowds, William Abraham, in his book, *“The Logic of Evangelism”*, describes the

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<sup>42</sup> Gerhard Kittel, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1980) Vd. II p. 737.

<sup>43</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of the New Testament, G2099.

work of the evangelist as the work of initiation. The evangelist guides persons into the practices that both characterize and nurture the Christian life. An evangelist shows people how to practice the Christian faith, including being part of a Christian community, participating in spiritual disciplines, and living out faith in our lives in the world. For some of us, our parents were our primary evangelists. Those who disciple us in the basics of the Christian life, preparing us for baptism, often serve the function of the evangelist. Throughout our lives, as our faith deepens and grows, we will need people, processes and practices that serve this function of introducing us to new depths of Christian faith and practice.

Although my main gift is as a Teacher, I am also called to do the work of an Evangelist. When we have baptism classes in our church I am the one called on to teach them. As I said before, just because we are not given a certain gift it does not mean we are not to move in the motivation of that gift. Indeed, God gives us the gift of Evangelist to equip us in the ministry of evangelism. Alan Hirsch says that *“the evangelist is the recruiter to the cause, the naturally infectious person who is able to enlist people into the movement by transmitting the gospel.”*<sup>44</sup>

In conclusion, Apostles plant new churches; Evangelists tend to build existing ones. The Evangelist reaches out to the community around existing churches with the Gospel and demonstrations of God’s power, recruiting and initiating new believers and reviving and equipping existing ones to reach out to their community and beyond.

## Pastor

Three verses in the New Testament include the word *“pastor”* (in various forms): Ephesians 4:11, Acts 20:28, and 1 Peter 5:2.

In Acts 20:28, Paul uses the verb form of the word, which is translated *“to feed”* (ASV) or *“to care for”* (ESV). Pastors feed, tend, and protect the church. They are to do all the things that a shepherd would do for a flock. Note in this verse that the church is called *“the flock.”*

Similarly, in 1 Peter 5:2, Peter encourages these servants by saying, *“Tend the flock of God.”* The word *“tend”* is the verb *‘poimaino’*, which W. E. Vine<sup>45</sup> defines as, *“to act as a shepherd”*.

The clearest description of the pastor-shepherd is John’s description of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in the Gospel of John. Jesus says: *“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father”* (John 10:14-15a). Jesus says: *“The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out”* (John 10:3) and *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”* (John 10:11).

The shepherd-pastor knows your name. He or she knows what is happening in your life, your struggles, your fears, your hopes and successes. The shepherd-

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<sup>44</sup> Hirsch, Alan, and Tim Catchim. *The Permanent Revolution: Apostolic Imagination and Practice for the 21st Century Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.

<sup>45</sup> Vine, W. E. n.d. *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. McLean, VA: MacDonald, p427

pastor spends time with you and gives him or herself to you. Pastoral care is being visited in the hospital when we are scared and needy and being comforted in our grief. A shepherd-pastor is someone who focuses on the needs of the members of her or his flock and who helps people endure pain and feel better.

Even though people call me “*Pastor*” that is not my main office gift. Indeed, ‘*shepherding*’ is a weakness that I am working on. In the churches around the world today many have the title “*Pastor*” but that is not their office gift. These five offices all need to be present in the churches to give a proper balance. I will speak more on this later.

In conclusion, the Pastor cares for the Church, feeding, tending and protecting the members like a Shepherd does his sheep. They equip the people for the work of the ministry by bringing much needed care, compassion and healing that causes the members to be ready to rise up into their God-given ministry.

## Teacher

The question is whether “*pastors and teachers*” designate one spiritual gift or two. Bill Mounce<sup>46</sup>, in his discussion on this question, says that one interpretation sees them as one gift and points to the use of the article. It is repeated before all the other gifts, but when it gets to the last two there is only one article that governs both nouns. Grammatically, this signals a change and expects us to see that “*pastors and teachers*” form a unit that is set off from the preceding series. There can be no debate on this point; this is just plain Greek grammar. The question is the precise nature of the “*unit*.”

The use of a single article with multiple plural nouns indicates a single unit, but it does not necessarily mean the two nouns are identical. This same construction occurs earlier in Ephesians 2:20 and joins “*apostles*” and “*prophets*,” but these are not identical gifts.

Hoehner<sup>47</sup> suggests that the distinction is that the prior gifts are expressed in a ministry more focussed outside the Church and the later two are gifts for a local Church ministry.

Hoehner goes on to quote an argument that the grammar suggests that the first (“*pastors*”) is a subset of the second (“*teachers*”). Everyone who is gifted to shepherd a local flock of believers is gifted to teach, but the gift of teaching does not necessarily mean the person is gifted to shepherd (that seems to describe my own gifting).

So the second interpretation is that “*pastor*” and “*teacher*” are somewhat distinct gifts. All pastors must be able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2) but not all teachers are gifted to pastor, to help meet the daily needs of a local church.

Many of the functions we think of as the work of teachers within the church are really the work of evangelists – initiating people into the life of the Kingdom. This example of the contrast between the work of an evangelist and a teacher might be helpful: It is part of the work of the evangelist to guide and teach people how to read the Bible as part of their Christian life. It is part of the work of a teacher to tell people what it says in the Bible. In real life, the lines between all of these roles and

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<sup>46</sup> Pastors and Teachers, and the Article (Ephesians 4:11) by Bill Mounce.

<sup>47</sup> Ephesians. An Exegetical Commentary published by Baker

functions get blurred, but it is good to have clarity about the people, processes and practices we need in our lives to grow as people of faith.

Teacher is a title used frequently for Jesus in the four Gospels. John 1:38 makes it clear that the Greek word we translate *"teacher"* is sometimes, perhaps often, used in the Gospels as a synonym for *"rabbi."* When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, *"What are you looking for?"* They said to him, *"Rabbi"* (which translated means Teacher), *"where are you staying?"* (John 1:38).

The Gospels also suggest that Jesus' teaching was different from the type of teaching people were used to at the time. Matthew reports: *"Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes"* (Matthew 7:28-9). Scribes, like rabbis, were considered authoritative teachers and judges of Jewish law and custom. While Jesus was recognized as different from the scribes, still his listeners understood Jesus' teaching in terms of the teaching done by rabbis and scribes at the time. It was their job to teach and interpret Torah and the body of commentary that had developed throughout the centuries about the Torah.

It is this function that the New Testament identifies with the role of Teacher in the early church. The Teacher communicates and interprets the meaning of Scripture and tradition. The writer of Hebrews, for example, is trying to explain to the Hebrews the concept of how Jesus' obedience to God achieved salvation for those who believe in him. Then he scolds his readers because they lack understanding of God's word. He writes:

*"About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil."* Hebrews 5:11-14

Therefore, the work of the teacher is to understand, interpret and explain the biblical teachings. The Books of First and second Timothy describe the Apostle Paul as a teacher of the Gentiles (1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11). Paul's role was to take the scope of biblical history and teach Gentiles how it applied to their lives and included them. Paul does this again and again as he uses Scripture to explain how God's plan from the very beginning was to include Gentiles (Romans 4:9; Galatians 1:16).

In conclusion, the Teacher correctly interprets the Scriptures to the Church in a way that can be outworked in practical ministry. In a very real way, the Teacher equips the Body of Christ to be the People of the Book, living godly lives of influence in the world.

## **The Equipping Gifts**

At this point you may be thinking that this category of gifts does not concern you as you are not called into an office or leadership position in the church. This may be true but it does not mean you do not have a uniform to wear. Every Christian must put on a uniform even as they are to put on Christ (Romans 13:14). The

Ministerial Gifts are the chief uniforms with a leader's badge on them, but we will all have basic motivations that line up with one of these offices and so wear a uniform the same as the chief. For example, in football (European) there is one captain of each team but all the team members wear the team colours.

Commenting on Ephesians 4:11-12, Leighton Ford says:

*"We have been operating on "the fallacy of the misplaced comma" in the fourth chapter of Ephesians! Most of the older versions and some newer ones translate Ephesians 4:11-12 in this sense: "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ" Actually, there should be no comma between these first two phrases. Even a different preposition is used. In "for the equipment of the saints" it is pros, while in "for the work of the ministry" it is eis—or, as it would be better to say, "unto the work of ministry."*

*A more accurate translation, then, runs: "And these were his gifts: some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for work in his service." Or as Phillips correctly paraphrases, "His gifts were made that Christians might be properly equipped for their service."*

*The error is a small one in grammar, but a great one in practical consequences. For it now appears that the clergy's main task is not to do the work of the Church, but to equip God's people to do this work. The clergyman still has a particular ministry—evangelizing or shepherding or teaching. But this is a means to fulfil his main business: preparing Christians to serve.*

*In terms of evangelism, the old pattern will not do. It is not enough for the layman to pay the preacher to win souls, or even help him to do so. The pattern is that the minister helps the layman to evangelize. He conceives his main task as that of training the Christian mechanic how to witness in the garage; as showing the Christian student how to have a relevant testimony in the classroom; as inspiring the Christian housewife to be a godly influence in her neighbourhood. As a coach, he learns the talents of each player and fits him in the best spot, so that the whole church becomes an effective witnessing team."*

Hence, the role of the Ministerial office gifts is not to solely do the work of the ministry but to train all the rest in the non-lead-uniforms to do the work of the ministry.

Bringing this into the context of the Church you could say that, for example, there are people called into the office of a Pastor, one who is to shepherd the flock. The Pastor wears the chief Pastor uniform but each cell group leader, who is also a shepherd to a smaller group, wears the same uniform as they show forth a shepherding motivation, but they will be under the leadership and equipping of the Lead Pastor. Likewise, a lay member who is involved in mercy ministry in the local community, house or hospital visitation would also wear this shepherding uniform. In short, each believer is given a gift mix that comes under the umbrella of one or more of these equipping gifts.

## The Equipping Gifts and Harvest Activities

*“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”* 1 Corinthians 3:6-8

As we have seen, the Apostle will plant a new work, the Prophet points the way forward, the Evangelist brings more people in, the Pastor cares for the people and the Teacher grows the people with the Word of God so they can go out and shine for Jesus and further His Kingdom.

These functions can be related to harvest activities as seen in the following diagram:



In this diagram, which I introduced in my first book, you can see this process. God starts by providing seed for us, stored in a *'mist'* (this speaks of the Holy Spirit incubating the good works until we rise up to sow them).

### Pre-Harvest Activities

Some of us will be involved in preparing the ground for the seed (*'ploughing'*) – breaking up the hard hearts of the people. This is particularly the job of the Prophet who will call people to repentance (Hosea 10:12-13), pointing them to the truth. Later in this Chapter, when I introduce the Umbrella diagram, you will see that one gift that comes under *'prophecy'* is Intercession. The Intercessor will pray for the ground of an area to be softened so the place is prepared for the Word of God to be sown. The other prophetic gifts of music, art, craftsmanship and exhortation can all be part of this stage, preparing the hearts of the people for God's Kingdom to come.

Others will be involved in the sowing process, planting seed into new areas. This is sowing the seed of God's word into the hearts of unbelievers. The Apostle Paul is mentioned as a *'planter'* in 1 Corinthians 3:6-8. This is particularly the Apostle's realm of ministry, which is often accompanied by the gift of Miracles. The gift of Giving (under *'apostleship'* in the Umbrella diagram) is greatly needed here, providing Kingdom resources and finances to aid the process of reaching new areas. Just as Paul said, *"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he*

*who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*” (2 Corinthians 9:6), which was especially in the context of giving into the apostolic work.

### **Harvest Activities**

Still more will be involved in reaping in the harvest itself.

*“I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”* John 4:38

This is particularly the ministry of the Evangelist, reaping a harvest of lost souls that has been prepared by the pre-harvest ministries. The gift of Healings (under ‘*evangelism*’ in the Umbrella diagram) is greatly needed here to demonstrate the power of God so the people will come into His Kingdom. Most people will want to be involved in this area of activity as it seems to be the most glamorous and fruitful. However, this phase is useless without the other two.

### **Post-Harvest Activities**

In Biblical times, after the harvest had been reaped (i.e. cut and bundled) it was taken to the Threshing floor where oxen would trample on the wheat to separate the chaff from the grain. Then the farmers would use a winnowing fan or fork to blow away the chaff and collect the grain. The chaff would then be burnt and the grain put in storage for making food (bread) or the next round of sowing.

All this process spiritually represents post-harvest ministries such the Teacher, who will rightly divide the Word of truth in written or spoken word (threshing/winnowing), and the Pastor, who will refine God’s people with God’s fire through discipline or walking with them through times of suffering (the gifts of Mercy and Hospitality being much needed here also – they come under ‘*shepherding*’ in the Umbrella diagram). All shepherding and teaching ministries are to actually equip the churches to repeat this cycle all over again (for the next round of sowing)!

## **How These Five Gifts Work Together**

All of the functions of leadership and ministry within the Christian community must take place within an apostolic vision and mission. For example, this is true of the gift of Teacher, who needs to put scattered verses into the context of the bigger picture otherwise specific teachings or rules may actually be contrary to the movement of God in creation and history. The apostolic vision, however, always needs to be grounded and based in the biblical story, so the work of teachers is also important to apostles. Likewise, all the other offices must balance with each other and fit into a common context. Indeed, all these gifts are to equip the Church to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12), to fulfill it’s apostolic and prophetic calling in the nations.

In my own calling I have realized God has given me the gift of Teaching and has called me to be a Teacher in the Church. However, I have a strong prophetic and missions vision and believe my teaching gift must be used in the context of the church’s prophetic call back to Jerusalem and apostolic mandate to disciple the nations. That is why I am writing this series of books called “*The Big Picture*”, and whenever I teach any Biblical book or topic I am quick to put it into the context of prophecy and World Mission.

God called me to join a mission organization and come over to Singapore and am now a “Pastor” in a local church, but I am not called to be an Apostle or Pastor in terms of my functioning as I possess none of their essential qualities. This has led to much frustration in myself and in those who I have been placed over to lead.

Bill Mounce writes, “God has gifted some people to do everything. These are the wonderful pastors who have a small enough church that they can care for everybody and everything. I have a friend who does this. He loves smaller churches. He pastors them for about ten years, takes a sabbatical, and then looks for another small church to love and care for. He is just now headed for his third church as their pastor. And he will pastor them, and that by definition includes the calling to teach them. Ultimately churches are to be led by their teachers, which is why every pastor and elder must of necessity be able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2).

But there are other people who are gifted to teach. They may not have great administrative gifts, and may not be very good at sitting down with someone and listening to their issues. But they still love their God and their people just as fervently, and they show that love by spending a vast number of hours in preparing their sermons”. I can identify with this 100%!

The modern day use of “Pastor” is very misleading and the person who is called by that title may actually be an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist or Teacher rather than a Pastor in the Biblical sense. Ideally, all five leader types should be present in a church to provide the full God-given support, help and guidance needed. I believe that God will provide all five to every local church but not all are fully released due to a variety of reasons. Some may be full time, employed by the Church, but others may be lay leaders, called to plug into leadership gaps.



The above picture shows a helpful comparison between the Fivefold Ministries to the key functions in film making. Here I have used the example of the Hobbit film series.

The Apostle can be likened to the writer, in this case J.R.R. Tolkien, who sees the unseeable and creates something quite new in his imagination. Tolkien literally created a new world (Middle Earth) with new inhabitants (Hobbits, Elves, Dwarves and Orcs) and new languages (Elvish and Dwarvish) in amazing detail. Apostles are the spiritual entrepreneurs, the eyes that see new things that need bringing to life.

The Prophet is like the film producer, Fran Walsh in the case of the Hobbit, who creates momentum in fulfilling the writer's vision through Christ focused questions. For the Hobbit movie she asked the probing question of why no female characters were present and, to the horror of Hobbit purists, added in Galadriel and Tauriel. Prophets will stir things up and be provocateurs in stirring the hearts of people to get behind the vision. As a producer's main role is to garner resources to make the vision a reality so the prophets seek to release God's Kingdom resources by speaking God's "now" word to the Church. They are the ears that hear God's directives and will make sure these words get to the people's ears.

The Evangelist is like the Casting Director, Liz Mullane in the case of the Hobbit, who creates moments of invitation for the right people to get involved. Liz got whole farming communities and entire classes of university students in New Zealand involved in being Elves or other inhabitants of Middle earth for the Hobbit movies. The Evangelists are the arms that reach out far and wide to recruit newcomers into God's Kingdom adventure.

The Pastor is akin to the Director of the movie, Peter Jackson in this example. Peter is the main "face" we're aware of when we think of the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies, but had a huge team working alongside him. Just as the Director turns the understanding of the cast into meaningful engagement so the Pastor comes alongside the saints to encourage them to give their best for God's Kingdom. Peter Jackson would often embrace the cast and jump into their place to show them how to act a certain scene. The Pastor is the heart that embraces and releases others to give their best for God. He is the interpreter who shows others from his own life how to walk the road before them.

Lastly, but not leastly, the Teacher is like the film Editor, Jabez Olssen in the case of the Hobbit films, who systematizes all other focuses. The Editor brings everything together into an understandable unity. Jabez spent hours in the background working on his computer to edit together all the pieces and came up with an awe inspiring end product. Teachers will spend hours, days, months, unseen, digging deep into God's Word and bringing truths together that can be presented to give understanding to the people. They are the mind that works hard to let the Church know the truth. They are integrators who bring together all the disparate views of the other leaders into a unified whole.

## **The Umbrella Gifts**

As I was praying and thinking about this chapter the Lord gave me the vision of an umbrella with the five Ministerial gifts written on the canopy part. Under these gifts dangled other related ones. I could not see the names of the dangling gifts but, after receiving the vision, sat down to put this vision in picture form as best as I could, in the context of the Biblical definitions of each gift. I will show you the fully

developed diagram in the next chapter as we look at each motivational gift. Following is the initial picture I developed:



The 'Umbrella' diagram above illustrates an important truth. We can envisage the Ministerial gifts as an umbrella with five sections, each section representing one of these gifts. Under each section we can put the various Motivational gifts that agree with the basic motivation of that Ministry gift that I have included in the above diagram, dangling beneath each Ministry Gift section of the Umbrella.

Some of the Motivational gifts are clearly under only one section, some under more than one or even all. We will look at where they fit under the umbrella in the next chapter.

In the above diagram I have written the basic questions each gifting will ask when entering a church. Those with an apostolic bent will ask what the mission's vision of the church is and what new areas are being reached out to. The one with a prophetic gifting will look into the prophetic direction of the church and see how anointed the worship is. Evangelistically motivated souls will ask what the church does in terms of outreach to the community and how they make themselves accessible to pre-believers. Those with a shepherding motivation will look at how the church welcomes and cares for its people and those with a teaching bent will look at how biblical the teaching is in the church.

Asking yourself what you look for as you enter a fellowship of believers will give you a good indication of the main segment of the umbrella that you come under.

## Elders and Leaders



*“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.” 1 Timothy 5:17*

Notice in the Umbrella diagram that I have placed the Motivational gift of Leading right under each Ministerial gift. This is because the Ministerial Gifts may be collectively called by the Biblical term ‘Elders’ or ‘Bishops’, which refer to the same title (Elder being derived from Hebrew and Bishop from Greek), and may be interpreted as ‘overseers’ (1 Peter 5:2) or leaders over the Church. In 1 Timothy 5:17 we see these Elders are to ‘rule’ the church. This is the same Greek word (‘*proistemi*’) we find in Romans 12:8 that is a Motivational gift in itself, which we will look at in more detail in the next chapter. The majority of uses of the word ‘*proistemi*’ in the New Testament are in the context of the church leaders, particularly the Elders (1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4,5).

I believe It is God’s will for each church to be governed by a group of Elders who show forth the gifts of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. All these gifts are needed together otherwise the Church will grow up deformed and out of balance.

## The Fivefold Calling of the Church



In the Umbrella diagram (included again above) you can see that below the gift of Leading there are the five gifts that relate to the Ministerial ones (apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding and teaching). These are the gifts that may develop into Ministerial offices. Indeed, these five represents the five basic

affinities that all of us will have at least one of. There will be one main gift we will come under (with other secondary or tertiary ones). I call this our ministerial affinity. For me the Lord has given me the gift of teaching that has developed into the office of Teacher, and I am recognised as a Teacher in our Church and Missions network. However, I also have the Prophetic gifts of Worship Leading and Prophetic song that are recognised in the Body of Christ, but I am not a Prophet.

These five divisions will reveal the type of spiritual uniform we wear but all of us should catch the vision of each. As Christ's Body we are to be apostolically, prophetically, evangelistically, pastorally and doctrinally sound. I will now look at each of these affinities and you should be able to identify the one you are drawn to the most:

### **Apostleship.**

This is the desire to reach out in pioneer situations to plant new works and a fully-fledged Apostle will assume and exercise general leadership over a number of new Church plants or Christian ministries with great authority recognized and appreciated by those churches and ministries. The gifts of Giving and Miracles also come under this part of the umbrella.

On entering a new Church someone who has the gift of apostleship will look primarily for what missions' programmes the church has and what are the pioneer areas the Church is involved in. They may also be very interested in how much the Church gives into World Missions and other pioneer projects.

One practical example of one who has this gift is a missionary reaching an unreached people group either short or long term, with the aim of planting an indigenous church where there is none. This could also be a business person reaching an unreached area of the marketplace for Christ.

The main weakness of this gifting is that it can lead to empire building and one having this motivation must maintain a humility that seeks only to build God's Kingdom, not their own.

### **Prophecy.**

This gift is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to proclaim the Word of God with divine unction, which brings conviction to the hearers so they see it as truly God's voice and they must do something about it. This gift may develop into the office of a Prophet. The gifts of Intercession, Prophetic Music, Art, Craftsmanship, Exhortation and Diverse Tongues come under this part of the umbrella.

On entering a new Church someone who has the gift of prophecy will look primarily at the prophetic direction of the church, how anointed the worship is and how much of the '*rhema*' word of God is released; words of comfort, exhortation and encouragement. They may also be interested in the creative arts (dance, art etc.) that are displayed in the context of Church worship.

This gift is manifested as being a prophetic voice to the Church or Christian organization (In agreement and cooperation with leadership), or involvement in a prophetic ministry such as the Intercession team, worship team, dance team or other creative arts teams active in the worship.

Those having this motivation must make sure they do not succumb to a major weakness this gifting can lead to: Spiritual detachment. They need to remain vitally connected to the body and avoid spiritual pride that can lead to a withdrawing from church life due to a feeling of superiority.

### **Evangelism.**

This gift is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the Gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ. It may develop into the office of Evangelist. The ministry of Healings is often strongly under this part of the umbrella.

On entering a new Church someone who has the gift of evangelism will look primarily for what the Church is doing to reach out to pre-believers and they will look for the demonstration of the Lord's healing power present in the ministry of the Church.

Practical examples of this are evangelistic visitation, more than regular sharing of your faith, becoming a travelling evangelist, child evangelism, running evangelistic meetings (healing crusades, film shows etc.), inner-city evangelism, reaching out to the homeless or special needs groups in the society and school campus outreach.

A major weakness of one having this gifting is a tendency to perform incomplete discipleship. They can thrive on being in the spotlight and the excitement of seeing people being set free and being born again that they lose sight of the need to plug the new believers into a discipleship program where they will grow and mature in the Lord.

### **Shepherding.**

This is the special ability to shepherd (or pastor) a group of believers, assuming a long-term personal responsibility for their spiritual welfare. This gift may develop into the office of Pastor. The gifts of Administrations, Hospitality and Mercy come particularly under this part of the umbrella.

On entering a new Church someone who has the gift of shepherding will look primarily for what the Church is doing to care for the people. They will look into the welcome and hospitality the Church extends to newcomers and the counseling and emotional support given to members.

Practical examples of this gift are becoming a cell group leader, mentoring and counseling others, shepherding kids, youth, singles or families and hospital visitation.

One weakness of this gifting is the temptation to form a "*holy huddle*". They need to constantly look outwards, being connected to the apostolic vision of expanding His Kingdom.

### **Teaching.**

This is the special ability God gives certain member of the Body of Christ to communicate Biblical information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn and grow spiritually. This may

develop into the office of Teacher. The gift of Writing comes under this part of the umbrella.

On entering a new Church someone who has the gift of teaching will look primarily for what is taught from the Bible in the Church. Is it Biblical? Is it sound? Is it deep enough or too shallow? They may want to see the Bible teaching curriculum and will be interested to see that the Church's beliefs are doctrinally sound.

Some practical examples of this gifting are becoming a Bible teacher in Christian growth classes, cell groups, kids, and youth or singles ministry.

One weakness of this gifting is the tendency to glorify learning itself so it becomes learning without action. They can also become so critical that it hinders growth. They must always ask the question, *"Is this Biblical teaching being outworked firstly in my life and then in the life of the Church?"*

## Do You Get The Picture?

### Time to reflect:

- Which of the five Ministerial gifts do you identify most with? Why?
- When you enter a new Church what do you primarily look for?
  1. Good missions program and pioneering programs.
  2. Anointed atmosphere and words.
  3. Preaching of the Good News and local outreach.
  4. Good welcome, hospitality and care of people.
  5. Solid Bible teaching with sound doctrinal beliefs.
- According to your answers, your primary Ministerial affinity is:
  1. Apostleship
  2. Prophecy
  3. Evangelism
  4. Shepherding
  5. Teaching
- How does knowing this affect what ministry you should be involved with in Christ's body? Are you doing anything that's in line with this? What can you do to move more in this Ministerial affinity?
- Pray for wisdom in moving in this gift.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## The Artist's Tools

*"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" Romans 12:6-8*



*The House of God bursting forth with different gifts.*

Once upon a time there was a famous house builder and painter. After designing the homes, he would then build and paint them. As a painter, he was such an amazing artist that he didn't even need a dust sheet. He had a steady hand, and he was finicky about using good brushes and quality paint, so there were no drips, just tight trim lines.

This craftsman always designed, built and painted the homes all by himself—with his own hands. But then one day he had remarkable idea. As he was standing by one of his houses, he saw a bunch of kids walking home from the local elementary school. They were minding their own business, laughing and carrying their backpacks, until he shouted, "Hey, kids." When they looked up, startled and awestruck (because everyone in town knew about his amazing skills), he asked them a surprising question: "How would you like to do some painting?"

"What do you mean?"

"I'll tell you what," he said, "I'll give each of you a bucket of paint and a brush, and you can paint my new house. Do you want to give it a try?"

"For real?" they squealed with delight.  
The painter nodded as he said, "Yep, for real."  
"Cool!" the kids said.

He opened up the back of his truck and pulled out a load of brushes and paint cans and then pried open the paint cans. They started splashing paint on his garage door. They got paint on the sidewalk, too, and some on each other. But they also got a lot of paint on the house—all different colours, especially on the parts of the house that were under four feet high.

As other kids came by on the sidewalk, they asked, "Can we do that, too?" And they joined in. In about an hour most of the first floor was now covered with paint.

The house painter's neighbours came over after dinner and took it all in. "What is going on?" they asked. Another blurted out, "Look, I've got to be honest, your house looks like a hurricane ripped through it. What were you thinking?"

"Well," the house painter said, "of course I could have painted this house all by myself, but I've always built and painted houses in order to bring joy to others. So based on that goal, this is the most beautiful house I've ever made. Then dozens of their friends will want to come to this house. They'll bring their friends to show what they've painted. And each one will say, 'This is the home of the master painter and builder, but it's also our house.'"<sup>48</sup>

In the same way, when God the Father, the master creator and painter of the universe, saves us and pours out his Holy Spirit on us, he hands every single one of us a can of paint and a brush, and he says, "Go to work. Use your gifts and let's paint a beautiful house for the world."

The Church is His house and He is building it but calls us and equips us, inexperienced and clumsy children as we are, by His grace and mercy, to paint the house and call people into it.

The gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8 are examples of Motivational gifts given to all believers. These are the different paint brushes the Master Artist distributes to us and, just as different paint brushes leave different strokes on the canvas, so these gifts have differing characteristics. They are the Artist's tools to get the job done. For example, an Artist wearing the shepherding uniform may particularly use the brush of Mercy, and one wearing the prophetic uniform will use a brush of Prophecy. One wearing the apostolic uniform may pick up the brush of Giving and one wearing the teaching uniform will use one of the many brushes of teaching.

Following is a short story with various characters I have made up that demonstrates the practical use of the Motivational gifts we see in Romans 12:6-8 (also called the Engaging gifts as they help us engage in God's Kingdom Work). I have illustrated this story with a simple picture.

Joe is getting food for everyone when he trips and falls. His friends immediately come to help him, but all do so in very different ways. Look at the picture below and see the different ways each friend responds.

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<sup>48</sup> Story from Kevin Miller; Wheaton, Illinois



The responses reveals the particular Motivational gift that person has been given, as seen in Romans 12:6-8. These are not an exhaustive list of the Motivational gifts, but, as they are together, I shall start by looking at them. Later I will look at other scriptures that seem to reveal other Motivational gifts.

I define the Motivational gifts as God-given motivations and corresponding abilities that are given from the time that we are born again. Each of us will not be given all of them, but a small selection that will help us accomplish God's assignment for us. They are strong God-given motivations we will find stirring within us to do various activities, coupled with God-given abilities to accomplish what we are motivated to do by God's grace.

These gifts can also be called the Engaging gifts as they help you engage in the ministry God is granting you and the Ministerial gifts are equipping you for.

I will now look at each response and look at each person's Motivational gift, giving a description of that gift and different ways it can be used in the Church, Christian community and in the world.

### **Pa (Prophecy)**

Pa speaks to Joe saying that he believes God is saying that he must be careful of bumps on the ground and must watch out from now on, but, as he does, God will protect him and reveal when bumps need to be avoided. He is moving in the motivational gift of Prophecy.

As we have already seen, Prophecy is the special ability that God gives to proclaim the Word of God with divine unction, bringing conviction to the hearers.

This may develop into the office of Prophet. The Greek word is *'propheteia'* which means *'the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God'*<sup>49</sup>. Interestingly, *'prophecy'* is given as both a Motivational and Manifestation gift. This means that anyone can prophecy (as a Manifestation gift) but not all will move in a ministry of prophecy, and not all who have the ministry of prophecy are Prophets!

The Motivational ministry of prophecy may be seen as a person who regularly prophecies in the Church service and also to individuals and groups outside the main service. In my Church there are several ladies who regularly prophecy in the main service plus our Tuesday prayer meeting and in other smaller settings. These are not Prophets in that they are not in church leadership as the office of a Prophet, but they have a prophetic ministry. The ministry of prophecy will usually not contain foretelling or words of rebuke (usually the Prophet speaks these) but forth-telling of words that build up, encourage and comfort:

*"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."*  
1 Corinthians 14:3

According to Romans 12:6; those who prophesy must do it *"in proportion"* to their faith. The Greek word used for *"proportion"* here is *"analogia"* which means, *"the right relation, the coincidence or agreement existing or demanded according to the standard of the several relations, not agreement as equality"*<sup>50</sup>. As vines says, *"this is a warning against going beyond what God has given and what faith receives."*<sup>51</sup> Each person with this Motivational gift will have a different proportion of faith and must learn to move within that level of faith, not beyond it. It could also refer to the *"analogy of faith"*, meaning that the word given must be sound in interpretation of Scripture, not contradicting it or going beyond its authority.

Personally, I have a ministry of prophecy in that I lead worship (a subset of the gift of prophecy) and will often go into prophetic songs or words for groups or individuals. Especially when I am ministering in other churches or overseas on mission trips, I will go into times of prophesying over individuals, often in song, after the preaching or teaching of God's Word. Later in this chapter I will look more at these and related prophetic ministries.

Intercessors also move in the ministry of prophecy in that they pray prophetic prayers over individuals or groups. I will also look at the gift of Intercessor later in this chapter.

## **Sal (Serving)**

Sal immediately gets a rubbish bin and starts to clean up the mess. She does so in a joyful and loving manner. She is moving in the motivational gift of serving.

The Greek word used here is *'diakonia'*, which means *"servant"*, *"waiting-man"*, *"minister"*, or *"messenger"*<sup>52</sup>.

This is the title (rendered *'deacon'* in English) given in the early church of the seven who were chosen to serve the widows in the church, taking over from the

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<sup>49</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G4394

<sup>50</sup> Cremer Lexicon of NT Greek. G356.

<sup>51</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G356

<sup>52</sup> Liddell, Henry George; Scott, Robert (1889). An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon. Oxford: Clarendon Press. ISBN 0-19-910206-6. Retrieved 2007-10-18.

Apostles (Acts 6:1-7). As we have seen, it is also the word used to describe the Ministerial gifts – the offices that equip all the ministries. This is probably a deliberate use of this word to remind the leading gifts that they are to be servant leaders.

The gift of service is the special God-given ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God’s work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired result. It serves others in practical ways and can come under any of the segments in the Umbrella diagram, serving all the main ministries. Dr. Charles Stanley says that someone with the gift of Service:

1. Sees and meets practical needs.
2. Frees others to achieve.
3. Has a disregard for weariness.
4. Has difficulty saying “no.”
5. Is alert to likes and dislikes.
6. Has a strong desire to be with others.
7. Has a need for approval and appreciation.
8. Likes short-range projects.
9. Meets needs quickly.
10. Has the tendency to feel inadequate and unqualified for spiritual leadership.<sup>53</sup>

Practically, this means serving His body using your skills such as cleaning, building, gardening, painting and so forth. In our church we have a faithful brother who joyfully serves by helping maintain our building and a faithful sister who keeps the church clean and tidy with a right spirit – they have the gift of Serving.

### **Tim (Teaching)**

Tim opens his Bible and starts teaching on the need for balance and that, if Joe had balanced his plates equally, he would not have tripped. He is moving in the motivational gift of teaching.

The Greek word ‘*didasko*’ is used for this gift. It simply means ‘to give instruction’<sup>54</sup> and is always used in the Bible of giving instruction from Scripture. In Romans 12:7 the Greek literally says that he who gives instruction must instruct in the doctrine (‘*didaskalia*’) that is from the whole counsel of the Word of God. Note that the one with the gift of teaching is not to speak forth motivational messages with some Bible passages thrown in, but to teach proper doctrine, bringing out the truth from God’s Word, not reading things into it.

As we have seen, teaching is the special God-given ability to communicate Biblical doctrine relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way (verbally or written) that others will learn and grow spiritually. This may develop into the office of Teacher. Dr. Charles Stanley says that one with this gift:

1. Has a strong desire to present truth systematically.
2. Requires thoroughness.
3. Needs to validate information.

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<sup>53</sup> Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, by Dr. Charles Stanley.

<sup>54</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G1321

4. Checks other teachers to make sure they are teaching truth.
5. Has great delight in researching.
6. Has a tendency to avoid illustrations from non-biblical sources.
7. Needs to clarify misunderstandings.<sup>55</sup>

I have already covered practical examples of this gift and given my own testimony of how the Lord has given me this gift.

### **Ed (Exhortation)**

Ed encourages Joe, exhorting him by telling him the same thing happened to him some time ago and he need not feel so foolish but can get up again and move onwards, learning from this incident. He is moving in the motivational gift of exhortation.

The Greek word used in Romans 12:8 for this gift is *'parakaleo'*, meaning *'to call to one's side'*<sup>56</sup> It is exactly the same word that Jesus uses to describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*  
John 14:26

The word interpreted *'helper'* here is *'parakletos'* in Greek, coming from *'parakaleo'*. This word was used in a court of justice to denote a legal assistant, counsel for the defense, an advocate and generally as one who pleads another's cause; an intercessor.<sup>57</sup>

Exhortation is the special ability to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel to other members of the body in such a way so they feel strongly motivated to move on. It can often be a subset of the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:3; Acts 15:32) and can be a powerful ministry in itself. However, first and foremost it is a key quality of the Evangelism motivation, the recruiter. Before anything else, the role of the Holy Spirit is to exhort (strongly encourage) people to come to God, and that is the Evangelist part of the umbrella.

Dr. Charles Stanley says that someone with this gift is characterized by:

1. Wisdom - to understand the Word of God and how it applies to you.
2. Discernment - to be able to *"slice open mentally and see the truth for what it is."*
3. Faith - to believe God can take you from where you are to where He desires you to be.
4. Discretion - to keep what he knows about you in confidence.
5. Love - to desire the best in your life. Offers God's truth without judgment or condemnation.
6. Creativity - to recognize that you are a unique individual and God's Word must be applied to your life creatively.
7. Enthusiasm - to be able to inspire you to desire more in your Christian walk.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>55</sup> Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, by Dr. Charles Stanley.

<sup>56</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G3870

<sup>57</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G3875

<sup>58</sup> Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, by Dr. Charles Stanley.

In Scripture we see that Barnabas is an example of this. When others in the Church rejected Paul, Barnabas believed in him and exhorted him to connect with the Jerusalem (Acts 9:27) and Antioch (Acts 11:27) churches and launch into his destiny as an Apostle to the Gentiles.

When I first came to Singapore and was studying at Bible School I had assignments in local churches where I would teach and sometimes preach. I was initially unknown and felt quite lonely and inadequate. There were times I considered giving it all up. One brother, Job, who was a worker in a church I was ministering in regularly, came alongside me to encourage me and spur me on to greater things. He even saved up for months just to treat me and my parents (when they came over to see me) to high tea in an expensive revolving restaurant in Singapore. He was not rich and was suffering with gout and later kidney problems, but had such a strong gift of Exhortation and helped me through that time, believing in me, and helping me launch forward into God's destiny. He was my Barnabas.

In practical ways this gift will show itself in encouraging the pastor and key leaders, affirming strengths and gifts of others, counseling and challenging the indifferent to go on to great things.

### **Gill (Giving)**

As soon as Gill sees what has happened she goes over to the hawker stall to buy Joe another bowl of food. She is moving in the motivational gift of giving.

In Romans 12:8 it says that the person with this gift is to give *'with liberality'* which is the Greek word *'haplotēs'* meaning *'simplicity'*<sup>59</sup>, carrying the sense that from the sincerity of mind springs liberality and bountifulness.

Giving is the special God-given ability to contribute of one's material resources to the work of the Lord with sincerity, liberality and cheerfulness. It is particularly an apostolic gifting that sows into World Mission and pioneer projects. Dr. Charles Stanley says that a person with this gift is:

1. Thrifty - they will spend their money wisely, not wasting money that could otherwise be used for ministry purposes.
2. Resourceful - they will find a way to see a need met.
3. Contented - they will be content with what they have.
4. Punctual - they recognize that it is better to meet a need quickly than to allow a need to grow into an even greater need that requires more resources.
5. Tolerant - they can often *"give and take"* in areas where others sometimes find it difficult to be flexible.
6. Cautious - They often research carefully their investments.
7. Thankful - They appreciate what they have and are grateful when they are used by God to meet a need.<sup>60</sup>

There was one brother in my Church who came to me in 2006 at a time where I had just completed my first book in Microsoft Word format. I had not told anyone in the church but was praying for someone to sponsor the printing of the book. This brother came to me and said he had a dream and in it he was sponsoring me to launch a book. In the dream he saw me sitting by a table signing my book at the

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<sup>59</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G572

<sup>60</sup> Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, by Dr. Charles Stanley.

book launch! When I explained that I had a book all ready for printing he immediately arranged a Christian publisher to print the book and sponsored me a considerable sum to print the book. He is an example of one with the gift of giving.

Some practical examples of this gift are becoming group treasurer, helping to fund raise, sponsoring special cases and providing resources for His body, especially in missions and pioneer projects.

### **Lou (Leading)**

Lou starts to direct everyone according to their gifting and leads them in what to do. He is moving in the motivational gift of leading.

In Romans 12:8 the Greek word *'proistemi'* is used for this gift, meaning *'to preside over, to rule'*. They are to lead with all *'diligence'*, which is the Greek word *'spoude'*, meaning *'earnest care, carefulness'*<sup>61</sup>.

Leading is the special God-given ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for God's glory.

Dr. Charles Stanley says that a person with this gift will have:

1. Orderliness - every aspect of life is subject to order.
2. Initiative - no delay in taking action.
3. Responsibility - willing to take responsibility for all aspects of a project or group endeavor.
4. Humility - recognition that others must be part of the team if the job is to be done quickly and effectively; neither domineering nor dictatorial.
5. Decisiveness - able to make a decision quickly even in the face of criticism.
6. Determination - knowing the goal is worthy of the price that must be paid for the job to get done.
7. Loyalty - to God and to others in authority, as well as loyal to those who are following his leadership.<sup>62</sup>

As I have mentioned I believe this gift relates, at the highest level, to the Ministerial office gifts of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. Corporately they are the Elders of a Church and lead or rule in accordance with their gifting emphasis. Thus an Apostle will lead the Church into new things and new areas. The Prophet will lead the church into God's specific will and prophetic calling. The Evangelist will lead the Church to the lost. The Pastor will lead the Church into closer fellowship and healing. The Teacher will lead the church into the Word of God and true doctrine.

The style of leadership will vary dramatically according to the office gift the person has. The Teacher, for example, has strong leadership in the realm of teaching, leading the people through the Word of God with authority. However, they may be a weak leader when it comes to pastoral leadership if they don't have this gift – I speak out of experience as I have a strong teaching gift, and lead with authority whilst teaching, but lack in the area of shepherding. Of course I can still pick up the skills necessary to lead in a pastoral role but this is not my main

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<sup>61</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G4710

<sup>62</sup> Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, by Dr. Charles Stanley.

Motivational gift. When my prophetic gifting is stirred up I can lead boldly and confidently in worship and prayer meetings and in prophesying over others, but you ask me to lead a team in evangelism and I will not have a clue.

Examples of this gift in action at lower levels are becoming the central figure in an informal group, being the catalyst in an ongoing or crisis situation because of specific knowledge or skills, being an influential member of a committee, task force or pilot project or becoming a planning facilitator or demonstrator for a specific ministry.

### **Mo (Mercy)**

Mo just puts an arm around Joe and empathizes with him in his suffering. He is moving in the Motivational gift of Mercy.

The Greek word used for this gift is *'eleeo'* which means *'to have mercy, to show kindness and have compassion'*.<sup>63</sup> According to Romans 12:8 those with this gift are to exercise it with *'cheerfulness'*, which is the Greek word *'hilarotes'* where we get the word *'hilarious'* from. They are not to get dragged down with the sorrows of the people they minister to, but, with an inner joy, they are to lift the other up.

The gift of Mercy is the special God-given ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for others who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully-done deeds which reflect Christ's love. This is particularly a subset of the gift of shepherding.

My wife, Shendy, has this gift and can spend hours listening to, counseling and praying for those in distress. She shows a deep empathy that I just do not have.

Dr. Charles Stanley says that a person with this gift is:

1. Attentive - watchful over those who are in need, or have sorrow or trouble of any kind.
2. Sensitive - aware of the needs in others, even without them saying anything.
3. Fair - desiring impartiality and fairness.
4. Compassionate - feeling the hurts of others as if they were their own.
5. Gentle - soft-spoken, tender, and caring.
6. Yielding - willing to give way to the desires and wishes of others so that harmony and peace might prevail in a person's heart.
7. Sacrificial - willing to suffer if it will help another person.<sup>64</sup>

This gift can be seen practically in those who visit shut-ins, the sick or prisoners, hospital visitation ministry, give nursing care, work with drug addicts or the mentally ill.

### **Under the Umbrella**

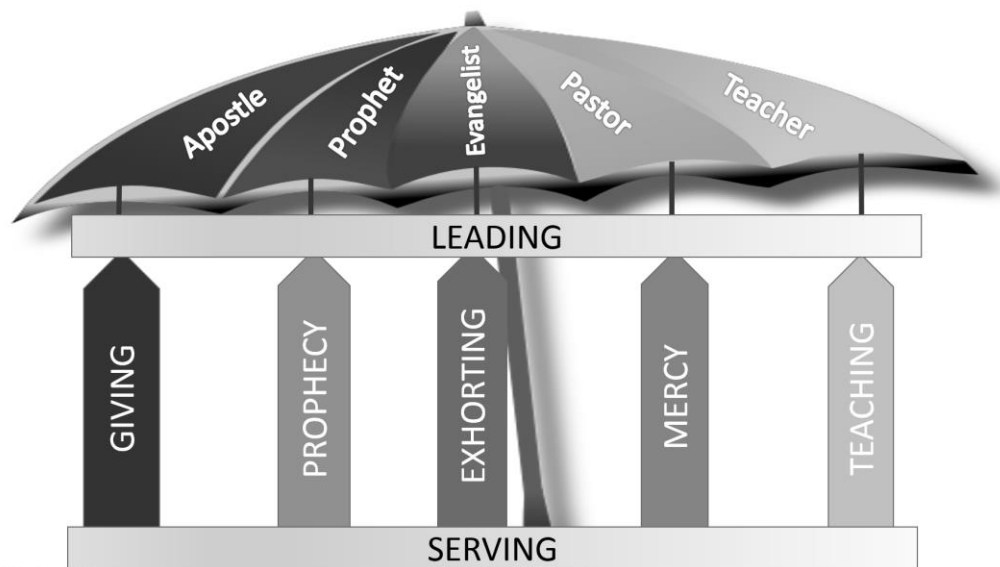
The following picture shows how these seven gifts fit under the umbrella of the Ministry gifts. I have already explained why I have placed the gift of Leading where I have, first under the canopy of the umbrella encompassing all the sections. The gift of Leading can develop into any one of the Fivefold Ministry gifts that are leadership offices in the church. In the above story Lou was moving in the

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<sup>63</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, G1653

<sup>64</sup> Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, by Dr. Charles Stanley.

leadership gifting of a Shepherd as the situation was a pastoral one, where someone was hurt and needed to be attended to.



Giving is placed under the Apostleship section of the Umbrella as the main focus of this gift is to provide Kingdom resources, especially for new areas that will expand His Kingdom.

Prophecy is obviously placed under the office of Prophet and, as we shall see, is a blanket term that covers many forms of prophecy.

I put the gift of Exhorting under the Evangelist as the Exhorter first and foremost is a recruiter who helps initiate people into the Body of Christ. It can come under any of the other offices but is primarily the role of the Evangelist.

The gift of Mercy obviously comes under the Pastoral segment of the umbrella as the Pastoral motivation is to care for and have mercy on the flock.

Of course Teaching will come under the umbrella segment of the Teacher.

Last but not least comes the gift of Serving which encompasses all the umbrella sections.

### Other Motivational Gifts

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 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 Corinthians 12:27-28

In this list the first three are Ministerial gifts (apostles, prophets and teachers), and the rest seem to be types of Motivational gifts as they are gifts that are ‘appointed’. The Greek word used is ‘*histemi*’ which means ‘to make to stand’ or ‘set in place’. This is different to the Manifestation gifts that are not appointed ministries but powerful manifestations of the Spirit given to all. I will now go through the ones we have not looked at, explaining briefly what each one is all about.

## **Miracles.**

This is the special God-given ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it please God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature. Miracles differ from healings in that they defy the laws of nature, physics and rational thinking. The Greek word used for '*miracles*' is '*dunamis*', where the word '*dynamite*' comes from. It is a powerful, dynamic demonstration of God's miraculous working and is often translated as '*mighty works*' or '*power*' in the New Testament.

It must be noted that there is mention of Motivational gifts of miracles and a Manifestation gift of miracles. The former is a ministry of miracles given to only a few and the latter is a gift available to all after Spirit baptism, but not operating as frequently as those with the Motivational gift.

This gift often couples with the gift of Apostle as they have miraculous signs and wonders following them:

*"A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders." Acts 2:43 (NLT)*

It is also seen in the ministry of the Evangelist to a lesser degree, often in the form of creative miracles such as limbs growing back to normal lengths (there are many such accounts of this in the ministry of a friend of mine who does street evangelism here in Singapore).

Notice that the plural is used here as there are many different types of miracles. We see this in the recorded miracles of Jesus and the early Apostles and disciples.

In Jesus' ministry examples of miracles are multiplying the bread and fish (Matthew 14:13-21), walking on water (Matthew 14:26), the Temple tax in the fish's mouth (Matthew 17:24-27), withering the fig tree (Matthew 21:18-22), calming of the storm (Matthew 8:23-27), raising Jairus' daughter to life (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43), the miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11), raising a Widow's Son in Nain (Luke 7:11-17), turning water to wine (John 2:1-11) and raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45). Some of His healings may also be classified as miracles as they could well have created new matter such as the healing of the withered hand (Matthew 12:9-14) and the servant's severed ear (Luke 22:50-51).

In the early church one of the first miracles we see is located in the book of Acts chapter 8. Philip, who had been chosen to wait on tables, was out evangelizing. He was having many signs and wonders done at his hands. God tells him through an angelic visitation to go and meet an Ethiopian and share with him the gospel. Philip does so and the Ethiopian man accepts Christ. Philip is baptizing this man and, as He comes up out of the water, he disappears and then reappears in the town of Azotus. Gene Roddenberry was not the one to first think of teleportation. God did! Beam me up Lord!

Later we see Peter raises Tabitha, or Dorcas, to life (Acts 9:36-14) and the next instance of raising the dead is when Paul in Acts chapter 20 got a little long winded and preached until midnight and a boy called Eutychus fell asleep in a window and fell out of it three stories to the ground. He died instantly. However, Paul threw himself on the boy, wrapped his arms around him, and proclaimed He is alive. The boy came back to life. Once again that supersedes the laws of nature and physics. It was not healing, it was resurrection.

Miracles of divine deliverance are seen in Peter being released from prison by an angel (Acts 12:7-17) and Paul and Silas's prison doors opened by an earthquake (Acts 16:25-26). Paul experienced a miracle of divine protection as he shook off the poisonous viper (Acts 28:3-6).

There were also miracles of judgment such as the striking dead of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10), and Elymas, the sorcerer, smitten with blindness (Acts 13:6-11).

From the above examples we can say there are seven basic types of miracles that are especially seen in the apostolic and evangelistic ministries:

1. *Creative provision miracles*
  - Something from nothing in non-living matter such as Jesus turning water to wine and multiplying the bread and fish.
2. *Creative healing Miracles*
  - Something from nothing in living matter such as Jesus healing the man with the withered hand and the servant with the chopped off ear.
3. *Resurrection*
  - Bringing the dead back to life such as Jesus raising Jairus' daughter and Lazarus, Peter raising Tabitha and Paul raising Eutychus.
4. *Miracles of movement*
  - Teleportation or moving in impossible ways such as Philip's miraculous transport and Jesus walking on the water.
5. *Miracles of deliverance*
  - Such as Peter and Silas being miraculously released from prison.
6. *Miracles of protection*
  - Such as Paul being protected from a poisonous viper.
7. *Miracles of judgement*
  - Such as Ananias and Sapphirra and Elymas the sorcerer.

People gifted with this ministry show forth miracles from God not for performance sake but to bring people into the Kingdom of God. One outstanding example of one who moved in this gift is Kathryn Kuhlman. *The 'God's Generals'*<sup>65</sup> website writes about Kathryn Kuhlman:

*"The crowds at the Tabernacle grew. Auditoriums would fill to capacity hours before she was to speak, and thousands were turned away. Countless miracles took place, most without any touch or prayer by Kathryn. She would simply walk the stage and call out healings as they took place where people sat. Sections of those in wheelchairs would walk. In one service, a five-year-old boy who had been crippled from birth walked onto the stage. In another in Philadelphia she laid hands on a man who had received a pacemaker eight months earlier, and the scar from the operation disappeared. Later x-rays confirmed that the pacemaker had as well! Great healing services continued and her ministry expanded to the neighbouring towns. In 1950, a worldwide ministry began to develop and Kathryn's messages were heard all over the United States via radio and her television broadcast, I Believe in Miracles. She grew so popular that she made appearances on The Johnny Carson Show and The Dinah Shore Show among several others. For the*

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<sup>65</sup> [http://www.godsgenerals.com/person\\_k\\_kuhlman.htm](http://www.godsgenerals.com/person_k_kuhlman.htm)

*last ten years of her life, she held monthly services at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, where she ministered to countless thousands.”*

### **Gifts of Healings.**

This is the special God-given ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to restore health. The Greek word for ‘healing’ here is ‘*iama*’<sup>66</sup> which simply means a ‘cure’ or ‘a means of healing’. There are at least three types of healing ministries (that’s why there is a double plural here –Gifts of Healings). Restoration of health could be in body (physical healing), soul (emotional, inner-healing) or spirit (deliverance from demonic spirits).

These gifts are particularly linked to the evangelistic (physical healing and deliverance) and shepherding (inner-healing and counselling) ministries but are also needed for the apostolic ministry.

Look at the list of healings we find mentioned in the New Testament (these are purely physical healing and deliverance from demonic spirits used in the apostolic and evangelistic ministries – there’s no specific mention of inner healing and counselling but it definitely occurred in the shepherding ministries of Jesus and the early church):

#### ***The healings of Jesus:***

- Jesus Heals an Official's Son (John 4:43-54).
- Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit (Mark 1:21-27).
- Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law (Matthew 8:14-15).
- Jesus Heals Many Sick at Evening (Matthew 8:16-17).
- Jesus Cleanses a Man With Leprosy (Matthew 8:1-4).
- Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13).
- Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8).
- Jesus Raises a Widow's Son in Nain (Luke 7:11-17).
- Jesus Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs (Matthew 8:28-33).
- Jesus Heals a Woman in the Crowd (Matthew 9:20-22).
- Jesus Heals Two Blind Men (Matthew 9:27-31).
- Jesus Heals a Man Unable to Speak (Matthew 9:32-34).
- Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda (John 5:1-15).
- Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret (Matthew 14:34-36).
- Jesus Heals a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter (Mark 7:24-30).
- Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man (Luke 7:31-37).
- Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida (Luke 8:22-26).
- Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-12).
- Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon (Matthew 17:14-20).
- Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac (Matthew 12:22-23).
- Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman (Luke 13:10-17).
- Jesus Heals a Man With Dropsy on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6).
- Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19).
- Jesus Restores Sight to Bartimaeus (Matthew 20:29-34).

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<sup>66</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words (G2386).

### ***The healings of the Apostles and disciples in the book of Acts:***

- Peter heals a lame man (Acts 3:1-11).
- Apostles perform many wonders (Acts 5:12-16).
- Stephen performs many wonders (Acts 6:8).
- Philip heals demoniacs, paralysed and lame (Acts 8:7).
- Peter heals Eneas of palsy (Acts 9:33-34).
- Paul heals a cripple (Acts 14:8-10).
- Paul casts out a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16-18).
- Paul heals multitudes (Acts 19:11-12).
- Paul heals the father of Publius and others (Acts 28:7-9).

There are five main kinds of sickness in the ministry of Jesus, denoted by the five Greek words used (the above list includes all these types).

1. '*Nosos*' = a terminal disease. It is a word for a terminal disease you would die from unless you receive a miracle (Matthew 4:23).
2. '*Malakia*' = a crippling, debilitating disease. This word is used of a disease that attacks your muscles and nervous system and can paralyse you. Polio and muscular dystrophy are such diseases (Matthew 4:8).
3. '*Kakos*' = an affliction caused by demonic oppression or possession. Such demonic sicknesses may include mental confusion, torment and oppression (Matthew 15:22).
4. '*Mastix*' (scourging) = a '*plague*' like the woman with an issue of blood (Mark 5:29, 34). It's the same word used for the Roman torture of scourging where the victim was tied to a post and whipped with three pieces of leather with pieces of bone, metal and glass at the ends. '*Mastix*' means to beat someone again and again to bring them to the point where they want to die. It's a sickness which strikes again and again (migraines; allergies, bleeding ulcer, epilepsy).
5. '*Arrhostos*' = someone comatose, on the verge of dying. This is the worst of them all. Jesus said: '*they shall lay hands on the sick (arrhostos) and they shall recover*' (Mark 16:18)<sup>67</sup>

Jesus healed and still heals these kinds of diseases through this gift of the Spirit.

In the above lists you can see that there are many types of healings and deliverances from demons and different believers may specialize in certain types of healing or deliverance as the Lord has granted them.

One contemporary example of this ministry in the realm of physical healing is that of Heidi and Rolland Baker who head a burgeoning Christian effort (Iris Ministries) in Mozambique. Iris is planting around a thousand churches a year in a region which has historically been resistant to Christianity. A key part of their ministry is prayer for healing. Many have travelled to Mozambique and reported back that they saw numerous healing miracles in Iris's meetings. Often this occurs in visits to villages, where people can see that individuals whom they knew to be formerly deaf or mute can now hear and speak.<sup>68</sup> Their ministry seems to

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<sup>67</sup> Adapted from Rick Renner's message on Romans 8:28.

<sup>68</sup> <http://letterstocreationists.wordpress.com/2010/10/11/study-healing-miracles-in-mozambique/>

specialize especially in healing deafness, although other healings and miracles are recorded, and is under the apostolic part of the umbrella. Indeed Heidi Baker is often called the Apostle of Love as she is a pioneer in healing by the compassion of Jesus.

Practically, one with this gifting could have a ministry of praying for the sick (especially one with the apostolic or evangelistic affinities), counselling and ministering inner healing to others (especially one with the shepherding affinity) or be involved in a ministry of casting out of demons (again, especially for one with the apostolic or evangelistic affinities).

The following chart summarises all that has been said above:

| Category of Healing | BODY<br>(Physical Healing)   | SOUL<br>(Inner Healing)  | SPIRIT<br>(Deliverance)  |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Types of Healing    | <p>Healing of Diseases<br/>(Terminal, Crippling, Demonic, Reoccurring, Comatose)</p> <p>Creative Healings<br/>(New or renewed body part) –<br/>Actually a miracle.</p> | <p>Healing of Mind</p> <p>Healing of Will</p> <p>Healing of Emotions</p> | <p>Casting out of many kinds of demons<br/>(Some sickness caused by demons).</p> |

### Helps.

The Greek word ‘*antilepsis*’ is used in 1 Corinthians 12:28 for “*helps*”. Vines describes this as “*one of the ministrations of the local church, by way of rendering assistance, perhaps especially of “help” ministered to the weak and needy.*”<sup>69</sup> This is the special God-given ability to invest your talents in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. It differs from the gift of Serving that is a service rendered to the whole Body of Christ. This gift is rendered to one individual who needs to be freed up to use their gift by this person coming in to give practical assistance.

One example of this in the Bible is Phoebe:

*“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”* Romans 16:1-2

<sup>69</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words (G484).

I do not have a car in Singapore (although I jokingly tell people I have a BMW – Bus, MRT and Walking), but there is one sister who always appears at the right time to give me and/or my family a chauffeur driven ride, helping me tremendously in the ministry. She even helps when things are broken and need mending in our house. She has the gift of helps.

This can be seen in those who help and assist a minister in practical ways, freeing them up to minister effectively. One who is an interpreter could also have this gifting.

### **Administrations.**

The Greek word used for ‘administrations’ is ‘*kubernesis*’, meaning ‘*steering or piloting*’ and metaphorically ‘*governments or governing*’<sup>70</sup>. This is the special God-given ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of these goals with good organizational skills. It differs from the gift of Leading in that this person may not lead the work but be the person piloting or steering it under the orders of a main leader. Those with a shepherding affinity particularly show forth this gift.

A person with this gift:

1. Gives attention to detail.
2. Enjoys bringing order to tasks (e.g. creating or maintaining systems for filing).
3. Is efficient in accomplishing tasks.
4. Has a good organizational skill.

This gift may be outworked through serving as an administrative assistant for any ministry, chairing a committee, planning a retreat or event, being part of a decision making team or being a resource centre coordinator.

### **Varieties of Tongues.**

Speaking in Tongues and Interpreting Tongues are Manifestation gifts that I will look at later, but here we see a Motivational gift called Varieties of Tongues. Everyone who is baptized with the Spirit can speak in Tongues but there is a special gift that is more like a ministry of Tongues, showing forth not just one but a variety of Tongues. Paul had this gift:

*“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 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

In my own life I have noticed this gift arising over the years. I do not just have one Tongue but a whole variety that serve different functions. One Tongue that sounds like Spanish manifests when I am worshipping and is a Worship Tongue. Another one sounds like an African language and is a Warfare Tongue as it manifests when I am in Spiritual Warfare. Yet another is like a mixture of Hebrew and Arabic and manifests when I am in prayer and intercession. This is a Prayer Tongue. Lastly, there’s a Tongue that manifests when I am prophesying in a group setting that sounds like no earthly language. This needs to be interpreted as a

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<sup>70</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words (G2941).

prophetic word to the people present and I will usually interpret unless somebody else does first (1 Corinthians 14:13). This can come out as a sung or spoken prophecy and is a Prophetic Tongue.

This gift is under the prophetic part of the Umbrella and used particularly by the prophetic ministries.

### **Other Motivational Gifts Mentioned Elsewhere.**

These gifts are not explicitly mentioned in the list of Motivational gifts but seem to be in the same category due to their context in other Scriptural passages.

### **Hospitality.**

*“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* 1 Peter 4:9-10

Hospitality is linked to the Motivational gifts (the Greek word ‘*doron*’ is used here, the same word used for ‘*gifts*’ in Romans 12:6). The Greek word used for ‘*hospitality*’ is ‘*philoxenos*’<sup>71</sup>, meaning ‘*fond of strangers*’ or ‘*fond of guests*’.

This is the special God-given ability to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging and comes under the shepherding part of the spiritual gifts Umbrella.

One Scriptural example of this gift is Lydia:

*“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.”* Acts 16:14-15

Lydia opened her heart and her home – a real characteristic of one with the gift of hospitality. I always joke that when God was giving out gifts to the nations he lost the gift of hospitality when He came to England, but In Asia the people tend to be tremendously hospitable. The one with this gift, however, will be even more so. I remember once when I was on a mission trip to Sabah, East Malaysia, I stayed with this couple who gave me their master bedroom and literally made me feel like a king with their first class hospitality. They had the gift of hospitality.

This gift can be practically applied by being involved in ushering or being a church greeter, opening your home for cell groups and other church or missions events, caring for adopted children or entertaining and/or housing visiting ministers or missionaries.

### **Craftsmanship.**

This is the special God-given ability to use your hands, thoughts and mind to further the Kingdom of God through artistic, creative means. People with this gift may also serve as leaders of others in forming their abilities through this area. The gift may also be used in the areas of maintenance, care and upkeep for the benefit and beautification of God’s Kingdom here on earth. It is one of the prophetic gifts.

One Scriptural example is Bazalel:

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<sup>71</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary on New Testament Words, G5382.

*“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.” Exodus 31:1-4*

Practically this gift can be seen in those helping with art layout or design, decorating for special occasions, making props or clothes for dramas, teaching a craft or using a skill such as carpentry, painting, plumbing, electricians or mechanics for His Kingdom.

### **Music.**

This is the special God-given ability to use one’s voice in the singing of praises and joy to the Lord and for the benefit of others, or to play a musical instrument to the praise of the Lord and for the benefit of others, either as part of the worship team or special musical presentations for evangelism and outreach.

Those who play instruments in the worship team are actually to prophesy on their instruments, not merely perform, as this gift is particularly linked to prophecy:

*“Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals.” 1 Chronicles 25:1*

When I play guitar as I lead worship in small groups I am conscious that every pluck of the string or every strum of every chord is an act of devotion to the Lord and can communicate a prophetic atmosphere. As I lead worship I am moving with a prophetic anointing, singing forth the very God-breathed revelation of the Lord. Every breath of song that I make is holy unto the Lord and a gift from God.

Practically, moving in this gift under the prophetic part of the umbrella could mean being a worship leader or a part of the worship team as a singer or musician. Moving in this gift under the evangelistic umbrella could mean singing in special events or evangelistic outreaches.

### **Intercession.**

*“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.” 1 Timothy 2:1*

This is the special God-given ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis on the behalf of others and see frequent and specific answers to prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

Anna, who prayed night and day in the temple (Luke 2:36, 37), was called a *“prophetess”* by God, yet she did not have a public ministry. She ministered to the Lord in the secret place of intercession. Intercession is one of the prophetic gifts and is prayer out of revelation from the Lord.

Rees Howells, a noted intercessor, writes, *“The three main characteristics of intercession not seen in prayer are identification, agony and authority. An intercessor identifies with whom they pray for as the example of Christ's identification with us. Christ's own agony is what lifts us up to a better life to have*

*an opportunity for salvation. The intercessor gains a new position of grace through the acts of prayer.*"<sup>72</sup>

Examples of this gifting are to be a part of the church or mission intercession team and leading prayer walks or weekly prayer meetings.

### **Writing.**

*"My heart is overflowing with a good theme;  
I recite my composition concerning the King;  
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer."* Psalm 45:1

This is the special God-given ability to formulate thoughts and ideas into meaningful written forms so that the reader will find courage, guidance, knowledge, or edification from the Lord through the words shared with them. It covers everything from Bible teaching materials to Christian novels.

This gift particularly comes under the teaching anointing and is something I have found myself flowing in. I am writing this Big Picture series as there is an unction within me to do so, just like the prophet Jeremiah said, *"But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not"* (Jeremiah 20:9). I have also written many other teaching series over the years and this gives me much joy and satisfaction. Many of these teachings have been made freely downloadable on the internet and I have had very positive responses from all over the world. My teachings have been blessing all kinds of people from prison inmates in Russia to little old ladies in rural America.

Examples of this gift could be writing articles for a Christian publication, writing Christian books, teaching materials or even a Christian blog.

### **Singlehood.**

*"For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am."* 1 Corinthians 7:7-8

Again, the word 'gift' here is the Greek 'doron', the same word used for the Motivational gifts. This is the special God-given ability to remain single and enjoy it and not suffer undue sexual temptations for the sake of Christ. This gift can be part of any section of the spiritual gifts umbrella and frees the person up to concentrate on their other gifts.

There was a season of time when I thought I had this gift for life. However, just when I was happy being single the Lord told me to get married! Sometimes this gift is for a season. For me it was to help me concentrate on the things of God whilst single. Both my wife and I testify that we had come to the point of enjoying our singlehood before God revealed that we were to be married.

This could mean one has the call to reach out to singles or it may simply allow the person with this gift to devote more time to other areas of gifting.

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<sup>72</sup> Rees Howells: Intercessor by Norman Grubb

**Voluntary Poverty.**

*“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:3*

This is the special God-given ability to renounce material comfort and adopt a lifestyle similar to those living at the poverty level of their society in order to effectively witness the Gospel.

Practically this could mean that one with this gift has a ministry among the poor at home or on the mission field. This ministry could come under any of the five main affinities.

**Creative Arts.**

*“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.” Exodus 15:20*

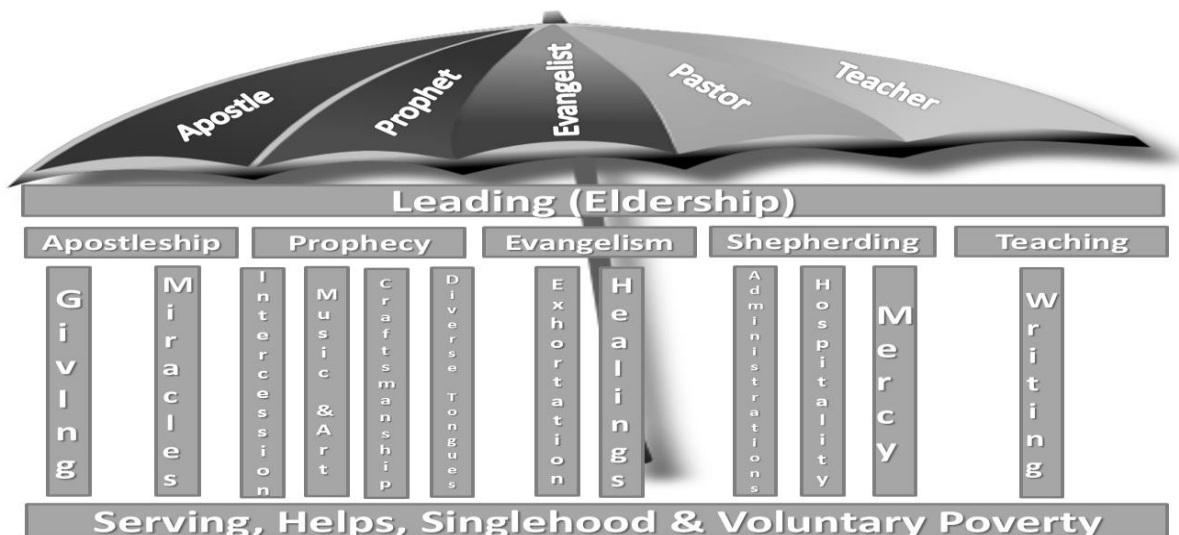
This is the special God-given ability to dance, participate in a drama or put forth a creative presentation for the Glory of God. It comes under the prophetic part of the umbrella.

In our church we have various ladies who dance prophetically, some individually and some as a group, some with tambourines, some with flags and banners and some with ribbons. There are others who are gifted in drama or mime and contribute in Easter or Christmas plays or even street dramas. I see my cartoon drawing as a creative art that prophetically portrays some important messages.

Examples of this gift are creative dance, acting, banner making or other creative presentations for His glory.

**Under the Umbrella**

Having looked at all the motivational gifts we can expand the Umbrella diagram to include them all.



Please note that this is my humble attempt to place the gifts under the umbrella and you may disagree with certain choices I make. I have generally placed the Motivational gifts under the Ministerial part of the umbrella they are most likely to

be under, but there may be particular situations where they are placed differently, such as the gift of writing. This could actually come under any of the ministerial gifts depending on what genre it is, but it is most commonly under Teacher as a subset of the teaching ministry (this book that I have written as a Teacher is a living example of that). Likewise, 'healings' is under Evangelist as a subset of evangelism. This is because physical healing is a key part of the ministry of evangelism, but Pastors are also involved in inner healing and counselling (which we will see is part of the ministry of healings).

The last thing to note from the Umbrella diagram is that the Gifts of Serving, Helps, Singlehood and Voluntary Poverty are useful across the whole umbrella.

## Spiritual Gifting Analysis

Having looked at each Motivational gift in detail it is now time for you to assess what Motivational gifts you can observe in your own life. When you are Born Again and the Spirit of God comes to live in you, you will find the Holy Spirit releasing certain of these gifts in you, but they may not be fully released or unlocked until after you are baptized with the Spirit.

The following analysis is adapted from questions designed by Peter Wagner<sup>73</sup>, Dr. Richard F. Houts<sup>74</sup> and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Trenton<sup>75</sup> plus my own refinements. This is an exercise to help give you a handle on what your spiritual gifts might be.

Instructions for using this assessment...

1. Go through Step One, the list of 125 statements on the Spiritual Gifts Analysis. For each one, say to yourself: "*This statement has been experienced in my life...*" and then check the appropriate box: "*Much*", "*Some*", "*Little*" or "*Never*".
2. When you are finished, go to Step Two and follow the directions for scoring the questionnaire. Remember that Much= 3 points, Some = 2 points, Little = 1 point and Never = 0 Points. Put each individual statement score in the brackets by the statement number and then count the total for each row, putting this number in the '*Total*' column.
3. Use the totals from Step Two to see the three dominant Motivational gifts you have and read up about them in the short review descriptions that are included. Make sure you read the Bible verses given for your three dominant gifts and pray about how you may use these gifts in the Church. Look at the suggested activities in the third column and seek the Lord as to whether you should get involved in those things

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<sup>73</sup> Wagner, C. Peter, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1979.

<sup>74</sup> Richard F Houts, *Houts inventory of spiritual gifts: a self-assessment instrument to help ascertain your ministry gift*, 1985.

<sup>75</sup> Charles E. Fuller, *Trenton Spiritual Gifts Analysis*, 1983.

## Step One: Spiritual Gifts Analysis

| This statement has been satisfactorily experienced in my life   | (3)<br>Much | (2)<br>Some | (1)<br>Little | (0)<br>Never |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. I have a desire to speak direct messages from God that edify, exhort and comfort others.   |             |             |               |              |
| 2. I have enjoyed relating to a certain group of people over a long period of time, sharing personally in their successes and failures. |             |             |               |              |
| 3. I have helped others learn Biblical truth in a meaningful way.   |             |             |               |              |
| 4. I take pleasure in drawing and/or designing various objects for God's glory.   |             |             |               |              |
| 5. I find it easy to repair and maintain things for God's glory.  |             |             |               |              |
| 6. I have verbally encouraged the wavering, troubled or discouraged.  |             |             |               |              |
| 7. I joyfully sing praises to God either alone or with other people.  |             |             |               |              |
| 8. I manage money well in order to give liberally to the Lord's work.   |             |             |               |              |
| 9. I have assisted Christian leaders to relieve them for their essential job.   |             |             |               |              |
| 10. I have a desire to work with those who have physical or mental problems, to help them in their suffering.                           |             |             |               |              |
| 11. I feel the burden of starting new fellowships of believers in areas not reached for the Gospel.                                     |             |             |               |              |
| 12. I have led others to a decision for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.  |             |             |               |              |
| 13. My home is always open to people passing by who need a place to stay.   |             |             |               |              |
| 14. I help others experience God's presence when I play a musical instrument.   |             |             |               |              |
| 15. When I speak, people seem to listen and agree.  |             |             |               |              |
| 16. When a group I am in is lacking organization, I tend to step in and fill the gap.   |             |             |               |              |
| 17. My prayers have resulted in visible miracles.   |             |             |               |              |
| 18. In the name of Jesus I have been used in curing diseases instantaneously.   |             |             |               |              |
| 19. I can formulate my thoughts and ideas into effective written form.  |             |             |               |              |
| 20. I am gifted in dance and/or acting to present God's message.  |             |             |               |              |
| 21. I could live more comfortably but I choose not to in order to live with the poor.   |             |             |               |              |
| 22. I am single and enjoy it.   |             |             |               |              |
| 23. I spend at least an hour a day in prayer.   |             |             |               |              |
| 24. I speak to evil spirits in the name of Jesus and they obey me.  |             |             |               |              |
| 25. I enjoy being called upon to do special jobs around the church.   |             |             |               |              |

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| 26. Through God I have revealed specific things, which will happen in the future.                                   |  |  |  |  |
| 27. I have enjoyed assuming the responsibility for the spiritual wellbeing of a particular group of Christians.     |  |  |  |  |
| 28. I can explain the New Testament teaching about the health and ministry of the Body of Christ in a relevant way. |  |  |  |  |
| 29. I find great joy in painting pictures or making hand crafted objects for God's glory.                           |  |  |  |  |
| 30. I work with various manual projects for the glory of God and enjoy it.  |  |  |  |  |
| 31. I can effectively motivate people to get involved in ministry when it is needed.                                |  |  |  |  |
| 32. I enjoy leading others in songs or praise and worship to God.   |  |  |  |  |
| 33. My giving records show that I give considerably more than 10% of my income to the Lord's work.                  |  |  |  |  |
| 34. I have helped others become more effective in their ministries.   |  |  |  |  |
| 35. I help others when they have material or physical needs.  |  |  |  |  |
| 36. I feel called to travel and work hard at seeing new areas reached for Jesus.                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 37. I have shared joyfully how Christ has brought me to Himself in a way that is meaningful to nonbelievers.        |  |  |  |  |
| 38. I enjoy taking charge of things like Church suppers and social events.  |  |  |  |  |
| 39. I take part in church, school or local instrumental music presentations, blessing people.                       |  |  |  |  |
| 40. Other Christians have followed my leadership because they have believed in me.                                  |  |  |  |  |
| 41. I enjoy handling the details or organizing ideas, people, resources and time for a more effective ministry.     |  |  |  |  |
| 42. God has used me personally to perform supernatural signs and wonders.   |  |  |  |  |
| 43. I pray for sick people because I know many will be healed.  |  |  |  |  |
| 44. I feel secure in the fact that the words I write will be of benefit to those who read them.                     |  |  |  |  |
| 45. I worship God through dance, drama or creative presentations.   |  |  |  |  |
| 46. Living a simple lifestyle is an exciting challenge for me.  |  |  |  |  |
| 47. I feel more indifferent about not being married than most do.   |  |  |  |  |
| 48. When I hear a prayer request I pray that need for several days at least (if God high-lights it).                |  |  |  |  |
| 49. I have actually heard a demon speaking in a loud voice.   |  |  |  |  |
| 50. I don't have any special skills, but I do what needs to be done around the Church.                              |  |  |  |  |
| 51. I have communicated timely and urgent messages, which must have come directly from God.                         |  |  |  |  |
| 52. I feel unafraid of giving spiritual guidance and direction to a group of Christians.                            |  |  |  |  |

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| 53. I can devote considerable time to learning new Biblical truths in order to communicate them to others.                 |  |  |  |  |
| 54. I experience fulfilment through gardening, landscaping and other similar projects for His glory.                       |  |  |  |  |
| 55. I find joy in household maintenance (maintaining items that can break) for God's glory.                                |  |  |  |  |
| 56. I have helped relieve and/or healed people in their afflictions and/or sufferings.                                     |  |  |  |  |
| 57. I joyfully sing familiar Gospel songs alone or with groups of fellow Christians.                                       |  |  |  |  |
| 58. When I am moved by an appeal to give into God's work, I usually can find the money I need to do it.                    |  |  |  |  |
| 59. I have enjoyed doing routine tasks that led to more effective ministry by others.                                      |  |  |  |  |
| 60. I enjoy visiting hospitals and/or retirement homes, and do fine in such ministries.                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 61. The command to preach the Gospel to all nations is strong in my life, more so than in many others.                     |  |  |  |  |
| 62. Non-Christians feel comfortable around me and I have a positive effect on them toward developing a faith in Christ.    |  |  |  |  |
| 63. When people come to our house they feel very much at home.   |  |  |  |  |
| 64. I use my instrumental music talents to bring glory to God and joy to other Christians.                                 |  |  |  |  |
| 65. When I set goals, others seem to accept them readily.  |  |  |  |  |
| 66. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.                         |  |  |  |  |
| 67. God regularly seems to do impossible things through my life.   |  |  |  |  |
| 68. God healed others of emotional problems as I ministered to them.   |  |  |  |  |
| 69. I compose and/or arrange newspapers, newsletters or other articles in an efficient and meaningful style for His glory. |  |  |  |  |
| 70. I am gifted in performing acts that glorify God and touch others.  |  |  |  |  |
| 71. I am not poor but can identify with poor people.   |  |  |  |  |
| 72. I am glad I have more time to serve the Lord because I am single.  |  |  |  |  |
| 73. Intercessory prayer is one of my favourite ways of spending time.  |  |  |  |  |
| 74. Others call on me when they suspect someone is demonized.  |  |  |  |  |
| 75. I enjoy routine tasks for God's people and find satisfaction in doing them.  |  |  |  |  |
| 76. I sometimes have a strong sense of what God wants me to say to people in response to a particular situation.           |  |  |  |  |
| 77. I have helped fellow believers by guiding them to relevant portions of the Bible and praying with them.                |  |  |  |  |
| 78. I can communicate Biblical truth to others and see resulting changes in knowledge, attitudes, values and/or conduct.   |  |  |  |  |

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| 79. I enjoy making beautiful items that benefit others for God's glory.   |  |  |  |  |
| 80. I find joy maintaining and repairing things, which others may not have been good stewards of, for God's glory.        |  |  |  |  |
| 81. I desire to effectively counsel the perplexed, guilty and/or addicted.  |  |  |  |  |
| 82. I find much joy and pleasure in the seemingly routine practice of singing choruses and other Christian songs.         |  |  |  |  |
| 83. I give to God sacrificially and consistently knowing He will provide all my needs.                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 84. When I do things behind the scenes and others are helped, I am joyful.  |  |  |  |  |
| 85. People call on me to help those who are less fortunate.   |  |  |  |  |
| 86. I would be willing to leave comfortable surroundings to pioneer a new work for God.                                   |  |  |  |  |
| 87. I get frustrated when others don't seem to share their faith with unbelievers as much as I do.                        |  |  |  |  |
| 88. I am a very hospitable person.  |  |  |  |  |
| 89. My ability to perform instrumental music has helped others grow and given me much satisfaction.                       |  |  |  |  |
| 90. When I join a group, others seem to back off and expect me to take leadership.  |  |  |  |  |
| 91. I am able to give directions to others without using persuasion to get them to accomplish a task.                     |  |  |  |  |
| 92. I have been God's instrument to bring supernatural change in lives and circumstances.                                 |  |  |  |  |
| 93. I have prayed for others and physical healing has actually occurred.  |  |  |  |  |
| 94. I find much pleasure in composing and writing paragraphs and stories for the edification of others.                   |  |  |  |  |
| 95. There is an anointing when I put forth a creative presentation.   |  |  |  |  |
| 96. I have sacrificed much and/or am willing to sacrifice much materially in order to minister.                           |  |  |  |  |
| 97. I am single and have little difficulty controlling my sexual desires.   |  |  |  |  |
| 98. My prayers for others are answered in tangible ways.  |  |  |  |  |
| 99. Others have been instantly delivered from demonic oppression when I have prayed.                                      |  |  |  |  |
| 100. I prefer being active in doing something rather than just sitting around talking, reading or listening to a speaker. |  |  |  |  |
| 101. I feel that I know exactly what God wants to do in ministry at a particular time.                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 102. I have helped others to be restored to the Christian community.  |  |  |  |  |
| 103. Studying the Bible and sharing my insights with others is very satisfying for me.                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 104. I derive much joy and satisfaction when I creatively work with my hands.   |  |  |  |  |
| 105. My knowledge of building and repairing objects gives me much satisfaction when it benefits others.                   |  |  |  |  |

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| 106. I have urged others to seek a Biblical solution to their affliction and suffering.  |  |  |  |  |
| 107. My singing has been a spiritual encouragement to others and myself.   |  |  |  |  |
| 108. I have been willing to maintain a lower standard of living in order to benefit God's work.  |  |  |  |  |
| 109. When I serve the Lord, I really don't care who gets the credit.   |  |  |  |  |
| 110. I enjoy offering cheerful conversation to a lonely, shut-in person or someone in prison.  |  |  |  |  |
| 111. I have a strong burden to lead people out of comfort into the exciting adventures of stepping out with God (especially in Missions) |  |  |  |  |
| 112. I am attracted to nonbelievers because of my desire to win them for Christ.   |  |  |  |  |
| 113. I have desired to make my home available to those in the Lord's service whenever needed.  |  |  |  |  |
| 114. I find pleasure in playing a musical instrument to worship God alone or with a group of people.                                     |  |  |  |  |
| 115. When I am in charge things seem to run smoothly.  |  |  |  |  |
| 116. I enjoy bearing the responsibility for the success of a particular task within my Church / Christian group.                         |  |  |  |  |
| 117. In the name of the Lord, I have been personally used to see the blind recover sight.  |  |  |  |  |
| 118. When I pray for the sick, either they or I feel sensations of tingling or warmth.   |  |  |  |  |
| 119. I know my literary skill will aid other people and that they will be built up and informed because of it.                           |  |  |  |  |
| 120. I often long to express my Christian faith in dance, drama or some form of creative presentation.                                   |  |  |  |  |
| 121. Poor people accept me because I choose to live on their level.  |  |  |  |  |
| 122. I really identify with Paul's desire for others to be single.   |  |  |  |  |
| 123. When I pray, God frequently speaks to me, and I recognize His voice.  |  |  |  |  |
| 124. I cast out Demons in Jesus' name.   |  |  |  |  |
| 125. I respond cheerfully when asked to do a job, even if it is very menial.   |  |  |  |  |

## Step Two: Scoring the Questionnaire

In the grid below, enter the numerical value of each of your responses in the bracket next to the number of the corresponding statement from Step One. Then add up the five numbers that you have recorded in each row and place the result in the 'total' column.

| Question Number (Put value in brackets)    | Total | Gift             |
|--|-------|------------------|
| 1 ( ) + 26 ( ) + 51 ( ) + 76 ( ) + 101 ( ) |       | Prophecy (1b)    |
| 2 ( ) + 27 ( ) + 52 ( ) + 77 ( ) + 102 ( ) |       | Shepherding (1d) |
| 3 ( ) + 28 ( ) + 53 ( ) + 78 ( ) + 103 ( ) |       | Teaching (1e)    |

|  |  |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 4 ( ) + 29 ( ) + 54 ( ) + 79 ( ) + 104 ( )   |  | Craftsmanship (Artistic) (3b) |
| 5 ( ) + 30 ( ) + 55 ( ) + 80 ( ) + 105 ( )   |  | Craftsmanship (Manual) (3b)   |
| 6 ( ) + 31 ( ) + 56 ( ) + 81 ( ) + 106 ( )   |  | Exhortation (2b)              |
| 7 ( ) + 32 ( ) + 57 ( ) + 82 ( ) + 107 ( )   |  | Music (Vocal) (3c)            |
| 8 ( ) + 33 ( ) + 58 ( ) + 83 ( ) + 108 ( )   |  | Contributing (Giving) (2c)    |
| 9 ( ) + 34 ( ) + 59 ( ) + 84 ( ) + 109 ( )   |  | Helps (2g)                    |
| 10 ( ) + 35 ( ) + 60 ( ) + 85 ( ) + 110 ( )  |  | Mercy (2f)                    |
| 11 ( ) + 36 ( ) + 61 ( ) + 86 ( ) + 111 ( )  |  | Apostleship (1a)              |
| 12 ( ) + 37 ( ) + 62 ( ) + 87 ( ) + 112 ( )  |  | Evangelism (1c)               |
| 13 ( ) + 38 ( ) + 63 ( ) + 88 ( ) + 113 ( )  |  | Hospitality (3a)              |
| 14 ( ) + 39 ( ) + 64 ( ) + 89 ( ) + 114 ( )  |  | Music (3c) (Instrumental)     |
| 15 ( ) + 40 ( ) + 65 ( ) + 90 ( ) + 115 ( )  |  | Leadership (2d)               |
| 16 ( ) + 41 ( ) + 66 ( ) + 91 ( ) + 116 ( )  |  | Administration (2e)           |
| 17 ( ) + 42 ( ) + 67 ( ) + 92 ( ) + 117 ( )  |  | Miracles (2i)                 |
| 18 ( ) + 43 ( ) + 68 ( ) + 93 ( ) + 118 ( )  |  | Healings (2h)                 |
| 19 ( ) + 44 ( ) + 69 ( ) + 94 ( ) + 119 ( )  |  | Writing (3f)                  |
| 20 ( ) + 45 ( ) + 70 ( ) + 95 ( ) + 120 ( )  |  | Creative Arts (3i)            |
| 21 ( ) + 46 ( ) + 71 ( ) + 96 ( ) + 121 ( )  |  | Voluntary Poverty (3h)        |
| 22 ( ) + 47 ( ) + 72 ( ) + 97 ( ) + 122 ( )  |  | Celibacy (3g) (Single hood)   |
| 23 ( ) + 48 ( ) + 73 ( ) + 98 ( ) + 123 ( )  |  | Intercession (3d)             |
| 24 ( ) + 49 ( ) + 74 ( ) + 99 ( ) + 124 ( )  |  | Exorcism (3e)                 |
| 25 ( ) + 50 ( ) + 75 ( ) + 100 ( ) + 125 ( ) |  | Service (2a)                  |

### Step Three: Review Gift Definitions

Use the number given by the Gift name to go straight to its description (e.g. 3f = 3rd section, letter f = Writing).

#### 1. Gifts that may develop into Ministerial ones (Ministerial Affinities):

| Gift  | Scriptures  | Suggested Activities          |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>a. Apostleship.</b> This is the desire to reach out in missionary service or other pioneering work and a full-fledged Apostle will assume and exercise general | 1 Corinthians 12:28<br>2 Corinthians 12:12<br>Ephesians 4:11-14 | Reach unreached people group. |

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|---|--|--|
| leadership over a number of new church plants or new ministries with great authority recognized and appreciated by those churches and ministries.   | Ephesians 3:1-9<br>Acts 15:1,2<br>Galatians 2:7-10   | Pioneer new movement not presently seen.   |
| <b>b. Prophecy.</b> This gift is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to proclaim the Word of God with divine unction, which brings conviction to the hearers so they see it is truly God's voice and they must do something about it. This gift may develop into the office of a Prophet. | Acts 2:37-40<br>Acts 7:54<br>Acts 17:32-34<br>Acts 26:24-29<br>1 Thessalonians 1:5<br>1 Corinthians 14:1,3 | Prophetic voice to the Church (In agreement and cooperation with Leadership).  |
| <b>c. Evangelism.</b> This gift is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the Gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ. This may develop into the office of Evangelist.                       | Ephesians 4:11-14<br>2 Timothy 4:5<br>Acts 8:5-6<br>Acts 8:26-40<br>Acts 14:21<br>Acts 21:8                | Evangelistic visitation.<br>Travelling evangelist.<br>Inner-city Evangelist.<br>Child evangelism.<br>Campus Evangelism.          |
| <b>d. Shepherding.</b> This is the special ability to shepherd (or pastor) a group of believers. To assume a long-term personal responsibility for their spiritual welfare. This gift may develop into the office of Pastor.  | 1 Timothy 3:1-7<br>John 10:1-18<br>1 Peter 5:1-3<br>Ephesians 4:11-14                                      | Small Group leader.<br>Shepherd Kids, youth, singles or families.  |
| <b>e. Teaching.</b> This is the special ability God gives certain member of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn and grow spiritually. This may develop into the office of Teacher.                                 | 1 Corinthians 12:28<br>Ephesians 4:11-14<br>Romans 12:7<br>Acts 18:11-14<br>Acts 20:20-21                  | Teach in Church or Christian Organization classes.<br>Travelling Bible Teacher<br>Teach special target groups in Biblical truth. |

## 2. Motivational Gifts mentioned specifically in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28.

| Gift  | Scriptures   | Suggested Activities  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>a. Service.</b> The special God-given ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired result. | 2 Timothy 1:16-18<br>Romans 12:7<br>Acts 6:1-7<br>Titus 3:14<br>Galatians 6:2,10 | Serving His Body using your skills such as cleaning, building, gardening, painting and so forth.                              |
| <b>b. Exhortation.</b> The special God-given ability to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel motivated onwards.                   | Romans 12:8<br>1 Timothy 4:13<br>Hebrews 10:25<br>Acts 14:22                     | Encouraging the pastor and key leaders, affirming strengths and gifts of others, counselling and challenging the indifferent. |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>c. Giving.</b> The special God-given ability to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.</p>  | <p>Romans 12:8<br/>2 Corinthians 8:1-7<br/>2 Corinthians 9:2-8<br/>Mark 12:41-44</p>   | <p>Becoming group treasurer, helping to fund raise, sponsoring special cases and providing resources for His body.</p>                                |
| <p><b>d. Leadership.</b> The special God-given ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for God's glory.</p>                     | <p>1 Timothy 5:17<br/>Acts 7:10<br/>Acts 15:7-11<br/>Romans 12:8<br/>Hebrews 13:17<br/>Luke 9:51</p>                             | <p>Moving in one or more of the Ministerial gifts. Leading a group in the church or missions field.</p>   |
| <p><b>e. Administration.</b> The special God-given ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of these goals.</p>  | <p>1 Corinthians 12:28<br/>Acts 6:1-7<br/>Acts 27:11<br/>Luke 14:28-30</p>   | <p>Administrative assistant for any ministry, chairing committee, planning a retreat or event, or being a resource centre coordinator.</p>            |
| <p><b>f. Mercy.</b> The special God-given ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (Christian and non-Christian) who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully-done deeds which reflect Christ's love.</p> | <p>Romans 12:8<br/>Mark 9:41<br/>Acts 16:33-34<br/>Luke 10:33-35<br/>Matthew 20:29-34<br/>Matthew 25:34-40<br/>Acts 11:28-30</p> | <p>Visit shut-ins, the sick or prisoners, hospital visitation ministry, give nursing care, work with drug addicts or the mentally ill.</p>            |
| <p><b>g. Helps.</b> The special God-given ability to invest your talents in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.</p>   | <p>1 Corinthians 12:28<br/>Romans 16:1-2<br/>Acts 9:36<br/>Luke 8:2-3<br/>Mark 15:40-41</p>                                      | <p>Help and assist a minister in practical ways, freeing them up to minister effectively. One who is an interpreter could also have this gifting.</p> |
| <p><b>h. Healings.</b> The special God-given ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health in Body, Soul or Spirit.</p>  | <p>1 Corinthians 12:9,28<br/>Acts 3:1-10<br/>Acts 5:12-16<br/>Acts 9:32-35</p>   | <p>Ministry of praying for the sick, counselling and ministering inner healing to or be involved in a ministry of casting out of demons.</p>          |
| <p><b>i. Miracles.</b> The special God-given ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it please God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.</p>   | <p>1 Corinthians 12:10,28<br/>Acts 9:36-42<br/>Acts 19:11-12<br/>Acts 20:7-12<br/>Romans 15:18-19</p>                            | <p>Ministry of miracles in outreach at home or overseas.</p>  |

### 3. Other Motivational Gifts Mentioned Elsewhere.

These gifts are not explicitly mentioned in the list of Charismatic gifts but seem to be in the same category due to their context in other Scriptural passages.

| Gift  | Scriptures   | Suggested Activities   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>a. Hospitality.</b> The special God-given ability to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging.  | 1 Peter 4:9<br>Romans 12:9-13<br>Romans 6:23<br>Acts 16:14-15                                      | Ushering or being a church greeter, opening your home for cell group, caring for adopted children or entertaining and/or housing visiting ministers or missionaries. |
| <b>b. Craftsmanship.</b> The special God-given ability to use your hands, thoughts and mind to further the Kingdom of God through artistic, creative means. People with this gift may also serve as leaders of others in forming their abilities through this area. The gift may also be used in the areas of maintenance, care and upkeep for the benefit and beautification of God's Kingdom here on earth. | 2 Chronicles 34:9- 13<br>Exodus 30:22-25<br>Exodus 31:3-11<br>Acts 16:14<br>Acts 18:3              | Art layout or design, decorating for special occasions, making props for dramas, using a skill for His Kingdom.  |
| <b>c. Music.</b> The special God-given ability to use one's voice in the singing of praises and joy to the Lord for the benefit of others, or to play a musical instrument to the praise of the Lord and for the benefit of others.   | 1 Chronicles 16:41-42;<br>2 Chronicles 5:12-13<br>1 Samuel 16:16<br>Deuteronomy 31:22<br>Psalm 150 | Worship leader or part of worship team. Use music for outreaches.  |
| <b>d. Intercession.</b> The special God-given ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.  | James 5:14-16<br>1 Tim 2:1-2<br>Col 1:9-12<br>Col 4:12-13<br>Acts 12:12<br>Luke 22:41-44           | Part of church or missions intercession group.   |
| <b>e. Exorcism.</b> The special God-given ability to recognize demonic activity and cast out demons from people effectively.  | Matthew 10:1<br>Mark 16:17<br>Acts 16:16-18  | Deliverance ministry.  |
| <b>f. Writing.</b> The special God-given ability to formulate thoughts and ideas into meaningful written forms so that the reader will find courage, guidance, knowledge, or edification through the words shared with them.  | Acts 15:19-20<br>Philippians 3:1<br>1 Timothy 3:14-15<br>Psalms 45:1<br>Jude 3                     | Writing articles for a Christian publication, writing Christian books, teaching materials or even a Christian blog.  |
| <b>g. Singlehood.</b> The special God-given ability to remain single and enjoy it and not suffer undue sexual temptations for the sake of Christ.   | 1 Corinthians 7:7,8<br>Matthew 19:10-12  | Reach out to singles. Allow the person with this gift to devote more time to other areas of gifting.   |
| <b>h. Voluntary Poverty.</b> The special God-given ability to renounce material comfort and adopt a   | 1 Corinthians 13:3   | Ministry among the poor at home  |

|  |                               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| lifestyle similar to those living at the poverty level of their society in order to effectively witness the Gospel.                                |                               | or on the mission field.   |
| <b>i. Creative Arts.</b> The special God-given ability to dance, participate in a drama or put forth a creative presentation for the Glory of God. | 2 Samuel 6:14<br>Exodus 15:20 | Creative dance, acting, banner making or other creative presentations for His glory. |

## Do You Get The Picture?

### Time to reflect:

- List your top three motivational gifts from your results...
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
- Do these primary gifts seem to line up with your primary Ministerial affinity (Apostleship, Prophecy, Evangelism, Shepherding, and Teaching) as seen in the last chapter, especially in the Umbrella diagram? Why or why not?
- What kind of ministry fits this gift mix?
- What ministry do you sense God is calling you into?

# CHAPTER FIVE

## The Paint Colours

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” 1 Corinthians 12:7-11*



*The manifestation gifts are supernatural and not possible in our own human strength.*

**M**ary Kassian in her sermon, *‘The Greatness of Gender’*<sup>76</sup> tells the following story.

In November of 2008 one of the greatest masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance was restored to its original splendour and returned to its home at the world renowned gallery in Florence. The Madonna del Cardellino was painted by Raphael in 1505 for the wedding of his friend, a wealthy Florence merchant. It portrays Jesus Christ's mother, Mary, with two children who are playing with a bird. The children symbolized John the Baptist and his young cousin Jesus. The gold finch bird that feeds among thorns is interpreted as representing Christ's future suffering.

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.preachingtoday.com/sermons/outlines/2012/february/genesisgender.html>

But something happened to this painting. It was painted in 1505. Forty years after it was created, there was an earthquake in the house in which this painting was kept, and the painting was shattered into 17 different pieces. The wood was all smashed up into bits. So another artist took long iron nails and tried to patch the pieces together. And then he tried to paint over it to conceal the breaks and make it look whole again. But over the years, there were so many layers of paint added and so much dust and grime over this painting that the original colours, the original art, was completely obscured.

The contemporary restoration project fixed the shattered areas and removed layers of paint and dirt to get the colours back. It was a team effort. It took fifty people ten years of working on this painting, and the result is stunning. The cracks are gone. Centuries of brown film and grime are gone. The dulling veneers and patches have been stripped away, and the finished product glows with all of the deep colours: the reds, and blues, and golds of the original work of art. Given how badly it was damaged, the restoration of Raphael's painting is arguably even more amazing than the painting itself. The original was splendid, but the miracle of restoration compounds the beauty. Knowing the drama of the whole story, you can only look at it in wonder.

There is a contemporary restoration project that is happening in and through the Church today. God's true colours are being restored so that people's lives can recover from earthquakes of sin and brokenness. People often try to mend the brokenness with the world's methods but true restoration can only come by the Spirit, and He has equipped His people with the power gifts to accomplish this miracle.

The Manifestation gifts are the colour palette of the spiritual artist. These gifts are different to the previous ones, that's why the word *'but'* opens this section – *"but the manifestation of the Spirit"*. They are supernatural manifestations of the Spirit's power and are released with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, that's why they are also called the Empowering gifts. We may see them like a toolbox that we can dip into as the Lord wills. According to our *"uniform"* and *"brushes"* each of these manifestations will take a slightly different form; a different colour. We will use more of certain colours with certain Motivational gifts than with others. They are the Empowering gifts that take the Ministerial and Motivational gifts to another level.

### **Some important points about the nine Manifestation gifts:**

- a. These nine gifts are supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit working through a believer. They are manifested through the person's daily walk and every believer can potentially move in all these gifts according to the need.
- b. These are not spiritual fruit as they are not linked to spiritual maturity. They can be abused (Matthew 7:22-23) and must operate with love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).
- c. These gifts are given when the believer is baptized with the Holy Spirit. The role of the Holy Spirit is to inspire and anoint, the role of the believer is to yield and surrender.
- d. These gifts are given by grace and operate through faith.

- e. They are given not for the person who acts as the channel, but for the benefit of others (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- f. These gifts are released as God wills in any ministry situation and are the tools of our ministry/motivational gifts. At any time the best gift is the one most needed at that particular moment (1 Corinthians 14:1-3)
- g. The purpose of the gifts vary with the gift but in general we can say that they include building up the church, exhortation of believers, comfort, warning, confirmation of the word, ministry to needs, demonstration of the reality of God to unbelievers, revealing facts or situations not known to the natural mind and/or power to deal with evil spirits.

**Differences between the Engaging and Empowering Gifts**

| <b>Engaging Gifts<br/>(Motivational)</b> | <b>Empowering Gifts<br/>(Manifestation)</b> |
|--|---|
| Released at New Birth                    | Released at Spirit Baptism                  |
| Tools of our calling                     | Tools of the Engaging Gifts                 |
| Each of us moves in a few                | Each of us can move in all                  |
| Present all the time                     | Present when manifest                       |

**The Three Categories**

*“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:4-8*

*“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as 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 Peter 4:11*

From the above passages we see that there a gifts of knowing (*‘all knowledge’*), gifts of speaking (*‘all utterance’*, *‘speak as the oracles of God’*) and gifts of doing (*‘if anyone ministers’*). All of these are to be used *‘with the ability which God supplies’*. The nine Manifestation gifts fit the bill exactly on all accounts here, as they can be divided into these three areas and are the manifestations of His supplied power.

The nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit are generally categorized in three groups:



## The Revelation Gifts

Firstly, the Revelation Gifts are spiritual gifts that reveal something and make something known. They give “*all knowledge*” that is referred to in 1 Corinthians 1:4-8. There are three such gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11:

- (i) The Word of Wisdom
- (ii) The Word of Knowledge
- (iii) The Discerning of Spirits

These gifts operate best in an atmosphere of quiet, strong faith. In these gifts the Holy Spirit makes Himself known in divinely imparted knowledge and wisdom and in knowing whether we are dealing with evil spirits, human spirits, angelic spirits, or God’s Spirit.

## The Word of Wisdom

*This is a supernatural flash of inspiration that enables us to speak the right word in a difficult situation or to do the right thing or to go in the right direction with ability beyond our own natural wisdom.*

Please note that this is not general wisdom that is simply the correct application of knowledge acquired in the normal ways. It is a supernatural, spirit-given word or portion of wisdom for a specific situation.

Let us look at some Biblical examples of The Word of Wisdom.

First is a story in the life of Solomon, who we know moved in God-given wisdom:

*“And the king said, ‘The one says, ‘This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’” Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other.” Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, “O my lord, give*

*her the living child, and by no means kill him!” But the other said, “Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him.” So the king answered and said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother.” And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.” 1 Kings 3:23-28*

God gave Solomon a heaven-sent word of wisdom concerning how to settle a case where two ladies were claiming one baby as their own. In the night one of them had rolled on her baby and killed it, so she swapped her dead baby with the other woman’s living baby. Solomon did not consult *“How to make kingly judgments 101”* but, in a flash of God-given inspiration, he asked for a sword to cut the baby in two, and that word, like a sword, cut through the thoughts and intentions of the women to reveal the true mother. This was not his wisdom, but a word of wisdom from God.

Secondly is a story from the life of Paul and his missionary team:

*“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Acts 16:6-9*

In this case we see that Paul and His team have a witness of the Spirit not to go in a certain direction and a vision giving wisdom as to where to go. This was not the team cracking their heads together to look at the natural situation, and, based on clever mission strategy, choose the wisest course of action. It was a word of wisdom dropped from heaven by the Lord, and turned out to be a major turning point in church history as the gospel entered Europe.

Thirdly, Jesus referred to the end times when he spoke to His disciples saying:

*“But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” Luke 21:12-15*

Jesus said that in the End Times, that we are now living in, we are to respond to events such as persecution, not only with general wisdom, but with the words of wisdom given spontaneously as we open our mouths in faith.

As can be seen in these examples, this Gift of the Holy Spirit may come either as a picture in our mind, a clear vision or dream, or by faith as we just open our mouths. God is faithful to show us the part that is needed to help the individual(s) in their particular situation.

This gift usually works in conjunction with the Word of Knowledge, giving wisdom of how to deal with the knowledge given. It will often give supernatural guidance and direction in a tough situation and will be specific, accurate and related to the present need. The purposes of this gift are protection and instruction.

It reveals how to apply knowledge revealed, how to pray for a situation and will show how to deliver words of knowledge and deal with spirits discerned.

The most dramatic Word of Wisdom I have received, which I did share in my first book but is relevant now, was when I was going to Birmingham in 1988 for a missions conference. This was very important as it was to determine if I would join the mission organization, World Horizons, or not. When I arrived by coach in Birmingham's main bus interchange I was supposed to meet one of the World Horizons staff, Jonathan Mason. However, my coach was delayed and we did not have mobile phones in those days so I had no way of reaching him. When I got there I realized that there was no one to meet me and I had no idea where I was supposed to go.

Suddenly I felt the Holy Spirit urge me to get on a bus that was just coming into the terminal. I got on it and paid a set fee and sat down. It was raining heavily outside and the windows were all misted up so I could not see out of the bus. I had no idea where we were going or when to get off. However, some minutes later the Holy Spirit said, "Get off!" in my spirit, so I pressed the button, waited for the bus to stop, and got off.

I found myself in a dark street with rows of houses each side. All was dark except a small church, wedged between two houses, on the other side of the road. I thought they may know about the conference so I crossed the road and knocked on the door. To my utter surprise the door opened and Jonathan Mason was there. He pointed at me and asked how on earth I found the place and that this was the church I was supposed to sleep in for the duration of the conference. He said he waited ages at the bus terminal but left when he thought I would never turn up.

This was an example of the Word of Wisdom coming by the Spirit. There's no natural way I knew where to go but supernaturally the Holy Spirit led me, giving me a packet of heavenly wisdom.

### **The Word of Knowledge**

*This is a supernatural revelation of things that are not previously known to the one receiving the word. The Holy Spirit brings this knowledge to the mind of the believer at the moment of need.*

The gift of the Word of Knowledge is just that, a 'word' or a 'package' of information. It is not general knowledge that can be gained by reading books or the Internet. God is all knowing but He does not reveal everything He knows to man. He gives a word or part of what He knows. A word is a fragmentary part of a sentence, so a word of knowledge would simply be a fragmentary part of the entire knowledge or counsel of God.

The Word of Knowledge is not:

- 1) Natural knowledge.
- 2) A profound knowledge of the Bible.
- 3) Knowledge of God through close communion with Him.

The Bible has many examples of the Word of Knowledge being manifested through visions, dreams, messages from angels, through the gift of prophecy, or directly from God to an individual.

In the Old Testament some examples are:

The blind Prophet Ahijah had a Word of Knowledge directly from the Lord that the disguised woman coming to him was actually King Jeroboam's wife (1 Kings 14:2-6). The Prophet Elisha knew by the Word of Knowledge the private words of the King of Syria spoken in his bedroom (2 Kings 6:9-12). The Prophet Samuel knew by Word of Knowledge directly from the Lord where Saul's donkeys were to be found (1 Samuel 10:2).

In the New Testament some examples are:

Jesus knew that there would be a coin in the mouth of a fish (Matthew 17:27). Jesus knew about the man carrying a pitcher of water on his head (Luke 22:10). Jesus told the Samaritan woman by a Word of Knowledge that she had previously had five husbands, and the one she was then with was not her husband (John 4:18). Peter said *"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"* (Acts 5:3)

A different Ananias received the Word of Knowledge directly from the Lord, *"Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."* (Acts 9:11-12). Peter heard the Spirit say to him, *"Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them"* (Acts 10:19-20) as he was communing with the Lord on a roof top. He then went and found three messengers from Cornelius as the Lord had revealed.

From these passages we see that the Word of Knowledge always glorifies God and comes as an inner voice, a vision, a dream or through the vocal gifts. It reveals information that we cannot naturally know for the sake of accomplishing His will in a person's life or situation.

The purpose of this gift is to aid and assist in perfecting the purposes of God in the midst of His people. It also warns of danger, discloses sin, encourages and reveals hidden things. It is often given in conjunction with another of the gifts such as healing (e.g. *"this person is suffering from colon cancer"*). It requires wisdom as to how to apply it and faith for speaking it out.

We most likely receive such messages from God's Spirit through our human spirit and speak what comes to our mind. To some it is like a screen in the mind and they begin to see the picture frame by frame. Then they begin to describe these frames to the individual. Others may just begin to have an unction by the Spirit to speak and sentence by sentence the thing is revealed, as one thought after another begins to flow. For some it comes as an actual feeling of pain in the area God wants to heal the other person. For me it usually comes as a vivid impression in my mind, or with visions of someone's real need.

Sometimes I have Words of Knowledge before or during my preaching about specific needs in the congregation (sickness, relational problems, financial issues) that I could not possibly know naturally. I wait on the Lord for wisdom how to deliver them and, as the Lord leads, speak them out. Most times I find the people come forward to affirm the word is true and receive prayer. Sometimes these Words of Knowledge come in the normal course of my day, in the street as I meet people or in other non-religious places.

In my Church we have times of outreach in a nearby hospital for the elderly where we use a method called the “*Treasure Hunt*”. The treasure is a valuable person the Lord wants to reach out to. We spend time praying together first asking the Lord to reveal clues by Words of Knowledge. The clues can be concerning the person themselves (colour or clothing etc.), the place to find that person (floor number, bed number etc.) and that person’s need (specific healing etc.). The first time we did this my group met together and I had Psalm 42 and another man had the word ‘*Singh*’ and someone else had the word ‘*lonely*’. We then went into the first ward and looked for bed 42. Amazingly there was a Sikh man with a turban on that bed, with the surname Singh. When we talked with him he said he was very lonely, so we prayed for him and tears came to his eyes. The Lord ministered to him through our obedience to simple Words of Knowledge.

The most dramatic Word of Knowledge I have had, which I also shared in my first book, was in Sarawak in a church where the Lord revealed to me that there was a family under a financial curse who were considering leaving church. I spoke this out and after the service a family came to forward. The father of the family told me his shipping business was about to go bankrupt and this had happened to his previous generations and was a family curse. He said they had met together as a family and decided to leave the church unless the Lord intervened. I prayed with them, broke the curse and led them in a prayer of deliverance. A year later the pastor of this church contacted me and asked if I remembered this family. I said that I did and the pastor proceeded to tell me that the father now had a successful business and they were doing well. He was now a seller of coffins! Truly the Lord intervened with a wonderful Word of Knowledge that saved a whole family from misery.

### **The Discerning (Distinguishing) of Spirits**

*This gift of the Holy Spirit gives us supernatural insight into the spirit world, to see what spirit is behind a person, teaching or situation.*

In 1 Corinthians 12:10 the word ‘*discerning*’ is from the Greek word ‘*diakrisis*’<sup>77</sup> which means ‘*a distinguishing*’. Hence it means being able to distinguish what kind of spirit is operating. Discerning of Spirits is the same as seeing or hearing in the spiritual realm. This gift has a more limited range of operation, because it is limited to a single class of objects - spirits. It reveals the kind of spirit that is in operation behind a supernatural manifestation, whether evil spirits, human spirits, angelic spirits or the Holy Spirit.

The Discerning of Spirits is not:

- 1) The gift of discernment. Some people have a so-called ‘*Discernment Ministry*’ that basically tears down other Christian ministers. This gift is not that, and that is not a gift but a misguided and judgmental waste of time.
- 2) Spiritual mind reading. It is not power to discern faults in others.
- 3) Only discerning of evil spirits. It is also discerning human and good spirits.

The purpose of this gift is to deliver bound saints, discern Satan’s plans, to keep saints from sinning, to detect false revelations and to embolden the saints.

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<sup>77</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary of the New Testament, (G1253).

We must remember that supernatural manifestations can come from different sources. Many things that seem to be supernatural or miraculous to us actually do not come from God.

Satan comes as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) and is a supernatural being. Too many people are ready to follow anything that is supernatural or spectacular whether it is of God or not. Supernatural manifestations are not necessarily a demonstration of the Spirit of God. If the Discerning of Spirits is in operation, we can know the spirit behind a given manifestation or operation, expose it and deal with it in the correct way.

Alternatively we must not readily label all supernatural manifestations as satanic just because they look strange. We need discernment from the Lord. One time I was praying for a young man and he fell to the floor writhing around the floor groaning. I sensed that it was alright and from the Lord but the ministry team in that church immediately started to cast demons out of him! Afterwards the young man told me that He saw Jesus coming to him and he fell down repenting of his sins and received cleansing. It was not an evil spirit at all but the Lord Himself.

John tells us we must test the spirits:

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”* 1 John 4:1-6

When we confront others speaking forth what they claim is from God we need supernatural discernment. We can test the spirits by firstly checking if what they say or do is in line with the Word of God, and if they are able to affirm that Jesus is Lord, but beyond that we need this spiritual gift to operate and give us no doubt as to the kind of spirit involved.

In the book of Acts chapter 16 we see this gift in operation in the ministry of Paul:

*“Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.”* Acts 16:16-18

Usually, a person who has been involved in witchcraft will display what seems to be the valid gift of Discerning of Spirits, when it is nothing more than the working of a familiar spirit, as was the case here. Paul discerned the spirit of divination in the woman and cast it out. She seemed to be flattering Paul and his team by declaring them servants of God, but there was a mocking spirit behind her declaration and Paul was not fooled.

There are *“deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”* (1 Timothy 4:1) even within the Church so we need supernatural discernment to see what is truth and what is deception, especially in new doctrines and teachings. Some teachings are

of demonic origin, others are from defiled human spirits. Jesus rebuked Peter for having a wrong spirit just after he had an awesome revelation from the Holy Spirit:

*“Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”* Matthew 16:22-23

Peter was speaking out of a spirit of fear sent by Satan and Jesus discerned this, helping Peter to realize this and deal with it.

There was one Church camp that I attended where the speaker was ministering out of a spirit of bitterness. His church had just split and he was bitter at one woman in particular, and he hit out against her and her nationality, which happened to be the same as my wife’s. Even in the ministry times he was ministering out of hurt and frustration and ended up pouring a jar of ice water all over my head, saying he was anointing me for higher things (and this was years before the ice bucket challenge). In his case he was ministering out of a defiled human spirit.

On the positive side, we also need to discern good spirits, such as angels, especially in times of danger or spiritual attack. Elisha prayed for his servant not to have a spirit of fear but to discern the presence of good angelic spirits in a moment of great danger:

*“So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”* 1 Kings 6:16-17

This gift needs to be in operation more today than ever before. The Body of Christ is being invaded by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1) like never before. We need to expose these things and cast them out with a word of authority in the name of Jesus, but we also need to discern the “*real thing*” and not throw the baby out with the bath water!

## **The Power Gifts**

These are the ‘*doing*’ gifts (1 Peter 4:11) that demonstrate the power of God.

There are three power gifts:

- 1) The gift of Faith.
- 2) The gift of Working of Miracles.
- 3) The gifts of Healings.

When we remember that the whole purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to build up the church, we can see why we must take great care how to use them and not bring confusion into the church by unseemly behaviour or presumption.

## **The Gift of Faith**

*The gift of Faith is a gift of the Spirit to the believer in order that he might receive supernatural faith in God for mighty miracles and works of God.*

As with the other Manifestation gifts mentioned this gift of the Spirit is supernatural. In the Amplified Bible this gift is called wonder-working faith. It is

more than general faith (a Fruit of the Spirit) or saving faith. It is mountain-moving faith:

*“So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.”*  
Matthew 21:21

The gift of Faith is received by the operation of one of the revelation gifts and is often manifested as another power gift (Mark 4:37-41). For example, one may have a Word of Knowledge that someone has cancer, and then the gift of Faith comes to speak forth and operate in the gift of Healing for God to heal the person.

The gift of Faith is given as part of a process and is manifest by the Holy Spirit to enable a person to receive a miracle beyond the capacity of ordinary faith. It could be faith for healing and miracles (Acts 3:6; 6:8), for miraculous provision (Matthew 14:13-21), for resurrection (Luke 7:12-15), for casting out demons (Matthew 17:19-20), for speaking judgments (Matthew 21:19; Acts 5:9-11; 13:8-12), for protection and victory (Daniel 3:16-18; 20-26) and so forth. The operation of this gift will always bring glory to God, causing others to believe and fear.

For myself, I have especially experienced miraculous faith for provision in my walk with God.

As I mentioned earlier, when I first launched into ministry and joined World Horizons missions organization I heard the clear call of God to *“live by faith”* and tangibly felt the gift of Faith coming on me every time I needed finance to do what God was asking of me. When I knew I would be going to Singapore for Bible School a tremendous faith came upon me for the provision of air tickets, the Bible School fees and all that was needed to do His will.

At Tung Ling Bible School the deadline was just a day away for me to pay my first term fees and the principal, Dr. Neal Patterson, called me to his office. My first thought was that because I couldn't pay the fees I had to leave the school, but then I remembered the Word of the Lord and tremendous faith rose in me. Dr. Neal smiled as I entered his office and informed me that someone had anonymously paid all my fees - not just one term but every term!

### **The Gift of the Working of Miracles**

*A miracle can be defined as a supernatural intervention by God in the ordinary course of nature. They come through the power of the Spirit over the material creation in ways other than healing.*

We have looked at the Motivational gift of Miracles that is a ministry where the person sees many miracles, especially in an apostolic context. However, this is a Manifestation gift that all Spirit-filled believers can use.

This is called the Working of Miracles as there are many kinds of miracles from God miraculously causing a car to work that has a broken part or an empty tank to miraculously providing food in a cupboard that was empty. Raising the dead is a miracle as it changes the natural order, as does the growing back of a limb that was not there.

The gift of Working of Miracles could also be called the working of acts of power. As we have seen the Greek word is *“dunamis”*, translated into such terms as acts

of power, explosions of almightiness or impelling, staggering wonders or astonishments. It is the mighty power of God flowing through a person, the same power that created the universe. It often begins with a Word of Knowledge and needs a Word of Wisdom which releases the gift of Faith which causes us to boldly do what was revealed.

The purposes of this gift are deliverance from danger, protection, provision, judgment, confirming a call, confirming a preached word and so forth.

One miracle I have experienced is when I was teaching in a children's camp in Malaysia. I was minutes away from leaving my house in Singapore to go to the camp and had some last minute printing to do that was very important. As I was printing the ink ran out in the printer and the notification came up that I had to buy some more. It was late and the printing shop was closed and there were no more printers or ink nearby. I had a prompting to pray for a miracle, so I laid hands on the printer and prayed. Immediately it started printing the notes! Even when I returned home after the camp the printer worked for another month before I needed to buy any ink. The Lord supernaturally filled the ink in the printer. It was a Working of Miracles.

I do not have a ministry of Miracles (the Motivational gift) that we have looked at, but I am able to move in this Manifestation gift as needed, especially in helping me in my main gifting of Teaching.

### **The Gifts of Healings**

*The gifts of healings are manifested for the supernatural healing of sickness and diseases, emotional hurts and demonic oppression or possession without any natural source or means.*

Again, there are the Motivational gifts of Healings that a person will move in as a ministry, but these are the Manifestation gifts that all Spirit-filled believers have available to them.

These are, as I have noted, in the plural tense. There are many manifestations to these gifts. It could manifest as a physical or emotional healing or as a deliverance from demonic oppression or possession. Even physical healing of sickness and disease, as has been noted in the previous chapter, could be one of at least five types (terminal, crippling, demonic, reoccurring or comatose).

Jesus said "*freely you have received, freely give*" (Matthew 10:8). The gifts of healings are supernatural Divine healings. As we receive of the Holy Spirit let us freely give to those who are in need. Healings were in prominence in Jesus' ministry and Jesus said we would see greater healings in our own ministries:

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."* John 14:12

This could be interpreted either as we will do greater healings and miracles in quality (but what could be greater than raising the dead) or in scope and quantity. The best meaning seems to be that Jesus means greater in the scope and quantity, not of individuals but in the Church going forth into the nations, performing miracles and healings further afield and in greater numbers than Jesus did in Israel.

Some people have a greater success in some areas of healing than others.

Paul asks; *"Have all the gifts of healings?"* (1 Corinthians 12:30). The answer of course is no, in the sense that not all have the ministry of healing but all can be used to pray for the sick and they will be healed as the Lord wills.

This gift operates as the Word of Knowledge comes as a feeling, word, thought, vision or by location of the person, then the Word of Wisdom comes to know how to pray for the healing, followed by the Gift of Faith to boldly rise up and pray for the healing so that the Gift of Healing is released. The Distinguishing of Spirits will show what spirit is behind the sickness. The following diagram shows this process:



Indeed, this would be the same process for the Gift of Miracles as well.

It is important that we pray for healing only in conjunction with a Word of Knowledge. We can always pray a person can be healed generally as part of their salvation (*"By His stripes they are healed"* – Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24) but we can only pray with great faith for a specific healing when we have received the *rhema* word of God about that situation.

There is no set formula for healing! In the Bible we see healing come in response to:

- The spoken word (John 4:46-54; 5:1-15; Matthew 10:46-52; 12:9-13).
- Touching (Matthew 8:1-17; 9:27-38; Mark 5:25-34).
- Commanding (Matthew 9:1-22).
- Spitting! (Matthew 18:22-26).
- Putting unbelievers out (Mark 5:40).
- Shadows and handkerchiefs! (Acts 5:15; 19:12).

Note that these methods will come as a Word of Wisdom.

The Elders, or the Ministerial Gifts of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher, have a special anointing in praying for the sick:

*“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”* James 5:14-15

Though I don't have the Motivational gift of Healings I do move in the Manifestation gift occasionally as I have testified earlier in this book. Indeed, for me, it was the second gift that manifested in my life after Tongues.

If no healing occurs do not be discouraged. We can all make mistakes in our hearing from the Lord but He will teach us and train us so we learn from these mistakes. Keep praying in faith and do not blame anyone's lack of faith for the lack of a healing. God is sovereign and will heal in His time and His way, giving His Words of Knowledge and Wisdom as the Spirit wills.

## **The Vocal Gifts**

There are three gifts of utterance. These are the speaking gifts of *'all utterance'* (1 Corinthians 1:5) where we *'speak as the oracles of God'* (1 Peter 4:11). The Vocal gifts are Spiritual gifts that say something. They are:

- 1) The gift of Prophecy
- 2) The gift of Diverse kinds of Tongues
- 3) The gift of Interpretation of Tongues

These gifts are not very well received in some congregations but bring wonderful blessings if used properly. The gift of prophecy, if used properly in the congregation, brings edification, encouragement, and comfort to the Body of Christ.

## **The Gift of Prophecy**

*Prophecy is a supernatural utterance in a known tongue. It is the speaking for or on behalf of God by the direct inspiration of His Spirit.*

The Hebrew of *"to prophesy"* means *"to flow forth, to bubble forth like a fountain, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth, and to spring forth"*. The Greek word means *"to speak for another"*. We are told to desire to prophesy (1 Corinthians 14: 1, 39) because, in congregational settings, it provides a refreshing flow of God's healing and restoring words to others.

Prophecy is for today (Joel 2:28; 2 Peter 1:19; Acts 2:16-18) and every believer is able to move in the Manifestation gift of prophecy, but not all who prophesy have the ministry of prophecy (the Motivational gift) or operate in the office of Prophet.

Prophecy can be spoken (Jeremiah 32:6-8), sung (Ephesians 5:18-19), with musical accompaniment (2 Kings 3:15), prophesying on an instrument itself (1 Chronicles 25:1), written (Habakkuk 2:2), expressed in dance and other creative mediums (Exodus 15:20) or come in the form of a dream or a vision (Numbers 12:6). This gift is highly commended by Paul as it is understandable and immediately builds up and comforts those listening to it (1 Corinthians 14:1, 5). The anointing to prophecy is frequently quite powerful but is still under the control of the believer (1 Corinthians 14:32).

A prophecy can be for a particular group of people (or person) at a particular time. All prophecies must be judged by the witness that is felt by the body of believers or the individual it is spoken to (it must agree with the Bible, confirm what the Spirit is already saying and bring comfort and edification).

Where the witness is strong hearts may be greatly stirred and a sense of excitement can grip a whole congregation as all sense the presence of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:29-33, 40).

We need to be very careful about personal prophecies; lives can be ruined through the misuse of this gift. That is why there is a need to practice discernment and correction in the Body.

There was one time in Sarawak that I prophesied over a teenager that she should get her house in order and then revival will come into her life. Later I was summoned to her house because she had taken my word too literally and started to move things around the house to the anger of her parents. There was a tense atmosphere in the house and I had to explain that the prophecy meant she should sort out her own life by coming to the Lord in repentance. The house the prophecy referred to was her life not her family home! Thank God she responded positively and things were sorted out.

Personal prophecies usually confirm what the person has already been gleaning from the Lord. Often prophecy will confirm a person's ministry and act as part of setting that person apart for or on the right track to the ministry (Acts 13:1-4).

If the person prophesying does not have the ministry of prophecy and is not a Prophet then the prophecy will usually be very general and be purely one of comfort, edification and encouragement. Those called to a prophetic ministry will minister more specific words and even directional or corrective prophecies, but with God's wisdom and compassion so that ultimately they lead to comfort, edification and encouragement.

## Levels of Prophecy

The following diagram shows the four levels of Prophecy.



The most basic level is the operation of the Manifestation Gift of Prophecy, which we are looking at here. Any Spirit-filled believer can move in this gift as the Spirit wills and it will be a basic message of encouragement, exhortation or comfort. At this level it will not usually contain a warning or a message about the future and will be more general in content, speaking forth scripturally sound words to build up the hearers.

Next comes the Motivational Gift of Prophecy which, as I have explained, is a person's ministry of prophecy that will be deeper and richer than the first level. Not all move in this level of prophecy and a person who does may speak, sing or demonstrate more specific prophecies to individuals or groups. Prophetic ministries vary from those who simply stand and speak the oracles of God to those who are prophetic worship leaders, prophetic singers or instrument players, prophetic dancers or prophetic creative arts ministers.

The penultimate level would be the Ministerial Gift of Prophet. All Christians can prophecy, not all will have a prophetic ministry, and even fewer will move as Prophets. The Prophet speaks forth the deepest form of Prophecy and can speak more powerfully, specifically and to a larger audience, even to nations.

However, even the Prophet cannot speak revelation that goes beyond the top level of Prophecy, the Word of God, Scripture itself. All other levels of prophecy must come under the authority and scrutiny of the Word of God.

### **The Gift of Diverse Kinds of Tongues**

*Speaking in diverse kinds of tongues is the public supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue.*

These are languages that have never been learnt by the speaker, nor understood by the speaker, nor understood by the hearer (unless the Tongue is in their language so that they are the automatic interpreters of that Tongue). It has nothing at all to do with linguistic ability, with the mind or the intellect of person speaking but is given supernaturally by the Spirit.

There are two types of tongues:

1. *Private tongues* for personal edification, devotion, prayer and so forth (1 Corinthians 14:18) – this refers more to the Motivational gift that I have already covered.
2. *Public tongues* that need to be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:5) – this refers to the Manifestation gift of Diverse Kinds of Tongues that I am looking at here.

This Manifestation gift is referring to the public tongues that must operate with Interpretation of Tongues so as to be edifying to others. It is especially a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:22-23) as it was in Acts 2:6.

It may be in a human language that the speaker does not know but some of the listeners understand, just as it happened at Pentecost (Acts 2). One of our teachers at Bible School, Les Garrett, testified how once he had one couple from Papua New Guinea come towards him at an altar call. He started praying in Tongues aloud as they approached as he was not sure how to pray for them. Suddenly the couple fell to their knees weeping. Les found out that he had spoken in their

language, which he did not know at all, and was praising God and glorifying His name. They were not believers and this gift caused them to really cry out to the Lord and give their lives to Him.

More frequently it is in an angelic language that needs someone to vocally interpret in the common language of the gathering.

When bringing forth Tongues in a meeting we should desire to interpret (1 Corinthians 14: 13 - 15) and be willing to do so if others do not. The Holy Spirit should give us the unction to bring forth Tongues in a public meeting but it must be exercised in an orderly way, no more than three utterances being given in one meeting (1 Corinthians 14:12-13, 27-40).

### **The Gift Not of Interpretation of Tongues**

*The interpretation of tongues is a supernatural speaking forth in an understandable language of that which has been said in an unknown tongue.*

It is not the translation of Tongues; it is the interpretation of Tongues, giving the sense of what was uttered in the unknown language. Tongues may be short but the interpretation may be long (or vice versa), to give a clear understanding of what God is saying.

The interpretation often comes across as a prophecy but the exact words will be directed to God rather than from God:

*“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”* 1 Corinthians 14:2

On the day of Pentecost the disciples spoke in other Tongues concerning the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).

Once on a mission trip to Malaysia, I was ministering in a church and praying for people at the altar call. One church worker was ministering with me. This worker was praying for a sister in her own language (Malay) that I did not understand. Immediately after she prayed for the sister I prayed over her with the church worker still there. I prayed first in Tongues and then interpreted this Tongue into English. The church worker's eyes were getting wider and wider as I spoke and she looked genuinely surprised. It turned out that my prayer in English was exactly the same as her prayer in Malay. It was a prophetic prayer encouraging the sister to open up as a beautiful flower and release the fragrance of the Lord and glorify God in her life.

The purpose of this gift is to render understanding of Tongues to the hearers so that the whole congregation or individuals may be edified.

### **Comparing Tongues and Prophecy.**

*“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”* 1 Corinthians 14:2-5

*“Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.”* 1 Corinthians 14:39

1. Prophecy is from God to man whereas the Interpretation of Tongues is in the form of man to God (v2).
2. When one speaks in Tongues they speak the mysteries of God (v2)
3. One who prophesies speaks edification to man (v3).
4. Speaking in Tongues builds up, or edifies the person speaking and, with interpretation, edifies the people listening whereas the gift of prophecy directly builds up those listening (v4).
5. Prophecy is greater in a public setting because it directly edifies the Church (v5).
6. Do not forbid anyone to speak in Tongues. However, it's better to desire prophecy in Church meetings (v39).

### **Seven Tests for Prophecy and Tongues with Interpretation.**

*“Test all things; hold fast what is good.”* 1Thessalonians 5:21

1. Agrees with Scripture?

*“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”* Galatians 1:8

The word spoken forth must agree with the whole counsel of the Word of God. If someone stands up and *“prophesies”* that God has said He wants us to be rich by robbing a bank tonight then we can categorically say this is wrong as it is against God's command in the Bible *“You shall not steal”* (Exodus 20:15).

2. Fruits in Person's life?

*“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”* Matthew 7:15-20

Look at the character of the person prophesying and determine if they are displaying the fruit of the Spirit or strange, false fruits.

There was once a self-proclaimed prophetess who came to speak at a church I was assigned to whilst in Bible School. She was teaching very strange things like saying a comet that was then approaching the Earth (Hale-Bopp) was actually the New Jerusalem. Then, in the middle of her preaching a baby started crying and she pointed at the baby and said, *“I rebuke you in the name of the Lord!”* She had strange fruit that was manifesting in her life and was clearly not a true prophetess as she claimed.

3. Track record in person's life.

*“When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”* Deuteronomy 18:22

If a person comes to prophesy whose previous utterances have not come to pass then this person's ministry should be looked upon with great caution. A true prophetic ministry will have testimonies of people being blessed and encouraged and a track record of predictive prophecies that came to pass.

4. Glorifies Christ?

*"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."* John 16:13-14

*"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* Revelation 19:10

The main ministry of the Holy Spirit is called the '*spotlight ministry*' by J.I. Packer in his book "*Keep in Step with the Spirit*" as He shines the spotlight on Jesus, glorifying Him and Him alone.

The Holy Spirit is not in the business of drawing attention to Himself by miraculous signs and spiritual gifts, but drawing attention to Christ. The Holy Spirit is constantly putting the spotlight on Christ for Christians to see, love, and serve Him.

This should be the same for those who minister these gifts in the power of the Holy Spirit. They should not draw attention to themselves but give all glory to the Lord. A true prophecy will make God look good and not the one who speaks it.

5. Leads towards God?

*"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."* Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Prophecy and Interpretation of Tongues should always lead people into a deeper relationship and understanding of God, not away from Him to other gods. According to the Scripture above false prophets can even perform signs and wonders, but they are '*lying signs and wonders*' (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

Even signs and wonders can become a '*god*' if the people focus on them and adore them instead of God Himself. That's exactly what I witnessed in 1995 when I experienced a very real touch from the Lord that was part of the '*Toronto Blessing*'. I was teaching a course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia but was feeling dry spiritually. The group I was teaching were from England and had just come from there and experienced a touch of the Lord in the form of Holy Laughter. They prayed for me to have a time of refreshing from the Lord and I was suddenly overwhelmed by Father God's love, imparted by the Spirit. I fell to the floor and cried for almost an hour receiving His love.

Then for another hour I was laughing in the Spirit for the simple joy of being loved by the Father. All the others were being ministered to by the Lord in similar ways.

When I went back to Singapore the Lord led me and another Pastor to have regular Thursday *'receiving meetings'* where people would come and be touched dramatically by the Lord and many signs and wonders were seen. This was glorious for about three months but the meetings began to change. People started to come for the signs and wonders, literally worshipping them instead of God.

After realizing this we closed the meetings down and never started them again. Instead of leading people to God these *'prophetic'* meetings were leading people away from Him to seek experiences and not seek His face.

6. Brings Liberty?

*"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."* 1 Corinthians 14:3

*"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."* Romans 8:15

If a prophecy or Interpretation of Tongues leaves the people feeling condemned or in bondage then that word is not from the Lord. One time I had to step forward in my Church to correct a sister who had come forward with a condemning word that was not edifying, exhorting or comforting and brought fear and bondage. Many people said they felt dragged down and condemned by the word. It was scriptural but came forth from her hurt spirit rather than from the Spirit of God.

True prophecy will set people free, dispelling bondages and fear and building the people up for the ministry.

7. Inner Witness?

*"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things."* 1 John 2:20

*"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."* 1 John 2:27

*"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power."* Ephesians 1:17-19

True Spirit-filled believers have an anointing from God to discern when a word is from Him or not. This could be linked with the gift of Discerning Spirits, available to all Spirit baptized Christians. When a word is spoken in Church, the majority of believers should discern if it is from God or not.

Generally, if it is from God, there will be a corporate witness and a ripple of agreement is sensed.

### **Instructions for using the Vocal gifts.**

1. The person should be in control.  
*“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”* 1 Corinthians 14:32

A person who prophesies will not be so out of control that they go into a trance and start speaking words they are not aware they are saying, like in some other religions. They will speak in an orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:40).

2. They should use their natural voice and not some spooky spiritual voice.
3. They should speak in contemporary language, not King James English that many cannot really understand.
4. It should not be delivered with extreme emotions that distract from the people clearly hearing what is spoken.

*“So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, “O Baal, hear us!” But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.”* 1 Kings 18:26

I once saw a woman shaking all over and violently moving her head from side to side screaming out a so-called ‘prophecy’. She then leapt around like the prophets of Baal. The problem was no one could understand her prophecy.

Moving in these gifts does not mean we become creepy ‘spiritual types’. We will still be a normal human being, speaking in a normal manner. No fancy language or crazy antics that actually hinder the message, if it is from the Lord at all.

5. They should refrain from nervous repetitions.  
*“And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”* Matthew 6:7

Often nervous repetitions come due to a person moving in their own spirits not in the Holy Spirit. One may start a prophecy in the Spirit but then continue in the flesh. Once you are aware the flow of anointing has stopped you should cease prophesying instead of continuing in the flesh.

I once heard of a lady who prophesied saying something like, *“Just as I preserved Moses and his family from the flood in an Ark, so I will preserve you. Oh, oh...sorry. The Lord says he meant Noah!”* – don’t assign to the Lord what is actually from the flesh.

Actually, I believe the best way to prophesy is to start by saying *“I believe the Lord is saying...”* and just speak out what God clearly gives, adding nothing and taking nothing away.

6. They should not go beyond what is given.  
When a person speaks forth a prophetic word or gives an interpretation of Tongues there can be a temptation to add in their own thoughts. They should only speak out what they really feel God is saying and no more.

7. They should not use the name of the Lord in vain. Avoid using *“Thus says the Lord”*. Only one moving at the level of a real Prophet has the authority to say this. Many times we use this formula to *“name drop”*, showing off that we have had a private audience with the greatest celebrity of all time. It is better to say something like, *“I feel that the Lord is saying this”* or *“I have a word for you...”* to avoid throwing out God’s name with a hidden agenda of making yourself look good. The truth is that all of us can hear wrongly and get it wrong sometimes, allocating to God a word that is really not from Him and thus we bring His name into disrepute.

### **Instructions for responding to the Vocal gifts.**

1. Test with the seven tests as given above.
2. If the utterance passes the tests, don’t leave it on the shelf but pray it through until fulfillment. Paul told Timothy that *“according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare”* (1 Timothy 1:18). He encouraged Timothy to take the prophecies spoken over him into spiritual warfare, praying them through to their fulfillment by faith.
3. If the prophecy or interpretation fails the tests then the Church leaders need to act accordingly, approaching the person to lovingly correct them.

### **More Lord!**

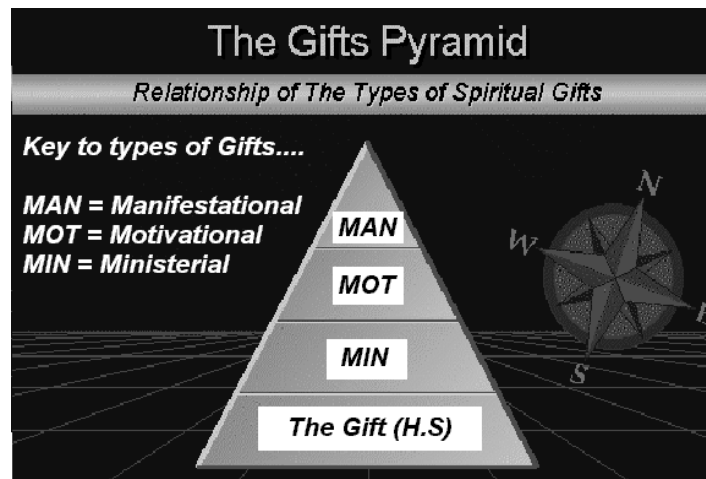
Why don't we see these gifts more in the Body of Christ? Because we do not earnestly desire spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1)! If someone desires something, he is going to make an effort in that direction in order to see what he desires comes to pass. The word 'covet' means earnestly desire. Many are not very earnest about making sure their desires are fulfilled. Start praying for the fullness of these spiritual gifts to be manifest in and through your life and you will find God is only too willing, and has even been waiting, to pour out these gifts to accomplish His will.

### **Guidelines for receiving and moving in these nine gifts:**

- i. Enter into the supernatural realm through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Stay in that realm by praying in tongues daily and continually seeking to drink from the rivers of living water.
- ii. Desire and seek the gifts, waiting on the Lord in prayer and desiring to be used to minister in the Body and outside the walls of the church.
- iii. Search the Word to know and understand how the gifts operate. There is no virtue in ignorance (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- iv. Believe! Have faith that God will answer your prayer and believe what the Word says, that the gifts are for all believers.
- v. Have an attitude of expectancy. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit and be ready to receive whatever He would bring to you.
- vi. Seek further help and understanding as to when and how to move from the leaders. Be teachable and learn when and how to move and how to test what you receive. If any inspiration involves ministering to others

- and you are not a recognized minister in the Body, share what you have received quietly with the leaders and allow them to direct you.
- vii. Never be discouraged by guidance and correction from the leaders. Keep trying; it is the only way to grow.
  - viii. Do not quench the Spirit. When the anointing and inspiration come, move in faith. If in prophecy and tongues you only have the first word and feel the anointing, step out in faith and believe God to receive more as you speak. If you have a word, a picture or the general sense of what the Lord desires to say, step out in faith, believing for the words to express it.
  - ix. Give the glory to God. Keep a balance between resisting and traces of pride that may try to creep in and a false humility which is an attempt to avoid pride and can prevent us from doing anything.

## The Tip of the Pyramid



Looking at the above picture you can see that the Spiritual gifts can be likened to a pyramid where the foundation must be the Holy Spirit. If a 'gift' is not from the Holy Spirit then it is a false and even demonic one.

Building on that foundation and laying another foundation for the other gifts are the Ministerial Gifts (MIN). As we have seen, all the other gifts come out of the five Ministerial affinities to equip all believers with differing Motivational gifts or ministries (MOT).

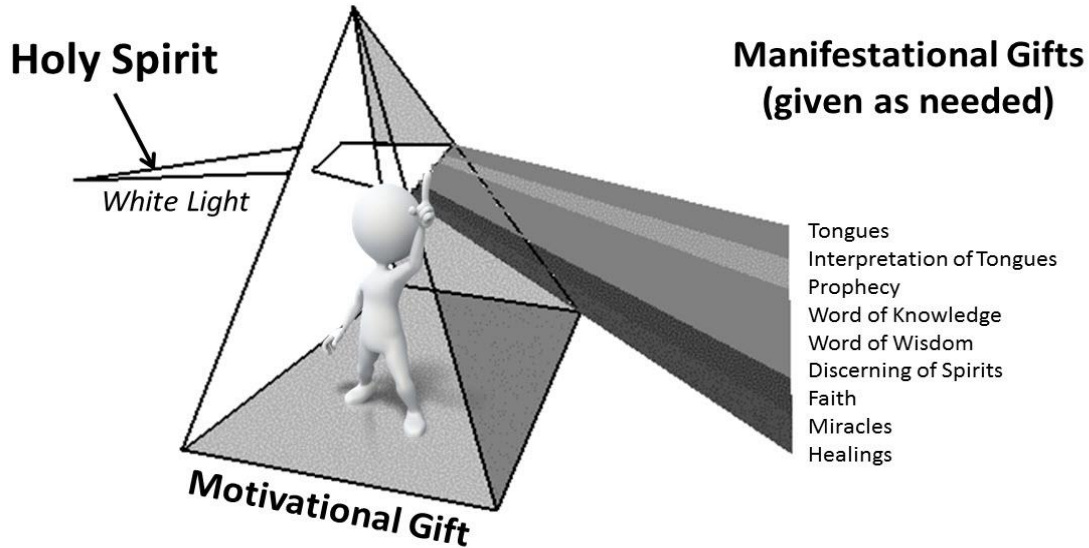
However, the Manifestation gifts (MAN) are at the tip of the pyramid or, you could also say, at the tip of the arrow head. They are the gifts that pierce into the situation and really get things done. Without these power gifts the others would have no or limited impact.

This is why I have called the Manifestation Gifts the Empowering Gifts and have related them to the paint of the Artist. If the brushes have no paint on them they do not impact the canvas in a powerful way so people's lives can be touched. A person moving in a Motivational Gift without the empowering of the Holy Spirit will not be

able to powerfully impact the people they are reaching out to as much as they should.

## The Prism Principle

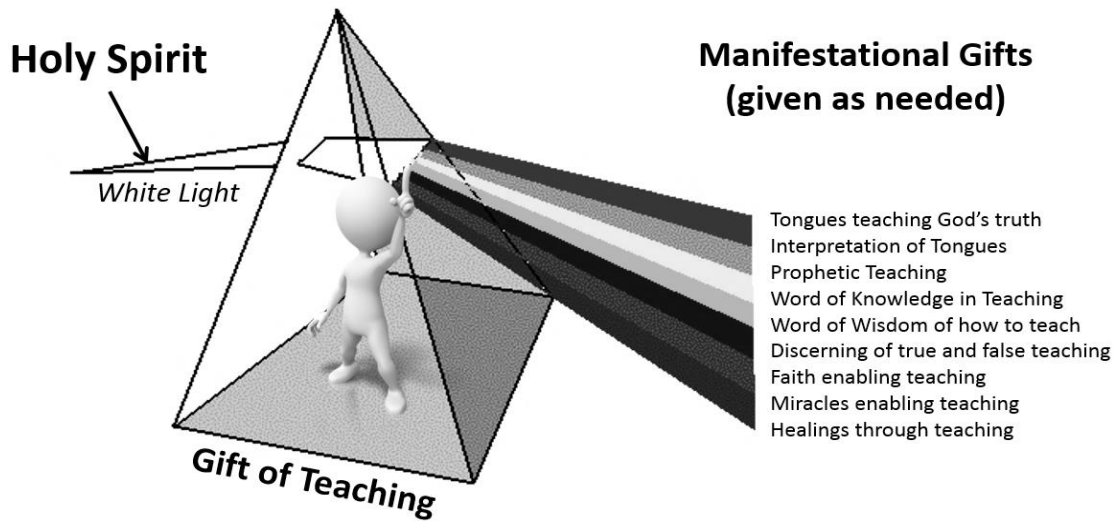
Another image I want to use to describe the operation of the gifts is that of a prism. Look at the diagram below:



Each Motivational gift can be likened to a prism through which white light (The Holy Spirit) shines. Each of these gifts will shine forth the Manifestation Gifts to give different spectrums and light patterns, containing all nine colours of the Manifestation gifts, but in different intensities.

For example, the Evangelistic motivations will shine forth particularly strongly in Words of Knowledge, Faith and Healings but will need all the others to some extent. The Shepherding motivations will also need Healings but the shade of Healing will be quite different. Evangelistic motivations need more physical healings and the Shepherding motivations need more emotional and inner healings. The way Words of Knowledge come will also be different. The Evangelistic motivations may receive revelation concerning sicknesses by literal pain in their body whereas the Shepherding motivations may receive revelation concerning emotional pain in someone through an inner prompting.

The following diagram adapts the picture by putting the Prism as the Motivational Gift of Teaching. The Holy Spirit shines through the believer with this gift to shine forth Manifestation gifts. Look at the diagram to see the kinds of manifestations you are likely to see through this gift.



Having the Motivational gifts of Teaching and Prophecy I notice that at some time or other I have moved in all the nine Manifestation Gifts. As my Teaching and Prophetic gifts develop so the Manifestation gifts tailor themselves to fit into what's needed in these motivations.

The strongest Manifestation gifts I move in are Words of Knowledge and Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits and Prophecy.

For my Teaching gift I find that the Gift of Tongues is useful to birth teaching ideas as the Lord interprets mysteries I speak in Tongues, even as I'm studying God's word. Words of Knowledge come as to topics and themes and specific teachings I should bring forth to different groups of people, and Words of Wisdom come as to how I present these in creative ways.

As a Teacher I often can discern the spirits behind other Teachers and Preachers and very quickly pick up heresy or wrong spirits. Of course the gift of Faith is needed to deliver the words of revelation I get and often the gift of Healing operates as people receive healing (particularly emotional and inner healing) as I deliver His Word. I also see miracles in that the Lord miraculously provides books or materials or even printing ink at exactly the right moment to prepare for teachings that He is prompting me to do.

As for my Prophetic gifts of Worship leading and Prophetic song, I regularly find the gift of Tongues empowers me to move prophetically and then I will sing in Tongues that leads to singing in English as the Interpretation of Tongues, singing forth a prophecy to edify the people. In ministry times I am sometimes prompted to sing or speak prophecies over individuals, many quite specific, and the people often confirm that the words were spot on.

As a worship leader I regularly get Words of Wisdom as to the topic of a worship session and what songs to use. Specific Words of Knowledge concerning people's needs will come in times of worship that I then speak out. I always need the Gift of Faith to launch out in Prophetic song or word and many times, when the Word of Knowledge for someone's healing or miracle comes, I need this gift to operate in the gift of Healing or Miracles.

In conclusion, the Manifestation gifts are the empowering gifts that are released when we are baptized with the Spirit. They are the power tools of all the Motivational gifts, the tools that penetrate into situations and accomplish the Lord's will, and they are released to us at moments we most need them. Each Motivational gift will have a different spectrum of uses for these gifts according to the frequency and intensity of each gift needed.

## Do You Get The Picture?

### Time to reflect:

- What Manifestation gifts have you moved in? List each gift and besides it put an occasion when you moved in it. If you have not moved in one gift pray for the release of that gift in your life and earnestly seek it (1 Corinthians 14:1).
- What are the most needed Manifestation gifts according to your main Motivational gifts (the three you listed in the last chapter)? How can they be used?

#### ***Motivational Gift 1:***

Main Manifestation gifts needed:

How they can be used:

#### ***Motivational Gift 2:***

Main Manifestation gifts needed:

How they can be used:

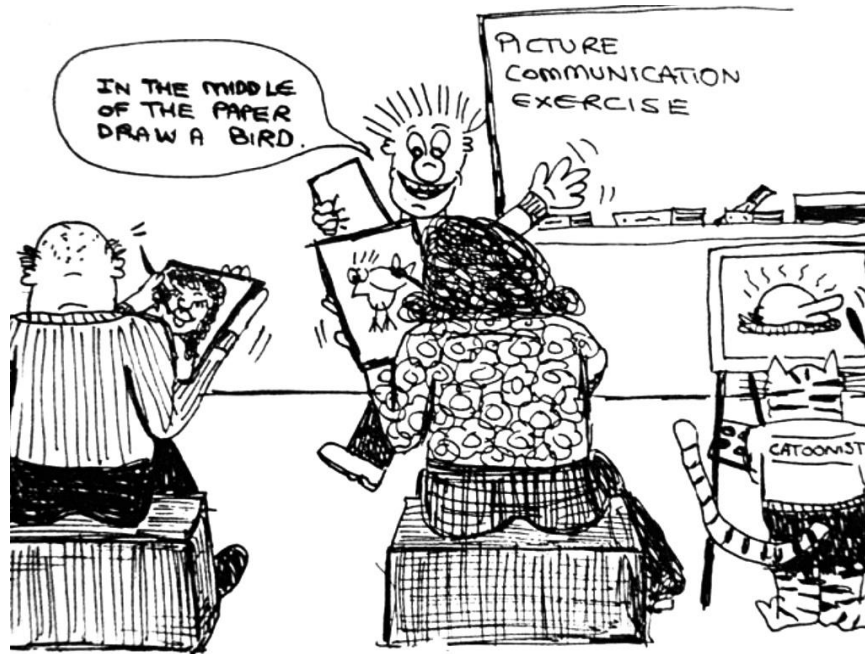
#### ***Motivational Gift 3:***

Main Manifestation gifts needed:

How they can be used:

# CHAPTER SIX

## What kind of painter are you?



*You will paint the picture according to your particular bent.*

In this chapter I will look at two answers to the question, “*What kind of painter are you?*”? The first answer concerns our physical location and the second one concerns our spiritual location. The first, our area of calling in the world, and the second, our calling to be like Christ.

### The Three Areas of Painting

We all have special inclinations that are given by God as to where we feel drawn to do our spiritual painting. Just as there are different types of painters in the natural so there are different types in the spiritual.

In the natural, there are painters in three main fields of work – domestic, industrial and artistic. Domestic painters are home decorators, beautifying and making homes wonderful places to live in. Industrial painters are ones who paint industrial buildings and products in businesses in order to provide something useful and attractive to society. Artists are the creative specialists who travel far and wide to display their thought provoking and emotionally wrenching works of art.

We could apply this by saying the domestic painter is like the one called primarily to Church work. The Church is the house of God, and those called to ministry within the church are to use their gifts to beautify the church and make it a wonderful

place to dwell in and work from. This would be the same as the post-harvest ministries of shepherding and teaching that we looked at earlier.

The industrial painter is like the one called into the marketplace, painting the society they are reaching out to with the love of the Lord, bringing the attractiveness and enduring usefulness of the Kingdom of God into the world. These are the harvest evangelistic ministries.

Then there are the skilled artistic painters. They are like the ones travelling far and wide with the creative message of the Kingdom of God into new areas, showing the masterpiece of God to the Lost and drawing them to the King. These are the pre-harvest apostolic and prophetic ministries.

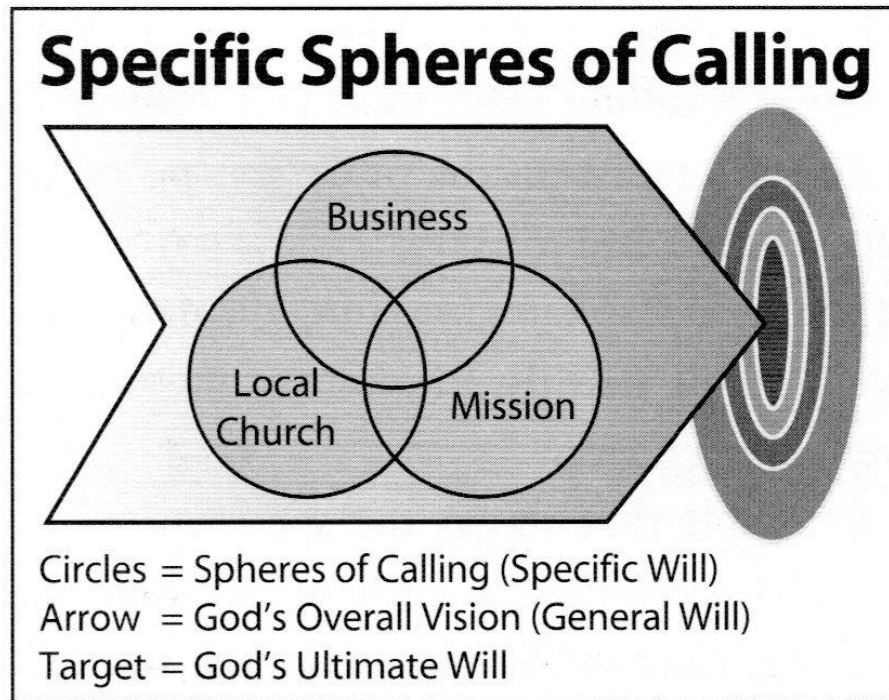
So, in summary:

*Domestic Painter = Ministry primarily in the Local Church*

*Industrial Painter = Ministry primarily in Business (Marketplace)*

*Artistic Painter = Ministry primarily in Missions*

In chapter 4 of my first book I introduced the following diagram which shows how these three areas fit into God's Big Picture:



Notice how the three overlapping '*spheres of ministry*' in this diagram refer exactly to these three areas of painting. Each one of us will fit somewhere in the seven areas here.

God will plant us somewhere within the overlapping circles in this diagram, just as he did with all the early Christians mentioned in Acts. The following diagram summarizes what I taught in chapter 4 of my last book (Picture Perfect), showing where key characters in Acts fitted in:



Each of these people in the different areas had very different gifts and abilities, they all *'painted'* in different ways as I showed in my book *'Picture Perfect'*. Domestic painters paint differently to industrial painters who paint very differently to artistic painters! We must not limit the callings of God.

To compare these three areas let me use the technical descriptions given by Maria Kielmasin in her article, *'Types of Painting'*<sup>78</sup>, and apply them to spiritual painting:

**Domestic Painter (Local Church ministry)**

*"The home-decorating type of painting is one of those DIY jobs most people try at least once in their lifetimes and then decide never to repeat the experience. This is a craft that ultimately needs some skill but anyone can start off on lower level tasks, so the best training for it is on the job. A painter/decorator needs an understanding of the meticulous preparation of surfaces, how to care for all implements, attention to detail and considerable patience. You can learn this craft at any age -- upon leaving school, at mid-career or as a retiree."*

My last eleven years of ministry have been primarily in Local Church as a Pastor of one congregation in a larger church. Before that I was working in a missionary organization. The two are vastly different realms of ministry. Those called to ministry primarily in Local Churches are from all walks of life, having differing levels of abilities, understanding and passion for the Lord.

Just like home-decorating, anyone coming into a church can link into one ministry and be able to do it fairly well, but they will need considerable patience to do really well and last through to complete the task God is asking them to do. In these past eleven years that I have been ministering in the Local Church many

<sup>78</sup> Types of Painters by Maria Kielmas, Demand Media

people have come and gone in ministry. Some left due to valid reasons, but others could not stay the course and gave up, usually due to relationship issues.

They need to learn that meticulous preparation is needed to be a good Usher, Worship Team leader or member, Small Group leader, helper or host, Sunday School Teacher and so forth. They need to learn how to care for the people God is ministering to and through in the Church, especially the difficult ones, and they must pay attention to detail so as to minister in excellence. Again, this all takes considerable patience.

Lastly, just like a domestic painter any age can be involved in Local Church ministry. It's never too early and never too late to be involved. To stay the course all these generations need a vision of the completed house – the Church as God's spotless Bride when Christ returns. Christ's return is in the context of His world mission being completed:

*“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”* Matthew 24:14

With this World Vision and Local Church calling they can accomplish all that God wants them to.

### **Industrial Painter (Marketplace ministry)**

*“Industrial painting is a skilled craft that is applied in the finishing and protection of buildings, industrial plants and facilities. These include external structures such as bridges and tunnels, as well as vehicles, aircraft and all forms of tools and appliances. Painting provides decoration and attractive aspects to the final product. But its real value is to protect the surface of the object from erosion and disintegration due to use and extreme weather. Industrial painters need knowledge of how to prepare many different types of surfaces prior to applying layers of paint. The best way to become an industrial painter is through on-the-job training.”*

Just like industrial painters those called to ministry in the Marketplace (in any of the areas of arts and entertainment, business and finance, design and technology, education and schools, family, government and health) are involved in completing and protecting God's works and people in the area of society they are called to.

Some people are called to be Pastors in the marketplace. One sister who was in my congregation is a shepherd over many in an insurance agency. She is in charge over a group of believers who she mentors to be effective in shining for Jesus in Singapore society. Her testimony reveals a very clear call into this area of ministry. If she was to resign and become a Pastor in the church she would be missing God's call on her life and would probably fail anyway as the pastoral dynamics in both areas are very different.

However, the majority will be called to be Evangelists in the Marketplace. These ministers will bring the attractiveness of Christ to all areas of the Marketplace, but their main aim is to bring a strong covering of protection to God's work and people in the world in the face of extreme storms of worldliness, drawing people to God and into the Local Church.

To be a Marketplace minister needs on-the-job training. Today there are many books and seminars on this topic, something that was unheard of a generation ago. Here in Singapore this is a fast growing and much needed area of ministry.

### **Artistic Painter (World Missions ministry)**

*“A Leonardo da Vinci or a Pablo Picasso is born with supreme talent before training to develop it. A fine arts college degree may bring out that inherent genius. But a career as a fine arts painter requires dedication and isolation. So to avoid working in a vacuum, keep in contact with old student friends, galleries, art publications and especially picture framers who can enhance your work.”*

Those with the gift of apostleship are unique. They will find it hard to remain within one Local Church and will often want to ‘*get out of the box*’. However the local church needs to be connected to these people and vice versa, just as part of home decorating is to hang works of art on the walls to make the place complete!

Those called to the mission field to plant new works are not merely the drop-outs who could not make it in the world, but they are usually very creative and intelligent and would top the class if they went into other fields.

They are extremely dedicated and can be isolated if they do not work on building up a good network of friends and ministry partners. My first ten years of ministry was working in a mission organization where everyone was passionate about reaching the world for Christ. However, many in the organization grew weary of local churches, some even pulling away from them completely. They would get frustrated by the lack of passion and the apathy and selfishness they perceived in the local church.

Having worked in both areas I know this is a very real tension. I can sometimes get very frustrated when I remember the passion and dedication of my partners in mission when I was a missionary. These people need to realize the local church is vital in God’s plan and is made up of a huge spectrum of people from the passionate to the passionless. Expectations need to be adjusted to move in these different areas.

### **In what area are you to paint?**

Entering any one of these areas (or overlaps of these areas) must be a calling from the Lord and come with His revelation. Traditionally it has been assumed that someone with a ‘*call*’ will leave their ‘*secular*’ job to ‘*enter the ministry*’ in church or on the missions field. However, this thinking is not biblical.

As I showed you in my first book, all of us are called. We are not called just to be saved but He has “*saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*” (2 Timothy 1:9-10).

Once we are saved we can step into our calling that will be within these three spheres of local church, missions and marketplace. If you are working somewhere in the marketplace and you sense God is calling you to serve him fully then it may not be right to leave your job as that could be your area of ministry. Indeed Paul counseled those in the Corinthian church who were on fire for God not to immediately leave their jobs but to “*remain in the same calling in which he was*

called” (1 Corinthians 7:20). It’s all about hearing our call from the Lord and responding in faith and perseverance.

In the eleventh century, King Henry III of Bavaria grew tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch. He made application to Prior Richard at a local monastery, asking to be accepted as a contemplative and spend the rest of his life in the monastery.

“Your Majesty,” said Prior Richard, “do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you have been a king.”

“I understand,” said Henry. “The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you.”

“Then I will tell you what to do,” said Prior Richard. “Go back to your throne and serve faithfully in the place where God has put you.”

When King Henry died, a statement was written: “The King learned to rule by being obedient.”<sup>79</sup>

When we tire of our roles and responsibilities, it helps to remember God has planted us in a certain place and told us to be a good accountant or teacher or mother or father. Christ expects us to be faithful where he puts us, and when he returns, we’ll rule together with him.

Letting a person loose in Local Church ministry who is really meant to minister in the Marketplace can turn the church into a business that runs really smoothly and is profitable but misses the mark completely in terms of God’s calling and purpose. This truth can be seen across each of these areas if there is a mismatch.

This does not mean that a person called to the Marketplace or apostolic ministry will not minister at all in the Local Church, but it does mean their main focus will be ministry where they work in the world. They will still worship regularly in a local church and have input as needed.

Tom R. Harper in his book *Career Crossover*<sup>80</sup> suggests ten bad reasons to leave life in the marketplace:

1. You’re discouraged and burned-out in your current job.
2. You want to feel good about your work.
3. You feel the need to please someone else (family, friends, etc.).
4. You dream of “*changing the world.*”
5. You failed at other jobs and want to try something new.
6. You want a “*career*” in the church.
7. You’re low on funds and think church work would be easy money for a while.
8. You think ministry seems like the most fun job out of several you’re considering.
9. You want to try your hand at full-time ministry to see if you like it.
10. You see an open church position that has better hours, benefits, or salary than your current position.

As I have shared, for me it was a very clear calling for me to go full time into a missionary organization initially, not with an apostolic calling but with a calling to teach His truths with a prophetic edge. I have ministered in both missions

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<sup>79</sup> Steve Brown, Key Biscayne, Florida

<sup>80</sup> Tom. R. Harper, *Career Crossover: Leaving the Marketplace for Ministry*, B&H Publishing Group, 2007.

and local church because God is calling me to raise up bright arrows from the churches to go forth into the nations in all areas of ministry. Whilst at Bible School this call became very clear with prophecies that I would work in a vineyard (church), polishing bright arrows to go forth into dark areas of Singapore and the nations.

As for where I am in the outworking of this vision I will share more in my next book, The Picture Process.

## **With what attitude are you to paint? - A painter like Christ.**

*“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”* Philippians 2:5-8

Having the mind of Christ as we minister in the area God places us in is essential to effective and eternally enduring ministry. The following Ten Commandments are a useful guideline for us as we seek to paint our part in His picture in the right way.

## **The Ten Commandments of Spiritual Painters**

### **I. Don't be a delaying painter.**

*“I made haste, and did not delay  
To keep Your commandments.”* Psalm 119:60

An artist solicited permission to paint a portrait of the queen. The favour was granted, and the favour was great, for it would make the fortune of the man. A place was fixed and a time. At the fixed place and time, the queen appeared but the artist was not there. He was not ready yet. When he did arrive, a message was communicated to him that Her Majesty had departed and would not return<sup>81</sup>.

The King of glory has appointments with destiny for us to meet. When we hear His call to *'paint'* His image in the world we need to rise up and obey or we will miss that for which we are appointed and become disappointed! The artist in this story felt he was not ready, but by not turning up he was actually disrespecting the monarch by proudly thinking that they must move according to his timetable. We are to be prepared and ready to fit into God's timetable for our lives and not disrespect Him by living according to our own. If we do this, He will withdraw His manifest presence from us.

Jesus taught the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-3) saying that when the Bridegroom was about to appear the five foolish virgins did not have enough oil and had to go off to get more. They were delayed and eventually shut out of the marriage feast.

He of course is speaking to us at the end of days, waiting for King Jesus, our heavenly Bridegroom to come for His Bride, the Church. We must be like the five wise virgins who had extra oil. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, so Jesus is saying

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<sup>81</sup> The Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator

we need to be full and overflowing with the Spirit, empowered to use the many spiritual gifts he has lavished on us.

We cannot delay any more. We must be prepared with extra oil. We must arise and heed the call of our Lord, moving in the anointing and power of the Spirit just like Jesus did when He was on earth. He was always on time, even if it did not seem so to others.

Being on time means responding immediately to the King's command. In the case of Lazarus it seemed to Mary and Martha that Jesus had delayed his coming and let Lazarus die (John 11:21). However, on the contrary, we know Jesus was just on time for a miracle, a revelation of God's glory, as He was doing the will of the Father, harkening and responding to the King's every command.

When the Lord starts releasing His gifts in and through you and you hear His call to use them in specific areas of calling, don't hesitate or delay because you feel you are not ready. Step out in faith and you will see the glory of God.

## II. Don't give up painting.

*"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* Galatians 6:9

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the famous 19th-century poet and artist, was once approached by an elderly man. The old fellow had some sketches and drawings that he wanted Rossetti to look at and tell him if they were any good, or if they at least showed potential talent.

Rossetti looked them over carefully. After the first few, he knew that they were worthless, showing not the least sign of artistic talent. But Rossetti was a kind man, and he told the elderly man as gently as possible that the pictures were without much value and showed little talent. He was sorry, but he could not lie to the man.

The visitor was disappointed, but seemed to expect Rossetti's judgment. He then apologized for taking up Rossetti's time, but would he just look at a few more drawings - these done by a young art student?

Rossetti looked over the second batch of sketches and immediately became enthusiastic over the talent they revealed. *"These,"* he said, *"Oh, these are good. This young student has great talent. He should be given every help and encouragement in his career as an artist. He has a great future if he will work hard and stick to it."*

Rossetti could see that the old fellow was deeply moved. *"Who is this fine young artist?"* he asked. *"Your son?"*

*"No,"* said the old man sadly. *"It is me - 40 years ago. If only I had heard your praise then! For you see, I got discouraged and gave up - too soon."*<sup>82</sup>

In 1995 I felt like giving it all up and going back to England to pursue a secular career. I was feeling weary and wondering if all that I felt God was promising was just a delusion. I thank God that I still had a mustard seed of faith to believe that God would intervene, and that He did. That's when I experienced times of refreshing from His presence (Acts 3:20) whilst teaching in Kuala Lumpur that

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<sup>82</sup> Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Hanoch McCarty & Meladee McCarty, A 4th Course of Chicken Soup for the Soul, 1997

revitalized my life and led to a new surge of anointing and inspired spiritual painting!

Instead of giving up when things get tough painting God's picture we must be a persevering painter. The following story further shows us this truth:

Although Henri Matisse was nearly 28 years younger than Auguste Renoir, the two great artists were dear friends and frequent companions. When Renoir was confined to his home during the last decade of his life, Matisse visited him daily. Renoir, almost paralyzed by arthritis, continued to paint in spite of his infirmities.

One day as Matisse watched the elder painter working in his studio, fighting torturous pain with each brush stroke, he blurted out: "*Auguste, why do you continue to paint when you are in such agony?*"

Renoir answered simply: "*The beauty remains; the pain passes.*" And so, almost to his dying day, Renoir put paint to canvas. One of his most famous paintings, *The Bathers*, was completed just two years before his passing, 14 years after he was stricken by this disabling disease.

As we launch out to use the gifts God has given us in the area of His calling there will be challenges and painful times we have to go through. Remember that "*the beauty remains; the pain passes*". As we remember this we will have the strength not to give up but to persevere in painting His beautiful picture. After all, Jesus Himself never gave up, that's why we should be "*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*" (Hebrews 12:2).

### **III. Don't be an "all-in-one" painter.**

*"But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62*

James Story tells about going to a new parsonage and finding many cans of old paint in the garage, but not enough to do any one job. So he mixed them all together and came up with "*Preacher gray.*"<sup>83</sup>

Sometimes we can become a "*jack of all trades, master of none*". We fly here and there in ministry trying our hand at all there is to do but we never really become proficient in anything. We're actually mixing colours that are insufficient and not the true colours provided by God. God's colour palette never runs dry, but we can pick up imitation palettes that do run dry. Then we try to paint with all these false colours, and end up becoming "*preacher gray*"!

Did you know that this misquotes what Benjamin Franklin is actually purported to have said? The real quote is "*Jack of all trades, master of one*". Franklin actually said that we should have a focus in what we do. Yes, when needs be we should do other tasks with all our heart, but ultimately there's one area God is asking us to master.

Jesus was good at everything He did but had a spiritual focus that determined His day to day activities. Luke records that "*it came to pass, when the time had*

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<sup>83</sup> The Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator

*come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem"* (Luke 9:51). Jesus had focus.

When I first started ministering in churches I tried out many areas of ministry from teaching Children and youth to eventually fine tuning all I do to be with the focus of *'polishing bright arrows'*. In the past I have had the tendency of being a people pleaser in ministry, doing everything I'm asked to do without thinking why I am doing it. Now if something I am asked to do that is none essential in the ministry and is not related to this focus, and I have the luxury of saying 'no' to it, then I will turn it down. Otherwise I will become another "preacher gray", with no real impact.

Henry Ford said, *"A weakness of all humans is trying to do too many things at once. That scatters effort and destroys direction. It makes for haste, and haste makes waste. So we do things all the wrong ways possible before we come to the right one. Then we think it is the best way because it works, and it was the only way left that we could see. Every now and then I wake up in the morning headed toward that finality, with a dozen things I want to do. I know I can't do them all at once." When asked what he did about that, Ford replied, "I go out and trot around the house. While I'm running off the excess energy that wants to do too much, my mind clears and I see what can be done and should be done first."*<sup>84</sup>

As you discover the focus in ministry God has given you then you will need times to "trot around the house" to get your priorities right so you don't become an "all-in-one" painter called "preacher gray"!

#### **IV. Don't be a deceitful painter.**

*"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."* 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

E. W. Martin tells of a young man who was employed by his father, a building contractor<sup>85</sup>. The son was dissatisfied with his wages. One day the father came to him and said, *"Son, here are some blueprints. I want you to have entire charge of this job. Do your best on this house; it is for a special friend."* The son thought to himself, *"This is my opportunity. I will use shoddy material and cover it up with paint; Father will never know, and I will put the difference in my pocket."* This he did.

Finally the house was complete. It looked good on the surface. The young man had just been married. A few days later the father came to the home of his son and said to him and his bride, *"Son, I know your wages have not been large, but I had it in mind all the time to give you this house. Here is the deed. It is yours."* Then the son was ashamed.

God says, *"Each one's work will become clear: for the Day will declare it...by fire."* What kind of material are we using, *"Gold, silver and precious stones"* or *"wood, hay and stubble"*? Here the son used *"wood, hay and stubble"*, that is

<sup>84</sup> Bits & Pieces, September 19, 1991, p. 18.

<sup>85</sup> William Moses Tidwell, "Pointed Illustrations"

inferior quality materials that came from an inferior quality attitude. His attitude was to cut corners; to work at his own convenience.

If we don't use the gifts we are given with a right attitude we will still be saved but will miss out on the full rewards God has for us when Jesus returns. In the above story, the son's reward was a faulty house because of his faulty attitude!

Another story that shows this truth is about a minister who dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. Saint Peter addresses this guy, *"Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"* The guy replies, *"I'm Joe Cohen, taxi-driver, of New York City."* Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi-driver, *"You have a large mansion as your reward. Here's the golden key."* The taxi-driver goes into Heaven with the golden key, and it's the minister's turn. He stands erect and booms out, *"I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."* Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the minister, *"Take this wooden key and you'll find a small wooden hut in that field over there."* *"Just a minute,"* says the minister. *"That man was a taxi-driver and he gets a mansion with a golden key. How can this be?"* *"Up here, we work by results,"* says Saint Peter. *"While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."*<sup>86</sup>

Jesus said, *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know"* (John 14:2-4).

Our 'mansion' in heaven is dependent on how faithful we are to God's call on our lives now, whether we're called to be a preacher or a taxi driver. Are we faithfully using the gifts He has given us in the area of calling He has placed us with an attitude of humility and love, or are we building with *"wood hay and stubble"*? Don't be a deceitful painter.

## **V. Don't be a compromising Painter.**

*"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."* Colossians 2:8

A truly stingy painter was contracted to paint the local Church a beautiful white on the outside. The Deacons negotiated a price with the painter and he set to work. He thought to himself, *"I can make a little higher profit on this job."* So he thinned down his paint, so that the paint to do one side ended up painting the whole building. As he finished and was admiring his work, it began to rain. And it rained, and rained, and rained. And the white paint ran down the sides of the church, and ran off into the sewer. The painter fell to his knees and cried, *"Why me, God?"* And suddenly, a voice was heard from heaven, *"Repaint, and Thin no more!"*<sup>87</sup>

Jesus says there will be one group of people in the end times who will compromise His calling:

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<sup>86</sup> Source unknown. Adapted from <http://www.frtommylane.com/stories/jokes/heaven.htm>

<sup>87</sup> Adapted from Hoover Rupert, *Why Didn't Noah Swat Both Mosquitoes?*, Lima, OH: CSS Publishing Co. Inc., 1994, p. 83

*“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”* Matthew 7:22-23

They know His name. Their *‘spiritual’* activities seem to have the marks of genuine ministry, but Jesus, with a broken heart, will declare to them, *“I don’t know you.”* Why? Because they live a compromised, watered down life full of sin and theological compromise, watering down even the spiritual gifts (prophecy and Exorcism here). Jesus says that these people *“practice lawlessness”*, meaning they do not recognize God’s Law that is written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33). They will say the Law is no longer relevant and the opposite of Grace (actually Legalism is opposite of Grace, not the Law) and that we need not even repent when we stray from God’s ways.

This is a popular characteristic of people in the last days. They are *“lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”* (2 Timothy 3:2–4).

Compromising in our faith is a bit like the hunter who went out into the forest to shoot a bear out of which he planned to make a warm coat. By and by he saw a bear coming toward him and raised his gun and took aim. *“Wait,”* said the bear, *“why do you want to shoot me?”* *“Because I am cold,”* said the hunter. *“But I am hungry,”* the bear replied, *“so maybe we can reach an agreement.”*

In the end, the hunter was well enveloped with the bear’s fur and the bear had eaten his dinner!

As we seek to be clothed in our spiritual gifting uniform let us not compromise our faith or we’ll be eaten by the bear of deception. The Christian ministry graveyard is littered with those who were clothed in mighty gifts from God but compromised in their lives and messages. Don’t be one of them. Don’t be a compromising painter.

## **VI. Don’t be a self-seeking and envious Painter.**

*“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”* James 3:14-16

Many years ago Michelangelo, the sculptor, and Raphael, the painter, were commissioned to execute works of art for the beautification of the Vatican. Although each had a different job to do and both were highly respected, there arose such a bitter spirit of rivalry between them that at last they would not even speak when they met. Their jealous attitude toward one another was obvious to all who knew them. The most amazing part of it all was that both were supposed to be doing their work *“for the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31), and, more amazingly, this quote was in the context of letting *“no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being”* (1 Corinthians 10:24).

These two gifted artists were boasting about their gifts due to jealousy of each other. We must make sure we do not boast of the gifts God gives us. After all, concerning the gift of salvation Paul says, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Likewise, spiritual gifts are not to be boasted about as they are not deserved and come with no conditions.

A favourite saying of a preacher who visits our church occasionally, Pastor Paul Ang, is that, when it concerns spiritual gifts, we are only *“postmen”*. The package we are given is from God and if it blesses the one who receives it then we cannot claim the glory. As a *“postman”* we must humbly and faithfully make sure the gift is delivered in one piece and expect no special accolades.

Suzanne Collins in *‘Mockingjay’*<sup>88</sup> wrote *“They’ll either want to kill you, kiss you, or be you”* about others reaction to your giftedness. I’ve witnessed firsthand how jealousy and self-seeking can grip even *‘mature’* Christians as they seek to *‘be someone’* in the Christian world. The truth is that we are called to be like Christ and simply be who He has made us to be. Everyone has a unique gift-mix perfectly suited for who they are. Don’t be a self-seeking and envious Painter but thank God for all He has made you to be and rejoice as others move into their fullness.

## **VII. Don’t be a revengeful painter**

*“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”* Romans 12:19

An artist had a dog that meant more to him than anything in the world. One day he broke his leg and the artist was panic-stricken. He ran to the telephone and called an acquaintance, a famous surgeon. *“It’s an emergency,”* he yelled, *“a matter of life and death. Come quick!”*

The startled surgeon dropped everything and rushed to the home of the artist, expecting the worst. He was then confronted with the dog. The surgeon, with masterful self-control, said not a word but proceeded to treat the dog with the same skill he would have used on a human being. Then he picked up his instruments and left.

Weeks passed, the dog got well, yet the artist never received a bill from the surgeon. The longer he waited the guiltier he felt. Surely he had lost the surgeon's friendship forever. A few days later, therefore, he made his way to the surgeon's office, intending to pay all that was asked. The surgeon would not accept his cheque. *“You’re a painter, aren’t you?”* he asked. *“Certainly!”* the painter replied. *“Very well”,* the Surgeon said, *“if you will just put a coat of white paint on that cabinet over there, we will call the debt settled.”*

The artist, a good-natured man, was amused by the doctor's clever idea of revenge. He smiled and started to work at once. But when the job was completed, instead of a coat of white paint, the panels of the surgeon's cabinet bore two of the artist's greatest masterpieces, worth thousands of dollars apiece.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins, 2010

<sup>89</sup> *Bits & Pieces*, August 22, 1991.

The Surgeon was asked to do something he could technically perform but that was not really his area of work. He treated the dog with great care and skill but underneath it all he was angry and planning his revenge.

Sometimes we find ourselves pushed into activities that we feel are beneath us or are not really our area of calling and we can react like the surgeon, trying to get our own back and take revenge.

When I first graduated from Bible School I expected to burst onto the Church scene with style, moving in great anointing in my gifts and abilities. However, the first task I was given was to be stuck in a tiny office all day long sorting out song transparencies (for use with the now extinct overhead projector). That was it! No preaching engagements, no packed seminars, just transparencies. To be very transparent with you, I was fuming inside at first and was planning how to get revenge. I would leave the office in a mess and go and announce to my missions director that he was wasting the years training I had been through. However, the Lord convicted me that I needed to be faithful in the small things first and then I would be entrusted with bigger things.

After repenting for this vengeful attitude, I started sorting out those transparencies with great joy, singing the songs worshipfully to the Lord as I did so. That tiny office became a sanctuary of praise and prayer and the genesis of many wonderful spiritual paintings to come. I had become like the Artist in the above story who did not take revenge but instead gave his best in a seemingly unfavourable situation and ended up being blessed beyond his imagination.

Don't be a revengeful painter.

## **VIII. Be an Original Painter**

*“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”* Philippians 2:12-13.

It was perhaps the greatest hoax in art history. Han Van Meegeren was an artist with a grudge. Painting in the Netherlands pre-World War Two, critics mercilessly panned his exhibitions. One critic described him as *“A gifted technician who has made a sort of composite facsimile of the Renaissance school, he has every virtue except originality.”* Stung, Van Meegreen decided to strike back. He painted a work with flourishes of the style of the great Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer, titled it *“The Supper at Emmaus”*, and submitted it to the prominent critic Abraham Bredius. Bredius took the bait, writing that *“It is a wonderful moment in the life of a lover of art when he finds himself suddenly confronted with a hitherto unknown painting by a great master... And what a picture! We have here a – I am inclined to say the – masterpiece of Johannes Vermeer of Delft.”* The art world gasped, the painting was sold for the equivalent of millions of dollars, and displayed in the Boijmans Gallery in Rotterdam.

Han van Meegren planned to expose the forgery at the opening of the Gallery's 400 Years of European Art exhibition, in which his forgery was given pride of place. His critics would be humiliated and their reputations shattered. Greed, however, got the better of him. Rather than exposing the forgery, he made more, raking in

millions more dollars. When the Nazis swept through Europe, he even managed to sell *The Supper at Emmaus* to them.

This almost proved his undoing. After the war the victorious Allied forces were determined to return the artworks collected by the Nazis to their previous owners. A receipt led two soldiers from the Allied Art Commission to the studio of Van Meegren. They wanted to know from whom Van Meegran had bought the artwork. Unwilling to divulge the truth, Van Megreen was arrested on charges of treason and faced the death penalty. Confined in prison, facing death, Van Megreen had a change of heart. He confessed, but no-one believed him. Experts testified that the work was indeed an original by the Dutch master Vermeer. The only way to prove his innocence was to produce another fake, and so he did, spending weeks literally painting for his life!<sup>90</sup>

Van Megreen was trying to do other's work but never his own. He became so good at copying other artist that others could not tell the difference between his paintings and the original artists. That was his downfall and the cause of his problems.

In Philippians 2:12 the Apostle Paul says, *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”*. He does not say, *‘work out their salvation’*. We all have a unique journey to take and are equipped with unique gifts and abilities that only we can and should use to the maximum.

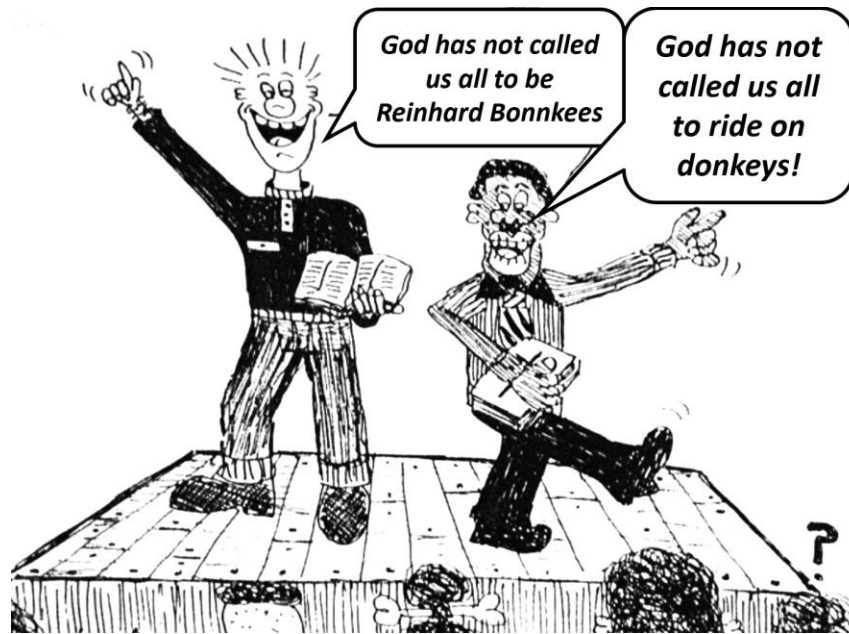
When I was at Bible School we had morning devotion where each student was given ten minutes to deliver a devotional sermon. One time we had just been to a Reinhard Bonnke crusade in Singapore and the student who was assigned to preach the morning after that crusade came to the front of the class to deliver his sermon. He immediately started to copy Bonnke's mannerisms and voice as he preached, launching out in all directions with hands flailing and speaking forth with a gruff voice sounding out beyond the classroom. This was so different to his normal character that we all started laughing.

After this our principal, Dr. Neal Patterson, came forward to tell us a story of his time as a missionary in Indonesia. One time he was teaching a group of Indonesians through an interpreter. He was teaching that we are not all called to be Reinhard Bonnkees (that is, not all are called to be evangelists like Bonnke). However, the interpreter had never heard of Reinhard Bonnke and interpreted it as, *“God has not called us all to ride on donkeys!”* All the Indonesians started laughing wildly and Dr. Neal was left wondering what he had said.

Be an original painter. Don't try and copy other's spiritual gifts but move in the gifts He has given you in a way that is unique to your own calling.

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<sup>90</sup> “The forger who fooled the world” The Telegraph, Aug 5, 2006



## IX. Be a painter of integrity.

*"But as for me, I will walk in my integrity;  
Redeem me and be merciful to me" Psalm 26:11.*

Integrity is more than not being deceitful or slipshod. It means doing everything *"heartily as unto the Lord"* (Colossians 3:23). In his book *"Lyrics,"* Oscar Hammerstein II points out one reason why, a reason Christians have always known:

*"Around 1983, on the cover of the New York Herald Tribune Sunday magazine, I saw a picture of the Statue of Liberty ... taken from a helicopter and it showed the top of the statue's head. I was amazed at the detail there. The sculptor had done a painstaking job with the lady's coiffure, and yet he must have been pretty sure that the only eyes that would ever see this detail would be the uncritical eyes of sea gulls. He could not have dreamt that any man would ever fly over this head. He was artist enough, however, to finish off this part of the statue with as much care as he had devoted to her face and her arms and the torch and everything that people can see as they sail up the bay ... When you are creating a work of art, or any other kind of work, finish the job off perfectly. You never know when a helicopter, or some other instrument not at the moment invented, may come along and find you out."<sup>91</sup>*

We must move in the spiritual gifts with integrity, not covering up lies and hidden agendas. God sees our hidden motivations even when others are clueless.

Mark Haville's is an extraordinary story. Converted into the Pentecostal/Charismatic church he quickly came under the spell of the Word-Faith teaching of men like Kenneth Copeland. But things did not stay that way for Mark.

<sup>91</sup> Oscar Hammerstein II, *Lyrics*, Hal Leonard, 2002

Still in his mid-20's, Mark became an itinerant minister travelling the country earning large sums of money through his ability to perform 'signs and wonders'. Remarkably, he has renounced his former life, his beliefs, and his practices as a Word-Faith minister and is now speaking out boldly against the beliefs and practices of the current Signs and Wonders movement.

In an interview Mark says, *"Basically, I copied it. I learned gradually to do what all these speakers like Copeland, Cerullo, Benny Hinn and others do. They manipulate audiences and individuals simply by the power of suggestion. They call the result 'signs and wonders'. They are deluded. Gradually, I too had learned the process of controlling meetings and inducing hypnotic techniques through suggestion in churches. I did many of the so-called signs and wonders."*<sup>92</sup>

Although I would not go as far as Mark does in condemning the Signs and Wonders movement, I would caution that we must not simply copy others methods and focus on manipulating people, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Remember that signs and wonders are to follow us and we are not to follow them (or force them):

*"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues"* Mark 16:17

Be a painter of integrity.

## **X. Be a loving Painter.**

*"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing."* 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

When an eminent painter was requested to paint Alexander the Great, so as to give a perfect likeness of the Macedonian conqueror, he had a difficulty. Alexander in his wars had been struck by a sword, and across his forehead was an immense scar. The painter said, if I retain the scar it will be an offense to the admirers of that monarch, and if I omit it, it will fail to be a perfect likeness. What shall I do? He hit upon a happy expedient. He represented the emperor leaning on his elbow, with his forefinger upon his brow, accidentally, as it seemed, covering the scar upon his forehead.

Might not we represent each other with the finger of charity upon the scar, instead of representing the scar deeper, darker, and blacker than it actually is?<sup>93</sup>

We must remember that the human authors of the Bible did not include chapters and verses. They were added much later. After Paul talks about using and seeking after the spiritual gifts in his letter to the Corinthian church he says there is a *"more excellent way"*. That way is then expounded upon in his beautiful description of love. All the gifts that I have been talking about must be used in love, otherwise we

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<sup>92</sup> First published in Evangelicals Now, March 1996

<sup>93</sup> H. L. Hastings, Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator

will clang like an empty vessel and be nothing in the Kingdom of God. Love trumps all the gifts.

Indeed, all the gifts ultimately operate for the purpose of helping others come to Christ and become more like Him.

James Packer writes, *“The Greek word agape (love) seems to have been virtually a Christian invention—a new word for a new thing (apart from about twenty occurrences in the Greek version of the Old Testament, it is almost non-existent before the New Testament). Agape draws its meaning directly from the revelation of God in Christ. It is not a form of natural affection, however, intense, but a supernatural fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). It is a matter of will rather than feeling (for Christians must love even those they dislike—Matthew 5:44-48). It is the basic element in Christlikeness.”*<sup>94</sup>

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis wrote, *“Do not waste your time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.”*

Jesus showed us the way of love in His ministry. As the Apostle John wrote, *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends”* (John 15:13). We must lay down our lives for others, using the gifts, whether we feel like it or not, to preach the gospel to the poor; heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed (Luke 4:18). That’s the purpose of all the gifts.

As Calvin Miller wrote in *‘Rethinking Suburban Evangelism’*, *“Love reaches for the hurt and takes bold steps without self-interest. It can accomplish unbelievable things merely because it is so void of self-interest. Some time ago, a teenager, Arthur Hinkley, lifted a 3,000-pound tractor with bare hands. He wasn’t a weight lifter, but his friend, Lloyd Bachelder, 18, was pinned under a tractor on a farm near Rome, Maine. Hearing Lloyd scream, Arthur somehow lifted the tractor enough for Lloyd to wriggle out. Love was the real motivation.”*<sup>95</sup>

In the use of all the Motivational gifts, love must be the real motivation.

Be a loving painter.

## Do You Get The Picture?

### Time to reflect:

1. In which area do you feel called to minister?

Are you more a domestic, industrial or artistic painter? Are you more called to Church, Missions or the Marketplace or a mixture of these? What area do your three main Motivational Gifts (Chapter 4) fit best in? Pray for greater clarity in this.

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<sup>94</sup> James Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986

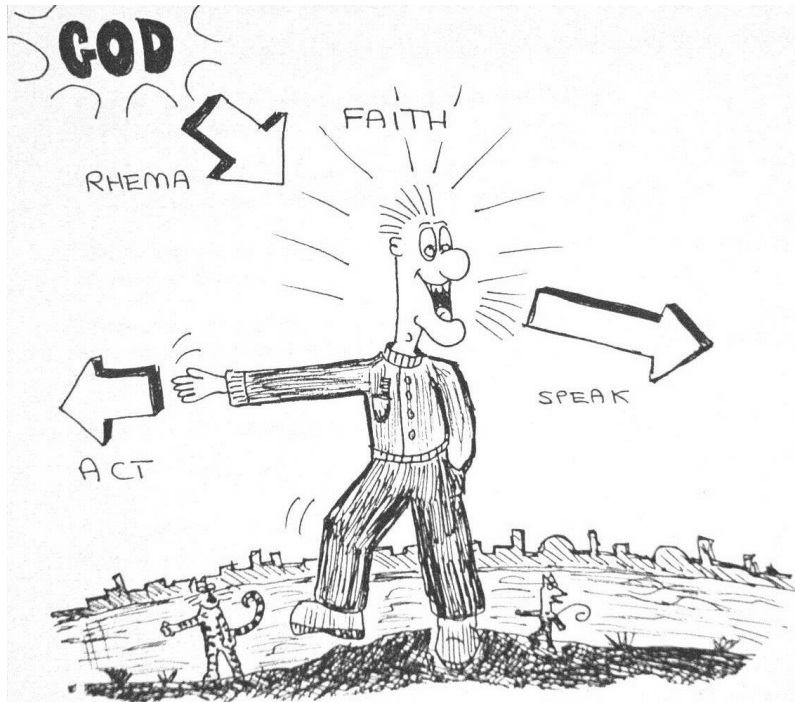
<sup>95</sup> Calvin Miller, *“Rethinking Suburban Evangelism,”* Leadership, 1988, p. 68

2. Go through the Ten Commandments and ask yourself, “*Am I this kind of spiritual painter?*” Pray that you will keep each of these commands.

- I. Don't be a delaying painter.
- II. Don't give up painting.
- III. Don't be an “all-in-one” painter.
- IV. Don't be a deceitful painter.
- V. Don't be a compromising Painter.
- VI. Don't be a self-seeking and envious Painter.
- VII. Don't be a revengeful painter.
- VIII. Be an Original Painter.
- IX. Be a Painter of integrity.
- X. Be a loving Painter.

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## 7 Principles of divine painting



*Both speaking and doing gifts come by grace through faith.*

**P**ainting has principles. In this last chapter I will outline seven basic principles of spiritual painting. All the spiritual gifts that I have been talking about in this book will operate under certain principles that we see revealed in the Bible.

These seven principles correlate with seven principles of actual fine art. According to Alberto Martin<sup>96</sup>, there are 7 fundamental principles of fine art. They are:

1. **Motivation** – Every painting starts with an idea or the decision of what to paint.
2. **Composition** – Every painting needs the right arrangement of elements within a space. Compositions work if they have a strong Focal Point – only one! This is the area or subject that inspired or motivated you. The goal of the painting is to lead the eye to the focal point.
3. **Drawing** – Every painting needs the accurate representation of form, proportions and perspective. This is usually done by drawing outlines with

<sup>96</sup> Alberto Martin, Watershed Painting School (<http://watershedpaintingschool.com/art-principles/>)

pencil. There's room to make many mistakes here and fine tune to get the basic shapes right.

4. **Value** – Each object or part of the painting has value. The degree of light determines the values.
5. **Colour** – The Colour of each part of the painting is the relative degree of hue, temperature and saturation. This is called colour theory and usage. For best effect complementary colours should be used.
6. **Edges** – Edges are where two forms or brushstrokes meet, they are a soft or a hard edge. If everything in your painting has a hard, sharp, crisp outline it will look like a cutout pasted on. So, edges should be painted soft or fuzzy to avoid this.
7. **Paint Application** – How the paint is applied to a surface is very important. Paint can be applied to the surface in many ways; thick, thin, rough, smooth etc.

Now let me apply these natural painting principles to spiritual painting.

## **PRINCIPLE 1 (MOTIVATION): The right motivation.**

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as 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 Peter 4:10-11*

All the Gifts are given by grace and operate through faith. The wording in 1 Peter 4:10-11 is in the form of a dance master (Holy Spirit) arranging (choreographing) the dance, directing all the dancers (Christians) what style/mood (our own gifting and calling) to dance in within the overall play (God's Big Picture). We are picked as 'dancers' in His 'play' not due to any good in ourselves, but by grace (unmerited favour). The word '*manifold grace*' means literally '*many-sided grace*' - many-sided like a beautiful diamond with many faces just as there are many gifts.

They operate by trusting in the giver and we are '*stewards*' of these gifts given to us (when we are baptized in the Spirit we receive the manifestation gifts, but when we are first born again the motivational gifts become active). To be a steward means that we don't own them but are entrusted with them by our Master for a purpose. We must seek His purpose so we can use the gifts wisely. We do this by faith, by believing and trusting in Him.

The painting "*Christ before Pilate*," was on display in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. A rough sailor came to the door and asked, "*Is Christ here? How much to see Christ? I suppose I'll have to pay it!*" He sat down in front of the painting. Eventually, he took off his hat. He studied the picture for an hour. "*I came here to see Christ because my mother asked me to,*" he said, finally. "*I never believed in such things, but the man who painted that picture, he must have believed it.*"<sup>97</sup>

The painter of this masterpiece had one motivation, to reveal Christ to others. His conviction towards, belief in and love of Christ was the main motivation in painting this picture and it certainly paid off in transforming this rough sailor. In the

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<sup>97</sup> The Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator

same way we should not be motivated by selfish dreams and ambitions but seek the face of Jesus and hear by the Holy Spirit what the will of the Father is for us.

Furthermore, the ongoing motivation to paint the spiritual picture must be God's working, not our working. So the motivation for our spiritual painting should come from God and not be our own. When we are moving in the speaking gifts we are to *"speak as the oracles of God"* and when we move in the doing gifts we are to *"do it as with the ability which God supplies"*. So, in all things it is *"God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure"* Philippians 2:13.

In using the gifts there must be a *'ministering in grace'*. The Apostle Paul talked about *"the dispensation of the grace of God"* given to him for the purpose of ministering to the Saints at Ephesus (Ephesians 3:2) and that *"this grace was given"* that he *"should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ"* (Ephesians 3:8). The word dispensation means an *'administration'*, a task given to a steward. Hence Paul ministered in grace, allowing God to work through him both in his ministry to the Saints and to the Gentiles. His motivation was from God and he was empowered by God to fulfill the tasks given to him by God.

*'Ministering in grace'* means we recognize our inability and unworthiness in carrying out God's will in us and through us, but God still gives us his gifts and lavishes His love on us as we come humbly and contritely before Him. In the first part of Ephesians 3:8 Paul says that he was *"less than the least of all the saints"* yet he goes on to say that grace was given for him to minister.

Hence, *'Ministering in Grace'* means using our gifts not to be loved but because we are loved. It means resting in Him and allowing Him to work through us. It means not striving in ministry but flowing in His River of grace. It means not being stressed by what others think when we move in His gifts, but simply to bathe in His love and acceptance and moving in faith as an obedient child.

There was one time in ministry when I started getting a skin rash on either side of my jaw. When I went to my doctor he said it was due to stress. For me this was a wakeup call. I realized I had been ministering legalistically and performing to be accepted by God and others. The truth is His *"Yoke is easy"* and His *"burden is light"* (Matthew 11:30). If our only motivation is to please God then we will not be driven to do things for Him or others but led with great peace and joy to accompany Him as He does the work in us and through us.

The ministerial and motivational gifts are often imparted by the laying on of hands and by prophecy (Romans 1:11; 2 Tim 1:6; 1 Tim 4:14). We must wait until the time *'appointed'* to move in the fullness of our gifting as the Lord takes us through a season of preparation first (I will explore this further in my next book, *The Picture Process*). The Motivational gifts are given from the time of conversion, but the time for moving in authority in that gift will only come when we are ready and the Lord chooses to appoint us for the task. Before that the gifts should still operate in our lives in a general way as the Spirit enables, but we will not have a definite *'ministry'* (or *'sphere of calling'*) that we are moving in until there is the *'appointed time'*.

Hence, the idea or decision of what to paint must originate in the heart of God, not from our own dreams and desires apart from Him. It's His motivation, not ours.

## **PRINCIPLE 2 (COMPOSITION): The right focus.**

*“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2*

Every natural painting is composed so that there is one focal point and in spiritual painting it is the same. The central focus of all our ministry should be Jesus.

Many artists over the years have attempted to capture the likeness of Jesus. Warner Sallmann painted him with perfect features, with every hair seemingly in place. Not so Richard Hook. Hook’s portrait depicts Jesus with disheveled hair and a generally less than tidy appearance. But something about the eyes and the smile draws a person to the painting. There’s a compassionate, patient, forgiving look that seems to say, *“I see your sins and your problems. I care about you. I long to help you. I want you to know what I have done for you.”*<sup>98</sup>

If our motivation in ministry is from God the Father then the focus of all our ministry is God the Son, Jesus. Like Hook we should not seek to portray a sanitized Jesus who seems too perfect to relate to, but the genuine Jesus who sits in the mud with the poor and needy, and who really loves each and every one of us to the core.

How do others see Jesus? As the Apostle Paul said, *“To them (the saints) God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”* (Colossians 1:27). The life of Christ is to shine out from our lives so others see the real Jesus. Christ lives in us in the sense that the Holy Spirit imparts Christlikeness into us by the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and the Gifts of the Spirit.

We need to portray the life of Christ in such a way that glory goes to Him and not to us. There was one time when I was on a mission trip in India that this lady came up to me and bowed down at my feet saying *“Jesus, Jesus”*. I was only dressed in jeans and a T-Shirt but had light brown hair and, of course, western features. Somehow I reminded her of the pictures she had seen of Jesus on church walls or in houses. I tried to tell her I wasn’t Jesus but she just kept bowing at my feet. Eventually one of the locals explained to her who I was and who Jesus is. To be honest I did feel flattered and felt a bit of pride rising up.

Our life must point to Jesus, giving glory alone to Him as the following story tells us:

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: *“I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I’ll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!”*

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. *“I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I’ll be the strongest ship in the world!”*

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<sup>98</sup> Mark J.Lenz, WELS Forward in Christ, 2009

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. *"I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."*

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, *"This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me."* With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell.

*"Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest. I shall hold wonderful treasure!"* the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, *"This tree is strong. It is perfect for me."* With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

*"Now I shall sail mighty waters!"* thought the second tree. *"I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"*

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven.

But the woodcutter never even looked up. *"Any kind of tree will do for me,"* he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed-box for animals.

The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail on an ocean, or even a river; instead, she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard.

*"What happened?"* the once tall tree wondered. *"All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."*

Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams.

But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed-box.

*"I wish I could make a cradle for him,"* her husband whispered.

The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. *"This manger is beautiful,"* she said.

And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake.

Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, *"Peace."* The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun.

And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her.

She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.<sup>99</sup>

In the case of each tree they found true fulfillment not in their own selfish dreams but by carrying the King of Kings. In the end the focal point for each tree was Jesus Himself.

The Apostle Paul lived by this truth. He wrote, *"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21). The composition of his life was to let Jesus be the main focus so that others could see and believe in Him. This should be the same for us in the ministry God plants us in and in the operation of the gifts in that ministry. We should use the gifts with the sole focus of pointing to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

### **PRINCIPLE 3 (DRAWING): The right outline.**

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."*  
Ecclesiastes 3:11

By His sovereign grace, God can bring good out of our failures.

J. Stuart Holden tells of an old Scottish mansion close to where he had his little summer home. The walls of one room were filled with sketches made by distinguished artists. The practice began after a pitcher of soda water was accidentally spilled on a freshly decorated wall and left an unsightly stain. At the time, a noted artist, Lord Landseer, was a guest in the house. One day when the family went out to the moors, he stayed behind. With a few masterful strokes of a piece of charcoal, that ugly spot became the outline of a beautiful waterfall, bordered by trees and wildlife. He turned that disfigured wall into one of his most successful depictions of Highland life.<sup>100</sup>

No matter what a mess you have made in your life in the past God can restore you and make something beautiful out of your life. In painting the artist uses a pencil or charcoal to draw the outline over which the paint will be applied. Many times artists get the outline wrong and will rub it off and start again.

This is true of our lives too. Many times we draw a wrong outline by getting involved in wrong areas, even using the gifts wrongly, for our own pleasure. Even if this is the case we know that He will help us with the right outline and make a masterpiece of our lives to bless others.

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<sup>99</sup> A traditional folktale. Author unknown.

<sup>100</sup> Swindoll. *The Quest for Character*, Multnomah, p. 49.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that God has “*set eternity in our hearts*”. We may not grasp most of his eternal plan but He wants to reveal to us our part. If the outline of your life has been only to climb the corporate ladder for your own glory or any other outline contrary to Scripture, fret not! Just bow down and acknowledge you have strayed, ask for and receive His forgiveness and He will start to show you the correct outline for your life and ministry.

When I first became a Christian at the age of twelve I sensed a special calling of God on my life to be a Bible Teacher. However, by the age of sixteen I started to fall away, becoming like the prodigal son. I started drinking too much and became drunk quite regularly. By the time I went to university in London I was drinking almost every night for the first part of the first year.

However, the Lord did not give up on me as I had on Him. I have recounted already how I recommitted my life for Christ. At first I wondered if God would accept me back as I had messed up his picture for my life so much. But, like the father of the Prodigal son I found he was only too willing to embrace me and impart a fresh outline for my life. It was soon after this that I was Baptized with the Spirit and started to use the spiritual gifts.

The right outline for using the gifts is, as I explained in my first book, *Picture Perfect*, is God’s big picture of redemption. Within that big picture there’s an outline of our specific area of calling. We must make sure that all we do is within this outline.

## **PRINCIPLE 4 (VALUE): The right value.**

*“Even so you, 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.*

Every object in art has five tone values. Be it a tree, rock, apple, face or boat. This is especially applied to the objects in the focal area and supporting objects. These five values are the Body Tone, the Body Shadow, the Highlight, the Reflection and the Cast Shadow

The number five is the number of grace. The spiritual gifts are gifts of grace that are to be used to show people their true value in God’s eyes. Each person has this five-fold value in the eyes of God. When we operate in the spiritual gifts we must do it because we value the lives of others and seek to build them up (the meaning of edification).

Recently in a Church in Malaysia I was preaching on how much value we have in God’s eyes. By way of illustration I produced a thousand US dollar note (clearly a fake one I had just printed from an online template) and asked who wanted it if it was real. Of course most hands went up. Then I crumpled it up and threw it to the floor, stamping on it. Again I asked who wanted it. The same hands went up.

People wanted it because its value remained unchanged even though it had been abused. In the same way people we minister to are precious in God’s sight even though they may have been abused, screwed up, thrown to the floor and trampled upon.

Then I took the note and smoothed it out. Holding it out to the congregation I explained that God will do the same for their lives. He would straighten them out and use them as a blessing if they gave their lives to Him.

What makes a painting valuable is the signature of a famous artist upon it. In like manner all humanity is created by God and bears His signature. We are to uncover that signature in other people by ministering to them using the gifts He has given us.

There was one time in ministry that I began to see people as a nuisance and often called them *'cockroaches'*. I would go to work by train and found myself hating all the people I saw pushing and bustling their way past me.

The Lord reprimanded me at one meeting where the speaker was exhorting us to see others through the eyes of Jesus. He said that there was one time Jesus appeared to him and asked him to go and stand directly behind Him, looking at the back of His head. As the speaker did so he suddenly could see right through Jesus' head and was looking through His eyes.

As he kept looking the speaker could see all the difficult people he had to deal with. Instead of seeing them as worthless and a waste of time, through the eyes of Jesus they were people of value, precious in His sight.

In Isaiah God tells us that:

*"Since you were precious in My sight,  
You have been honored,  
And I have loved you;  
Therefore I will give men for you,  
And people for your life"*

Isaiah 43:4.

We are valued beyond measure by God and because of this He wants our lives to reach out to others using our gifts, seeing them through His eyes as people of great value too.

## **PRINCIPLE 5 (COLOUR): The right colours.**

*"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit"* Ephesians 5:18.

As I showed you in Chapter Five, the different colours of paint represent the Manifestation gifts. When we start to use our Motivational gifts (the brushes) in ministry the needed Manifestation gifts will manifest. They always manifest in a complementary way as we have seen.

For an Evangelist doing street evangelism, they will find words of Knowledge being released as they step out in faith. That, however, is only one colour and the Holy Spirit will also release other complementary colours. If the Word of Knowledge is about a specific sickness in a person's life, then the gift of Faith will arise in the Evangelist to lay hands and pray for healing. If all is according to God's will then the gift of Healings will operate and the person will be healed. So, in this case, three complementary colours are used.

However, this is only possible if the Evangelist is living a Spirit-filled life.

The story is told about a young man who applied for a job with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. His application was accepted and he was given the job of painting the white lines on a nearby roadway by hand because all the machines were temporarily out of order.

The first day he painted eight miles. The second day he painted four miles. The third day he painted two miles. The fourth day he only painted one mile. His supervisor, who at first was very pleased with his performance, became curious why his production level continued to decrease. The young man replied, *"I am getting slower and slower because the paint can is getting further and further away."*<sup>101</sup>

The moral of this story is to carry the paint can with you, wherever you go. In my analogy the paint can would be the Manifestation gifts that are released with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Paul says in Ephesians 5:18 that we need to be filled with the spirit. The Greek tense used here is the present continuous, so it could justifiably be interpreted as, *"keep on being filled with the Spirit"*.

D L Moody was once asked why he urged Christians to be filled constantly with the Holy Spirit. *"Well,"* he said, *"I need a continual infilling because I leak!"* He pointed to a water tank which had sprung a leak. *"I'm like that!"* he said. It's a fact that living in this sinful world we do need to be replenished by the Spirit. A friend of mine, an evangelist, was asked if he believed in the *"second blessing"*. *"Of course I do,"* he replied, *"and in the 3rd, 4th, 5th blessing, and so on."*<sup>102</sup>

If we are to continually see the complementary Manifestation gifts released through us then we need a continual infilling of the Spirit. Personally I find speaking in Tongues for some time, whilst consciously expecting a fresh infilling of the Spirit, leads to a time of refreshing and infilling of the Spirit (Acts 3:20).

Without the fullness of the Spirit in ministry you will find the colours released through us are dull and without life. Preaching becomes stagnant, service becomes dull. But with fresh in-fillings of the Spirit the colours of our ministry become vivid and life-giving.

Carry the paint can with you. Move with the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon you.

## **PRINCIPLE 6 (EDGES): The right finishing.**

*"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* Romans 8:28

The famous Thomas Nast, in a public exhibition of his skill, once performed a strange feat with his brushes. Taking a canvas about six feet long by two feet wide, he placed it nearly horizontally upon an easel before his audience, and began to sketch rapidly a landscape. In quick succession there appeared green meadows, with cattle, fields of grain, the farmhouse and surrounding buildings, with orchard near, while over all the bright sky, with fleecy clouds, seemed to pour heaven's benediction upon the scene below.

At length no finishing touch was necessary. Still the artist held his brush, as he stepped aside to receive the hearty plaudits of the admiring audience. When the applause had subsided, Mr. Nast stepped back to the canvas as if he had not quite completed the picture.

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<sup>101</sup> Rev. Eric Ritz. Dynamic Preaching Disk, Do You Have A Forgiving Spirit? 1992

<sup>102</sup> Owen Bourgaize - Sermon Central

Taking darker colours, he applied them most recklessly to the canvas. Out went the bright sky. *“Did you ever see a picture like this?”* he asked, as he blotted out meadows, fields, orchards, and buildings. Up, down, and across passed the artist’s hand, until the landscape was totally obliterated, and nothing but a daub, such as a child might make, remained.

Then, with a more satisfied look, he stepped aside, laying down his brushes, as if to say, *“It is finished.”*

But no applause came from the perplexed audience as Nast then ordered the stage attendants to place a gilded frame around the ruined work of art, and to turn it to a vertical position. The mystery was revealed, for before the audience stood a panel picture of a beautiful waterfall, the water plunging over a precipice of dark rock, skirted with trees and verdure. It is needless to say that the audience burst into rounds of applause.

And thus it is that a greater Artist works. We paint our landscapes. How beautiful we make them! All manner of earthly prosperity, with bright skies above. We imagine our sketching perfect, but an unseen Hand finishes more grandly our crude designs.

Houses and lots, farms and merchandise, disappear. Yes, our portraits of loved faces are blotted out. We cry, *“Hold, hold!”* but the Hand that applies the darker colours moves relentlessly on. We bewail our ruined pictures, because we have not the true angle of vision.

At last God turns the canvas, and there appears a work not for time but for eternity.

While Mr. Nast was spoiling the landscape to produce the falls, he might have said to the mystified audience, *“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this”* (John 13:7). What puzzled the audience was plain to him. In each destructive stroke upon the one picture he saw a constructive stroke of the other; and what in the providence of God appears so strange to us, is most clear to Him who would save us from being *“conformed to this world,”* and would help us to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, that we *“may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”*<sup>103</sup>

In the above illustration the two edges of light and dark met, producing a feeling of horror in the audience. In our lives too we’ll find that when God starts to paint over our lives or others there can be rough and uncomfortable edges that we wish were not there. However, in the end He works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

As we minister with the gifts God gives us we may find the going gets tough and we have to go through a period of darkness. However, as we persevere through times like this, trusting in the Lord, there will come a time when He turns us the right way up and we’ll see the living waters have been there all along.

There are many times when I have been preparing a sermon or a teaching and I find I have to go through a testing or a dark period that relates to the message I am to share. At first things look like a real mess, but I persevere and trust in God

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<sup>103</sup> Sermon Illustration Library copyright © 2006-2014 by Scott Severance  
(<http://www.sermonillustrationlibrary.org/illustration2>)

to fully release my gifts, then I find a God-given message full of life and living waters starts to gush forth.

It's not how well you start, but how well you finish.

## **PRINCIPLE 7 (PAINT APPLICATION): Right application.**

*"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* 1 Corinthians 13:12-13

The final principle I want to share is really an application of Commandment X in the previous chapter – Be a loving painter.

For each painting the paint must be applied in the correct way to get the proper effect. In spiritual painting that application is always to be the same – in love. The spiritual gifts are not toys to show off with but they are tools to build lives in love.

The following story is shared by Jon Johnston in his book *"Courage – You can stand strong in the face of fear"*<sup>104</sup>. It shows how one teacher used her gifts in love and saw a wonderful result:

Ted Stallard undoubtedly qualifies as the one of *"the least."* Turned off by school. Very sloppy in appearance. Expressionless. Unattractive. Even his teacher, Miss Thompson, enjoyed bearing down her red pen -- as she placed Xs beside his many wrong answers.

If only she had studied his records more carefully. They read:

1st grade: Ted shows promise with his work and attitude, but (has) poor home situation.

2nd grade: Ted could do better. Mother seriously ill. Receives little help from home.

3rd grade: Ted is good boy but too serious. He is a slow learner. His mother died this year.

4th grade: Ted is very slow, but well-behaved. His father shows no interest whatsoever.

Christmas arrived. The children piled elaborately wrapped gifts on their teacher's desk. Ted brought one too. It was wrapped in brown paper and held together with Scotch Tape. Miss Thompson opened each gift, as the children crowded around to watch. Out of Ted's package fell a gaudy rhinestone bracelet, with half of the stones missing, and a bottle of cheap perfume. The children began to snicker. But she silenced them by splashing some of the perfume on her wrist, and letting them smell it. She put the bracelet on too.

At day's end, after the other children had left, Ted came by the teacher's desk and said, *"Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother. And the bracelet looks real pretty on you. I'm glad you like my presents."* He left. Miss Thompson got down on her knees and asked God to forgive her and to change her attitude.

The next day, the children were greeted by a reformed teacher -- one committed to loving each of them. Especially the slow ones. Especially Ted. Surprisingly -- or

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<sup>104</sup> Jon Johnston, *Courage - You Can Stand Strong in the Face of Fear*, 1990, SP Publications, pp. 111-113.

maybe, not surprisingly, Ted began to show great improvement. He actually caught up with most of the students and even passed a few.

Time came and went. Miss Thompson heard nothing from Ted for a long time. Then, one day, she received this note:

*Dear Miss Thompson:*

*I wanted you to be the first to know. I will be graduating second in my class.*

*Love, Ted*

Four years later, another note arrived:

*Dear Miss Thompson:*

*They just told me I will be graduating first in my class. I wanted you to be first to know. The university has not been easy, but I liked it.*

*Love, Ted*

And four years later:

*Dear Miss Thompson:*

*As of today, I am Theodore Stallard, M.D. How about that? I wanted you to be the first to know. I am getting married next month, the 27th to be exact. I want you to come and sit where my mother would sit if she were alive. You are the only family I have now; Dad died last year.*

Miss Thompson attended that wedding, and sat where Ted's mother would have sat. The compassion she had shown that young man entitled her to that privilege.

Let's have some real courage, and start giving to "one of the least." He may become a Ted Stallard. Even if that doesn't happen, we will have been faithful to the One who has always treated us -- as unworthy as we are -- like very special people.

I will close this final chapter with the words of a beautiful song recorded by Michael Card and John Michael Talbot. It starts off with the line, "Let Him paint through us with Love". As you finish this book may your cry be "Let Him paint through me with love".

### ***The Mystery***<sup>105</sup>

Song by Michael Card and John Michael Talbot from the Album Brother to Brother

*Let Him paint through us with Love.  
Could you be finding the mystery  
You have been looking for?  
A kingdom where servants will come to be kings.  
Are you looking for?  
And you'll know  
That the sweet paradoxes unfold,  
And the mystery will clearly show,  
And you'll know,  
And you'll know.*

*Jesus, paint my life,*

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<sup>105</sup> Song by Michael Card and John Michael Talbot from the Album Brother to Brother, 1996.

*(Could you be finding the mystery?)  
Jesus, paint my life,  
(Could you be finding the mystery?)  
Jesus, paint my life.  
(Could you be finding the mystery?)*

*And we know You are the Master of painters.  
Coming. The true Prince of Peace.  
And we know You are the True Creator.  
Coming. The King of kings.*

*Jesus, paint my life with charity.  
Paint my life with mercy.  
Paint my life.*

*Can you be the light of the world?  
Can you be the light?  
Then take the light that's given to you.  
Can you be the light?*

*Can you give your love to the world?  
Can you give your love?  
Take the love that's given to you.  
Can you give your love?*

*Jesus, paint my life with charity.  
Paint my life with mercy.  
Paint my life.  
Paint my life.*

## **Do You Get The Picture?**

### **Time to reflect:**

Take time to reflect on each of the seven principles and ask yourself the questions for each one:

**PRINCIPLE 1 (MOTIVATION):** What is the right motivation? Do you have this right motivation? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

**PRINCIPLE 2 (COMPOSITION):** What is the right focus? Do you have the right focus? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

**PRINCIPLE 3 (DRAWING):** What is the right outline? Do you have the right outline? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

**PRINCIPLE 4 (VALUE):** What is the right value? Do you have the right value? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

**PRINCIPLE 5 (COLOUR):** What are the right colours? Do you have the right colours? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

**PRINCIPLE 6 (EDGES):** What is the right finishing? Do you have the right finishing? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

**PRINCIPLE 7 (PAINT APPLICATION):** What is the right application? Do you have the right application? Write down what you can do to improve in this area.

# Conclusion

J.I. Packer rightly said, *“We are right to say that spiritual gifts come from the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). However, we go on to think of them in terms either of giftedness (human ability to do things skillfully and well) or of supernatural novelty (power to speak in tongues, to heal, to receive messages straight from God to give to others, or whatever). We have not formed the habit of defining gifts in terms of Christ, the head of the body, and his present work from heaven in our midst. In this we are unscriptural.”*<sup>106</sup>

In this book I have clearly shown that Christ’s Gift to us is the Holy Spirit Himself who endows us with gifts that actually are manifestations of *“Christ in you the hope of glory”* (Colossians 1:27). These gifts are not talents or toys but are given for the purpose of expanding God’s Kingdom.

His gifts are the spiritual uniforms, brushes and colours He equips us with to paint our part in His Big Picture.

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<sup>106</sup> James Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986, Page December 9.