

Source night

Topic- Talents, Gifts and Ministries

Definitions

Talent - A natural ability or aptitude to do something, e.g. musical, artistic, athletic, practical

Spiritual Gift - A special gift from God

Ministry - An area of service to others using the talents and gifts you have been given.

All
God
given

Talents

Most people have natural talents. The term 'common grace' refers to things that God gives to all, to both believers and non believers, such as sunshine, nature etc.

So talents are 'common grace'.

All talents God gives are to be used. Exodus 35 :10, 36:1-2

Many people in the Bible are shown as talented;

David - Musical, good speaker 1 Samuel 16 :18

Daniel - Intelligent Daniel 1 :4

Some use talents for own glory others for God's.

TALENTS VS SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Similarities and Contrasts)		
	<u>Natural Talents</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>
1. Source:	from God	from God
2. Possessed:	from birth	from conversion
3. Purpose:	to benefit mankind on the natural level	to benefit mankind on the spiritual level
4. Process:	Must be recognized, developed, exercised	must be recognized, developed, exercised
5. Function:	ought to be dedicated by believers to God for His use and glory	ought to be used to God's glory

Spiritual Gifts

The word "gift" is the Greek word, carisma, which means "a gift of grace, a free gift."

A gift from God is a sign of his grace Romans 12 :4-8 Ephesians 4 :7-8

Romans 1 :11-12 Paul went to use his gift to strengthen others. Gift given to be given. People don't just have gifts they are gifts!

Everybody's gift is important 1 Cor 12:14-25

Christ is the Head Ephesians 4 :15-16

The Different Gifts

1. Wisdom - Real insight See routes ahead

2. Faith - In tough situations, confidence in God

3. Knowledge Love to study Bible also there is a supernatural 'word of knowledge'

4. Healing Drawn to pray for sick & see answers

5. Miracles Love to see extraordinary things

6. Discernment Gut feeling something wrong

7. Apostles Lead movement, missionaries Beyond local church setting open new frontiers

8. Serving Love drawing along side people. See practical issues Acts 9 :39

9. Administration Organise things, Can bring order in chaos Gk *kubernesis* - to steer, guide

10. Evangelism Natural people person, build relationships, easily & effectively share gospel Acts 8 :5

11. Teaching Has both insight into God's Word but the ability to communicate. Only gift with warning James 3 :1

12. Pastor Heart for people, real empathy. Love people Root word Shepherd

Spiritual Gifts in the Bible			
<u>Romans 12 :6-8</u> 14. Encouragement 15. Giving 16. Leadership 17. Mercy 21. <i>Prophecy</i> 8. Service 11. Teaching	<u>1 Corinthians 12</u> 9. Administration 6. Discernment 4. Healing 19. Tongues 20. Interpretation 21. <i>Prophecy</i> 1. Wisdom 7. <i>Apostle</i> 2. Faith 13. Helps 3. Knowledge 5. Miracles 11. <i>Teaching</i>	<u>Ephesians 4:7-11</u> 4. <i>Apostle</i> 12. Pastor 11. <i>Teaching</i> 10. Evangelism 21. <i>Prophecy</i>	<u>1 Peter 4 :10</u> 18. Hospitality 8. <i>Serving</i> 11. <i>Teaching</i>

Plus
more??



Italics used for gifts on more than one list.

13. Helps It literally means, to lend a hand or support.

14. Encouragement Can motivate people. Some translations say Exhorts Gk *paraklesis*- 'calling to one's side' Acts 11:23

15. Giving Love meeting needs, a cheerfulness in giving beyond normal.

16. Leadership Making things happen. Have oversight of a Church Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:3

17. Mercy Sees struggling people, injustice hurts, wants to relieve distress in people

18. Hospitality Greet people, Entertain people, host events Colossians 4:15 (Debate if it's on Gift list 1 Peter 4:9-10)

19. The Gift of Tongues Controversial gift because some claim it's for all believers 1 Cor 12:30 Two types 1. Gift for others to understand Acts 2:11 (for unbelievers 1 Cor 14:22) 2. A prayer language (for believers 1 Cor 14:14)

20. Interpretation of tongues Can give meaning to tongues

21. Prophecy Speaking message from God, 'forth telling'. Sensitive to God One gift told to desire 1 Cor 14:1

Cessationist's versus Charismatic's

There are some people (Cessationists) who believe the Spiritual gifts are not for use today. Based on 1 Corinthians 13:8-12

A cessationist holds that supernatural gifts for 1st century

A charismatic holds that gifts have continued down to today

SVC's position open but cautious

Finding your spiritual gift Based on desire to serve Jesus!

How to find your gift

1. Ask God to lead you
2. What's on your heart, where is your burden? What 'bugs' you when its not being done properly?
3. Try to move in that area. Trial and error
4. Is it effective?
5. Sense of fulfilment?

Gifts need to be cultivated, accept training 2 Timothy 2:15

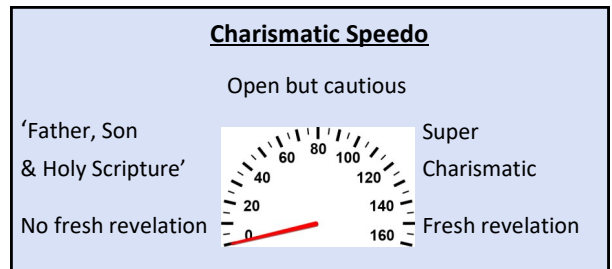
Ministries

Traditionally when people talked of 'The Ministry' they were talking about full time leadership of a church.

Biblically, all Christians are ministers (service) 1 Peter 2:5-9

"It is pure invention that pope, bishop, priests, and monks are called the spiritual estate while princes, lords, artisans, and farmers are called to the temporal estate, this is deceit and hypocrisy." Martin Luther

The division between priesthood and laity goes back to the Old Testament



Role of Priest in the OT	Role of Christian in the NT
Set aside for God to use Exodus 29	Set aside for God to use 1 Peter 2:9 (special)
Bring God and people together Deut 21:5	Bring God and people together 2 Cor 5:8-21
Prayers and worship Leviticus 21:6, Numbers 6:23-24	Prayers and worship Acts 13:2, 16:25,
Access the presence of God Leviticus 24:3-4	Access the presence of God Hebrews 10:19-22
Sacrifice Numbers 18:1	Sacrifice Romans 12:1-2 Phil 2:17
Both the OT priests and ourselves have a High Priest (Jesus) Both are 'apart' people Numbers 18:20	

Your ministry is your area of service to God. 2 Timothy 4:5 Colossians 4:17 1 Peter 4:10

Our World has consumer thinking - how little can I give, to get most back. Christian thinking is opposite Eph 4:12

Key thing to remember, ministry is always others centred. John 13:2-5

Discussion questions for Life Groups

1. How did you discover your gift?
2. Does it matter if you cannot 'label'/identify your gift?
3. How do paid 'Ministers' fit into this teaching?
4. Do we need to serve outside of our gifting sometimes?
5. What gifts does SVC need more of?
6. What would a church be like if this teaching were fully operational?
7. What gifts is SVC blessed with?
8. Can gifts be misused?
9. What gifts can you see in others in the life group?