

SERIES: God's Dream Team
Message: Keep Your Spiritual Fervor!
The Functional Gift of Teaching

October 11, 2009

Text: Romans 12: 6-7 & 11

"⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function ... ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... ⁷... the one who teaches, in teaching ... ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

I. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT OF

TEACHING: MATTHEW

II. 12 DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT OF TEACHING

- 1. They present their material in a SYSTEMATIC way.**
e.g. Five discourses of Jesus' teaching
- 2. They insist upon all like thoughts fitting together in CONTEXT.**
Example: First discourse (Matthew 5-7, Sermon on the Mount)
Example: Kingdom Parables, Matthew 13
- 3. Teachers arrange things in ways that are easy to remember and MEMORIZE.** Examples: Beatitudes (Mt. 5), Seven "Woes" (Mt. 23)
- 4. They insist upon using words ACCURATELY.**
- 5. Teachers honestly believe that their gift of teaching must be the BASIS for everything else in Christianity.**
"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matt. 28: 19-20
- 6. Teachers will QUOTE more scripture than persons with any other functional gift in order to VALIDATE the truth they present.**
- 7. They will go to great lengths to fit all new truth into the framework of truth already established and accepted.**
Matthew 1:22 *"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:..."*

8. A teacher tends to be more theoretical than PRACTICAL.

9. Teachers genuinely love RESEARCHING the truth.
Examples: genealogies, prophetic references ...

10. Teachers will inevitably insist upon knowing the AUTHORITY before accepting a new truth.

11. They tend to become PROUD of their learning.

12. Teachers are tempted to neglect the work of the HOLY

SPIRIT in interpreting the truth of scripture, and depend only upon their own learning and intellect. (Ephesians 1:17-19; Matthew 16:17)

III. THE COMMON DANGER TO ALL WHO HAVE THE GIFT OF TEACHING:

THEY TEND TO BE MORE IDEA ORIENTED THAN

PEOPLE ORIENTED. They tend to substitute their own philosophical ideas for relationships.

IV. GOD'S ANSWER FOR THIS DANGER: Romans 12:11

"¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Point: Unless people with the functional gift of teaching keep up their spiritual fervor, they will give in to thinking that their material and ideas are the most important things of all, instead of using the material as a means to help their students come into a right relationship with the LORD and with other people.

Bringing people into a right relationship with the Father, through Jesus Christ, and with other people, must be the goal of all teaching or the teachers are not servicing the Lord but are serving their own ego. Then, it is only a short step to the place where they make their brain their God!

CLOSE: