

**SERIES: God's Dream Team**  
**Message: Your Greatest Treasure!**  
**The Functional Gift of Giving**

November 8th, 2009

Text: Romans 12: 4, 6, 8 & 13

*"<sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function ... <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... <sup>8</sup>the one who gives, with liberality ... <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality!"*

Gifts: James 1:17: Percentage of Christians with the functional gifts

<u>30%</u>	Serving
<u>30%</u>	Mercy
<u>3%</u>	Prophecy
<u>15%</u>	Organizational Leadership
<u>9%</u>	Teaching
<u>8%</u>	Exhortation
<u>5%</u>	Giving

To Jesus, stewardship means recognizing that everything in this creation belongs to God. So, what is a "good and faithful steward?" The Bible says, good stewards are those who actually put God first in the use of their time, talents, and money. We are not to confuse stewardship with the functional gift of giving. -- Dr. L.D. Thomas

**I. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT**

**OF GIVING: BARNABAS** see Acts 14; 4:32-5:11; 9, 13

**II. 12 DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT OF GIVING**

**1. Givers have the ability to MAKE MONEY and accumulate assets. Givers are called to use their money and assets as their primary ministry.**

**2. Givers SUPPORT and undergird the ministry of others as their primary call and ministry.**

**3. Givers want to have a definite PART in the ministry they support.**

**4. Givers are very DISCERNING about the ministries which other people propose to them.**

**5. Givers absolutely refuse to be PRESSURED into giving.**

**6. Givers sometimes will use their giving to MOTIVATE others to give to the same cause.**

**7. But most often givers truly want to avoid PUBLICITY and prefer to give quietly and anonymously.**

**8. Above all, givers want to be LED BY GOD in their giving.**

**9. It is extremely important to givers for their decisions to be CONFIRMED by their mate.**

**10. It upsets givers to see others WASTE money.**

**11. Givers receive so many appeals and requests for giving, that their natural temptation is to say "NO" when they are offered an opportunity to give.**

**12. Without constant watchfulness, givers will develop a tendency to categorize all of their giving into different "CAUSES" and ignore the needs of INDIVIDUALS.**

## THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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

GIVERS TEND TO BECOME CAUSE ORIENTED

INSTEAD OF PEOPLE ORIENTED.

### IV. GOD'S ANSWER FOR THIS DANGER: Romans 12:13

<sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality!"

Givers are to find their greatest pleasure in PEOPLE.

Don't just fund ministries and provide for others to minister,

you get INVOLVED in MINISTRY yourselves!

**Point:** Without the gift of giving, hardly anyone else can carry on a ministry, because financial resources are essential for almost every ministry!

Your greatest treasure is not what you KEEP, but what you GIVE to the LORD for Him to bless and return to you multiplied.

CLOSE:

### I. The Gifts of the FATHER (FUNCTIONAL GIFTS): Romans 12: 3-8 Foundational/Creation/Functional Gifts: Basic Life Purpose and Motivation, like your spiritual personality.

1. The Prophet
2. The Minister/Server/Deacon
3. The Teacher
4. The Exhorter/Encourager
5. The Giver
6. The Organizer
7. The Mercy-giver

### II. The Gifts of the SON (EQUIPPING GIFTS): Ephesians 4:11 The offices to facilitate and equip the Body of the Church for the work of ministry in order to reach fullness (full maturity) in Christ.

1. Apostle
2. Prophet
3. Evangelist
4. Pastor
5. Teacher

### III. The Gifts of the SPIRIT (FREEING GIFTS): 1 Corinthians 12: 7-11 Freeing Gifts/Ministerial Gifts: Gifts to help free us to serve God fully and to help us minister to others in order to set them free.

#### A. Revelation Gifts

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Discerning of Spirits

#### B. Power Gifts

1. Faith
2. Gifts of Healing
3. Working of Miracles

#### C. Vocal Gifts

1. Prophecy
2. Different Kinds of Tongues
3. Interpretation of Tongues