

Spiritual Gifts and Our Hearts

I. Review:

- I want to introduce and begin a series on spiritual gifting.
Est 4:14 ... "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"
- Every life has a purpose in God. From the biblical perspective, we are chosen for the purpose of service not merely for our own benefit. We are blessed to be a blessing.
Gen 12:2 (God's promise to Abraham) And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;
- To be in Christ we had to be called by God
Before time began, God in his love, saw us in our need and placed His call and hand on us; He arranged the circumstances and grabbed our hearts so that we would respond to His love and call.

2 Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- We have responded to the gospel because God chose us to be in Christ.
John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.
- God chooses calls and equips us with gifts to be used in community.
1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

II. Clarification; Why I Use the 3 Models

- I believe that these three models can help us immensely in our walk with God:
 1. Mark and Debra Laaser book "The Seven Desires of Every Heart."
 2. Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
 3. Virginia Satir's Iceberg Model
- I presented to you three models because I wanted you to know where I'm coming from. I didn't speak very much about any of them nor will I today. I believe every pastor and special speaker has a bent, perspective, paradigm, world view or philosophy from which they speak.

III. Two parables of Jesus emphasizing our responsibility in using our gifts.

A. Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30)

- The kingdom of God is like a man (Jesus) about to go on a journey (heaven), who called his own slaves (believers) and entrusted his possessions (gifts of grace) to them.
- He gives to each one according to their own ability (5, 2 or 1 talents).
- When he returns (His 2nd coming or our death) he settled accounts with them. Each are rewarded according to how they used his possessions.
- The one who does not prosper is called a wicked, lazy slave.

Notice his attitude:

- I knew you to be a hard man,
- reaping where you did not sow
- and gathering where you scattered no seed.
- And I was afraid, and went away

B. Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:12-27)

- A nobleman (Jesus) went to a distant country (heaven), to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return (His 2nd coming or our death).
- He called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas (gifts of grace) and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.'
- When he returns (His 2nd coming or our death) he settled accounts with them. Each are rewarded according to how they used his possessions.
- The one who does not prosper is called a worthless slave and judged by his words and viewpoint.

Notice his attitude:

- 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you,
- because you are an exacting man;
- you take up what you did not lay down
- and reap what you did not sow.'

IV. The importance of having self-awareness of what is in our heart

A. What comes out of our mouth reveals what is in our hearts.

Matt 12:34-35 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil."

Luke 6:45 "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

B. Watch over, guard your heart.

Prov 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Deut 4:9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Prov 22:5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards himself will be far from them.

Prov 23:19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.

Ps 139:23-24 a prayer for God's help in knowing what is in my heart the
Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

C. Self talk = to say to yourself / in your heart

Prov 23:7 we are what we say to ourselves.

For as he thinks within himself, so he is.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

(Gen 17:17; 24:45; Deut 7:17; 9:4; 15:9; 18:21; 1 Sam 1:13; 1 Kings 12:26; Ps 14:1; 15:2; 27:8; 35:25; 53:1; 74:8; Isa 14:13; 47:8, 10; 49:21; Jer 5:24; 13:22; Obad 3; Zeph 2:15; Matt 24:48; Luke 12:45; Rom 10:6; Rev 18:7)

V. Issues of the heart that keep us from using our gifts.

A. Fear, anxiety and worry:

1. Fear

Matt 25 Parable of the talents

V. 25 ... I was afraid ...

Luke 19 Parable of the minas

V. 21 ... I was afraid of you ...

Deut 20:8 "Then the officers shall speak further to the people and say, "Who is the man that is afraid and fainthearted? Let him depart and return to his house, so that he might not make his brothers' hearts melt like his heart."

Deut 26:16 "This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deut 28:65 "Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul.

Deut 28:67 "In the morning you shall say, "Would that it were evening!" And at evening you shall say, "Would that it were morning!" because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see.

Josh 14:8 "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the Lord my God fully.

1 Sam 17:32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

2. Anxiety

Prov 12:25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down,

1 Pet 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Ps 94:19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.

Isa 35:4 Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you."

Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

3. Worry

Matt 6:31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'"

Matt 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matt 13:22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

Luke 12:25-26 "And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?"

B. Arrogance and pride

1. Arrogant

Ps 101:5 No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

Isa 9:9 And all the people know it, that is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, asserting in pride and in arrogance of heart:

Isa 10:12 So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness."

Jer 49:16 "As for the terror of you, the arrogance of your heart has deceived you,

Obad 3 "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in the loftiness of your dwelling place,

2. Pride

Ezek 28:1- 19 the fall of Lucifer

V. 2 because your heart is lifted up ... you make your heart like the heart of God

V. 5 and your heart is lifted up ... you have made your heart like the heart of God,

V. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground;

Ps 131:1 O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters,

Prov 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

Prov 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty,

Prov 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.

(Deut 8:14; 17:20; 2 Chron 25:19; 26:16; 32:25-26; Ezek 31:10; Dan 5:20, 22; 8:25; 11:12; Hos 13:6; Luke 1:51)

C. Unbelief, doubt and hardness of heart

I. Unbelief

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Heb 3:19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief .

John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing ."

(Mat 13:58; Mk 6:6; 9:24; 16:14; Rom 3:3; 4:20; 11:20, 23; 1 Tim 1:13)

2. Doubt

Mark 11:23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

Mat 14:31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, " You of little faith, why did you doubt ?"

Matt 21:21-22 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly 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 even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Mark 11:22-25 And Jesus answered saying to them, " Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."

James 1:6-7 But he must ask in faith without any doubting , for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

3. Hardness of heart

Eph 4:18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Matt 19:8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

Mark 3:5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Mark 6:52 for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

Mark 8:17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?"

Mark 10:5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.

Mark 16:14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Prov 28:14 How blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

(Ex 4:21: 7:3, 13, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34-35; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4; Deut 15:7; 2 Chron 36:13)

VI. Issues of the heart that enable us to use our gifts.

A. Faith and belief in God, and His Word.

1. Faith

Heb 11:6 faith is the only thing that pleases God.

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Heb 11:1 The Bible definition of faith:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(NASV)

Other translations of this verse

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (New King James Version)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(Revised Standard Version)

Now faith is assurance of (things) hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. (American Standard Version)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (New International Version)

Now faith is the assurance of the things we hope for, the proof of the reality of the things we cannot see. (Williams Version)

Faith is being sure of the things we hope for, being convinced of the things we can't see. (Beck Version)

Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title -- deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality -- faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses (Amplified New Testament)

Now faith is the title deed of things hoped for, the conviction of things which are not being seen (Kenneth Wuest)

Faith means that we are certain of the things we hope for, convinced of the things we do not see (William Barclay)

Faith is trust in the unseen. It is not trust in the unknown, for we may know by faith what we cannot see with the eye (Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on the fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is a real seeing (Marvin Vincent))

Faith is the substance, the foundation, the title deed, the assurance of things hoped for (Oliver Green)

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it

up ahead. (Though Living Bible)

Faith is a hope that is absolutely certain that what it believes is true, and that what it expects will come (Barclay says this is what faith is to the writer of Hebrews).

2. Believe

Acts 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

Rom 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

3. Trust

Ps 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

B. Humility and brokenness

1. Humility

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Prov 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.

Prov 18:12; 29:23 ...But humility goes before honor.

Luke 14:11 "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

2. Brokenness

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Ps 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Ps 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Isa 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa 66:2 ..."But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

C. To Seek / Sought / Search

2 Chron 22:9 He also sought Ahaziah, and they caught him while he was hiding in Samaria; they brought him to Jehu, put him to death and buried him. For they said, "He

is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So there was no one of the house of Ahaziah to retain the power of the kingdom.

2 Chron 30:19 everyone who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though not according to the purification rules of the sanctuary."

2 Chron 31:21 Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.

Ps 119:2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,
Who seek Him with all their heart.

Ps 119:10 With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.

Ps 119:58 I sought Your favor with all my heart;
Be gracious to me according to Your word.

Jer 29:13 "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.