

## Spiritual Gifts and Our Feet

### I. Review:

- A. Jesus used two parables which emphasize using spiritual gifts.
  - 1. Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30)
  - 2. Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:12-27)
  
- B. The importance of having self-awareness of what is in our heart
  - 1. What comes out of our mouth reveals what is in our hearts (Matt 12:34-35).
  - 2. Watch over, guard your heart (Prov 4:23).
  
- C. There are three main heart issues that keep us from using our gifts.
  - 1. Fear, anxiety and worry:
  - 2. Arrogance and pride
  - 3. Unbelief, doubt and hardness of heart
  
- D. There are also three main heart issues that enable us to use our gifts.
  - A. Faith and belief in God, and His Word.
  - B. Humility and brokenness
  - C. To Seek / Sought / Search
    - Jer 29:13 "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.
    - 1 Cor 12:31; 14:1 desire earnestly spiritual gifts,

### II. Notice how often in the New American Standard Updated Version the following are used:

feet = 252 times	stand = 281 times	walk = 216 times	run = 56 times
feet = 252 times	standing = 171 times	walked = 93 times	ran = 57 times
foot = 103 times	stands = 50 times	walks = 37 times	running = 25 times
			runs = 10 times

### III. Hermeneutics

#### A. Definition

- 1. Webster = the science of interpretation, or of finding the meaning of an author's words and phrases, and of explaining it to others; exegesis; particularly applied to the interpretation of the Scriptures
  
- 2. Modern theologians define hermeneutics as both "the science and the arts of Biblical interpretation."
  - a. It is a science because it is concerned with principles within an ordered system. It is meant to derive and classify the principles necessary for the proper interpretation of scripture.
  - b. It is also an art because it is concerned with applying the principle derived. The application of these principles cannot be mechanical, but must involve the skill of the interpreter.

#### B. I am aware of at least 23 hermeneutical principles used in biblical exegesis.

I will be using four of these principles in sharing my heart about what feet has to do with the use of our spiritual gifts.

##### 1. The First Mention Principle

The first mention principle is that principle by which the interpretation of any verse is aided by considering the first time that subject appears in Scripture.

In general, the first time a thing is mentioned in Scripture it carries with it a meaning

which will be consistent throughout the entire Bible. The first mention is:

- A key which unlocks the door into the full truth.
- A gateway into the path of truth.
- A guide to discovering the truth in its progressive unfolding.
- The first link in a long chain of revelation.
- A seed which has within it the full truth that is to be developed in all subsequent mention.

## 2. The Comparative Mention Principle

The comparative mention principle is that principle by which a certain verse or group of verses may be interpreted by comparing and/or contrasted it with another verse or group of verses.

To "compare" means to bring things together in order to examine the relationships they bear to each other, especially with the view of ascertaining their agreement or disagreement; points of resemblance or difference. To "contrast" means to place together and view things widely different from each other, in the same category or class, in order to make the difference more vividly marked. In the comparative mention principle these words denote a bringing together of Scriptures which deal with a certain subject area in order to clarify the interpretation of each by comparison or contrast.

## 3. The Allegorical Principle

That principle by which any allegory is interpreted by discerning its lessons and interpreting its elements.

Hermeneutically speaking an allegory is a figure of speech used to communicate truth by expressing one thing under the image of another; it is an extended metaphor.

## 4. The Typical Principle

A type is a divinely appointed illustration of some spiritual truth.

# IV. Application of these three principles in studying feet;

## A. The first mention principle:

Gen 18:1-4 Abraham brings water for the Lord to wash his feet.

Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, and said, " My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by. Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree;"

## B. The Comparative Mention Principle

### 1. There are three main places where feet are washed.

Ex 30:18-19 in the Tabernacle of Moses, the bronze laver was made for the priests to wash their feet before entering the Tent of Meeting:

"You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it;

John 12:3 Mary washed the feet of Jesus.

Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 13:5- 10 Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

v. - 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

2. There are two places where shoes are required

Ex 12:11 Israel were they eat the Passover supper in haste with their feet in shoes. Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste--it is the LORD'S Passover.

Eph 6:15 part of our spiritual armor is having our feet shod with the gospel of peace. and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

3. The Word uses feet as a picture of our will.

How far we go naturally or spiritually depend on how far we are willing to reach. Even if we say we believe and we trust the Lord, we still have to willing to take a step.

a. From the generation that came out of Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb were able to enter the Promised Land on which they walked, because of their faith obedience.

Deut 1:32-37 "But for all this, you did not trust the LORD your God, 33 who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go. 34 "Then the LORD heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, 35 ' Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, 36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and to his sons I will give the land on which he has set foot, because he has followed the LORD fully.'

Josh 14:9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'

b. The new generation (younger than 40) are promised that every place they put their foot would be theirs.

Deut 11:23-25 then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you. 24 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours; your border will be from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the river, the river Euphrates, as far as the western sea. 25 " No man will be able to stand before you; the LORD your God will lay the dread of you and the fear of you on all the land on which you set foot, as He has spoken to you.

c. Joshua is exhorted to lead Israel into the land; every place he put his foot would be theirs.

Josh 1:2-9 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 " Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 " From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 " No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 " Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 " This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way

prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

#### 4. What would the Lord like to do with our "feet"?

##### 1. That we would walk worthy.

1 Thes 2:11-12 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, 12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Eph 4:1-3 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

##### 2. Walking worthy means that as we grow, we seek to please the Lord and bear fruit.

Col 1:9-12 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

##### 3. We are to walk in our God giftedness, producing good works.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

#### 5. Amplified verses for walkers:

Gen 13:17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

Gen 17:1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.

Josh 1:2-3 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 " Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

Ps 116:8-9 For You have rescued my soul from death, My eyes from tears, My feet from stumbling. 9 I shall walk before the LORD In the land of the living.

Ps 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.

Isa 2:5 Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Isa 30:21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, " This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Isa 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Hos 14:9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk in them, But transgressors will stumble in them.

Mic 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

### C. The Allegorical Principle

A. There are three main ways the Bible uses feet as a symbol or a metaphor.

1. A symbol for preparation, concentration, or salvation:

Ps 18:33 He makes my feet like hinds' feet, and sets me upon my high places.

Ps 18:36 You enlarge my steps under me, and my feet have not slipped.

Ps 31:8 And You have not given me over into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a large place.

Ps 40:2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.

Ps 56:13 For You have delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

Luke 1:76-79 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

John 13:10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

Eph 6:14-15 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

2. A metaphor for action (positive or negative, physically or spiritually).

Ex 12:11 'Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste--it is the LORD'S Passover.

Josh 1:3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses

Josh 3:13 "It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."

Job 23:11 "My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside.

Job 31:5 "If I have walked with falsehood, and my foot has hastened after deceit,

Ps 73:2-3 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost

slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Ps 94:18 If I should say, "My foot has slipped," Your lovingkindness, O LORD, will hold me up.

Ps 119:101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

Ps 121:3 He will not allow your foot to slip; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Prov 4:26-27 Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.

Isa 52:7 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Rom 10:15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

3. A symbol of authority (natural or a spiritual).

Ps 8:6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Ps 18:38 I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet.

Ps 91:13 You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down.

Ps 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

1 Cor 15:25-27 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

Eph 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

**D. The language of types and symbols:**

- Feet; symbol of our walk, conduct.

Ps 40:2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. (Ps 35:15; 1 Sam 2:9; Gal 2:14; Rev 1:15)

- Feet; the place of humility and lowliness.

Rev 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, (Luke 1:79; Rom 10:15; Heb 12:13)

- Feet on the earth/sea; formal possession.  
Gen 13:17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."  
  
Josh 1:3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.  
  
Rev 10:2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;
- Feet on neck; victory over enemies.  
Josh 10:24-26 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came near and put their feet on their necks. 25 Joshua then said to them, " Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight." 26 So afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they hung on the trees until evening.
- Running; zeal in the race of life.  
Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Isa 40:31; 1 Cor 9:24-26; Phil 2:16)
- Walking; forward movement, advancement, progress.  
Ps 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. (Isa 1:1-3; 40:31; 1 Jn 1:7)

## **V. For me, our feet speak about having the courage to take faith action.**

### **A. We are to take courage**

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Ps 31:24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD.

Ps 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.

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."

Mic 3:8 I am filled with power --With the Spirit of the LORD-- and with justice and courage  
(2 Sam 7:27; 1 Chron 17:25; 2 Chron 15:8; 2 Chron 32:4-5; Hag 2:3-4; Mark 15:43; 2 Cor 5:6-9; Phil 1:14)

### **B. Courage gives us the ability to receive healing and miracles**

Matt 9:2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."

Matt 9:22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

Matt 14:27 Jesus spoke to them, saying, " Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Mark 6:50 for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, " Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."

Mark 10:49-50 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." 50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

C. We are to be courageous and act.

1. Moses speaking to the new generation.

Deut 31:5-6 " he LORD will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandments which I have commanded you. 6 " Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

2. Moses speaking to Joshua

Deut 31:7 Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous , for you shall go with this people into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance.

Deut 31:23 Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you."

Josh 1:6-7 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous;

Josh 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Josh 1:18 "...only be strong and courageous."

3. Joshua speaking to the people

Josh 10:25 Joshua then said to them, "Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight."

4. David speaking to Joab

2 Sam 10:12 "Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

5. David speaking to Solomon

1 Chron 28:20 Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous , and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you

6. Ezra speaking to the people

Ezra 10:4 "Arise! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act."

References:

1. Notes from Judy Comstock (of which I made some revisions.)
2. Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics by J. Edwin Hartill
3. Interpreting the Scriptures by Kevin J. Connor and Ken Malmin
4. Interpreting the Symbols and Types by Kevin J. Connor