

DAILY DOSE OF DOCTRINE

June 16-20, 2008



June 16, 2008

Ministry: Evangelist

“ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”¹

An ‘evangelist’ is one who communicates the gospel effectively to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship. As with all of the ‘charismata’ (ministries of grace), any Christian may be called upon and equipped by the Spirit to fulfill this ministry role upon occasion. If we have the opportunity to share our faith with a neighbour or friend, give a testimony in a public gathering or provide an insight to someone that is wrestling with spiritual things, we are “doing the work of an evangelist”. However, once again, as with the other ‘charismata’, the Spirit seems to call and equip some to operate frequently or continuously in this ministry role. Those who do usually possess...

- A special ability to present the gospel with clarity and impact.
- A great burden for individuals and groups of people who do not yet know Christ.
- A deep desire to share their faith with others.
- An ability to connect with strangers, grasp their personal situation and connect it to Christ.
- An ability to bring others to a decision.

Not all evangelists are outgoing, public speakers. Some of the most effective are rather quiet, unassuming and even shy. But all possess what used to be called a ‘passion for souls’ and a willingness to be used by the Spirit to sow the seed fo the gospel in order to move people closer to Christ.

¹ 2 Timothy 4:5 (TNIV)

June 17, 2008

Ministry: Faith

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”¹

Faith is always a gift from God.² Saving faith is essential for anyone to become a Christian in the first place and every Christian possesses faith as they grow spiritually and rely upon God day by day.

However, by including ‘faith’ in the list of ‘*charimata*’, the Bible indicates that some are given a role of ministering to the church by exercising exceptional or ‘supernatural’ faith either regularly or upon occasion.

Those who operate in a ministry of faith have the ability to accept the promises of God at face value. They put less trust in human resources and plans and more in the sovereign ability of God to act in the particular circumstance. They build on the conviction that God wants to glorify himself by doing things that are remarkable and ‘impossible’. When faced with problems, they are able to see the adequacy of God and they believe that, somehow, things will be accomplished, no matter how unlikely it may seem. While goal-centered, they are also patient, with a strong commitment to waiting upon God’s timing.

Those with a ministry of such exceptional faith are obviously an asset in many areas. They are great encouragers of others. They are particularly a blessing in new ministries or in times of crisis or persecution and their ministry often rises to the fore when ordinary faith and leadership is exhausted.

¹ Matthew 17:20 (TNIV)

² Ephesians 2:8-9

June 18, 2008

Ministry: Giving

4

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”¹

All Christians are called to give of the finances in proportion to the blessings they receive from God. We are called to do so generously, regularly and cheerfully. As with faith, evangelism, etc., generous giving is the calling of every disciple of Jesus.

However, some have the opportunity and calling to minister through giving in ways that go above and beyond the ordinary. Their giving is sacrificial, liberal, eager and joyful. Those with a ministry of giving are often sensitive to the needs of others that might be unmet or overlooked and they take it as a calling from God to respond personally. They give in secret or with as little fanfare as possible, but they take great joy in discovering that their service is an answer to someone else’s prayer.

Those with a ministry of giving swim against the stream of our culture. They are often willing to maintain a lower standard of living so they can use their resources to minister to others. They do not give in order to receive multiplied material blessings for themselves. They operate from the conviction that all they possess really belongs to the Lord. They see themselves simply as stewards and ask not ‘How much can I afford to give?’ but ‘How much of God’s finances or resources can I afford to keep?’

Those called to this ministry are not always well off. The Macedonians were particularly commended because they gave out of their poverty.²

¹ Mark 12:43-44 (TNIV)

² 2 Corinthians 8 and 9

June 19, 2008

Ministry: Healing

"Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."¹

A ministry of healing involves restoring people to physical, emotional, spiritual, relational or mental wholeness. Sometimes the healing comes about miraculously. On occasion it is instantaneous. Sometimes it occurs over a period of time. It may come about through the use of medical, counseling, therapeutic or other 'means'. Or the healing may be the direct, unassisted result of prayer. In all cases, however, the healing is an application of God's power to the situation of the hurting individual and the one operating in this ministry is simply a channel of God's grace.

In the Bible and throughout history, the ministry of healing has been a powerful complement to evangelism. It testifies to the reality of God's love and power. It is a witness that, in Christ, the Creator has come to restore fallen Creation to wholeness. It testifies to the work of Christ on the cross.

Healing is also an important ministry for the spiritual growth of Christians. Our ability to mature in faith and service is often blocked by relational problems, emotional strongholds from the past, harassment by the devil, physical ailments, etc. Healing from these impediments can enable us to walk with God more effectively and joyfully.

It should be noted that the ministry of healing should not be seen in opposition to science or medicine. God often uses the latter and the ministry of healing may provide help where science cannot.

¹ Acts 3:6 (TNIV)

June 20, 2008

Ministry: Helps

“(Dorcas) was always doing good and helping the poor....All the widows stood around (Peter), crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.”¹

Helps is the ministry of engaging in practical, necessary tasks that support, enable and meet the needs of others. Those who operate frequently in a ministry of helps may be seen as less ‘spiritual’, but as with healing and other ministries, their work is a powerful complement to the spread of the gospel and the growth of Christians. In cases where people are indifferent to religion and cynical about miracles, practical, loving action is often when softens their hearts toward God.

Those called to ministries of helps are usually concerned with and sensitive to the needs of others. They are action oriented. They focus on practical needs and like to see things through to completion. By temperament they are often quiet and unassuming. They are willing to work behind the scenes and often do so to strengthen the more visible ministries of other Christians. Specific skills may be present, but often their strength is simply in their willingness to pitch in and do what needs to be done.

Many *charismata* are grouped together. This is particularly so with helps. It is often found operating in conjunction with mercy, service or encouragement. However it is an important and significant ministry of the Holy Spirit in its own right.

¹ Acts 9:36, 39