



Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

cometozionministries.org

Step Ten: Learning about our Giftings

Doing the work of the Kingdom is so important that GOD has granted special gifts to each believer in order that they might be able to fulfill the will of GOD for their life, 1 Corinthians 12:7. The Apostle Paul had a great to say about these gifts in his writings. Paul starts by first identifying five major categories that the individual gifts would operate, Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT:

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

The outcome of the operations of these gifts is that the believer will become mature in their faith and they will not be subject to being tossed about by every wind of doctrine, for the believer will be mature enough to discern the truth of GOD's Word. Paul goes on to list a number of spiritual gifts that we will place in the major ministry gifts:

APOSTLES: Faith, Miracles, Administration

PROPHETS: Prophecy, Tongues and Interpretations

EVANGELISTS: Healings, Helps, Giving

PASTORS: Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits

TEACHERS: Word of Knowledge, Exhortation

This list is not meant to be a complete listing of gifts for the Holy Spirit has many more gifts than what are listed here. Nor are the groupings of gifts meant to be exclusive for that group, since the Holy Spirit can provide the gift regardless of the grouping one might be ministering. Rather this gift matrix is merely designed to give the disciple some appreciation of how the giftings generally work.

We are however to desire the gifts, 1 Corinthians 12:31, but Paul goes on in chapter 13 to inform us that the gifts without love are useless. The purpose of the gifts is to build up the body of believers, 1 Corinthians 12:7. When people become conceited in their gifts, then they will focus on their ministry and they will lose sight of the goal on being a servant to the body, rather than having the body serving their financial need. They run the risk of being rejected by Yeshua, Matthew 7:22.

The disciple needs to remember to that though they may seek certain gifts, but it is up to the discretion of the Holy Spirit to appoint to each person their gifts, in accordance with the plan that GOD had for each person before they were born. We need therefore to be content to operate in the gifts that GOD has given us. It may take a while for us to realize our gifts, but if we will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that time will be shorten.

The more mature believers (elders) are to transfer their gifts to their disciples. Paul was a party to such a transfer with Timothy, 1 Timothy 4:14. The elders are to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance when imparting giftings to disciples so that the disciple may have confidence in exercising their gifts. Once imparted however, it is the responsibility of the disciple to use their gifts for the good of Kingdom of GOD. Paul refers to this activity as fanning the flame of the gift, 2 Timothy 1:6.

The Apostle Peter gives us yet another exhortation regarding the gifts of the Spirit, 1 Peter 4:10, where he tells us to use the gifts in a proper manner for the benefit of the greater body of believers. He would warn against uses these gifts for profit or gain. Just as Yeshua taught that prayer was not to be showy and a pretense of righteousness, we need to resist the temptation to make a show of the Spiritual gifts of GOD. We must remember that the intent of Yeshua and the disciples was to minister to the needs of the people and not in 'marketing' the gifts. The usages of the gifts are to occur in everyday life, not just in big events. Peter and John were walking to the temple when they use a gift of healing to relieve a crippled man of his suffering. The compassion of GOD works best when it is focused on meeting the needs of people in a more anonymous fashion rather than the making of a show of the gifts.