

PRAYER QUEST

LESSON 5: GIFTING & APPROACHES TO PRAYER

Every person is unique and a beautiful work of art designed and hand-created by a loving God. We are a complex creation and all that God has put into us affects the way we pray. God intended for us to pray and respond to Him differently than everyone else and He delights in our praying in our own unique abilities and personality. He never wanted “cookie cutter” Christians. He wants one-on-one relationships with all of His beautiful creations and He highly values our diversity in unity within His Body. When He calls us into His Body, He doesn’t say to us, “leave your individuality and uniqueness behind and become the same as everyone else.” He says rather, “Come in and bring all I’ve given you into the Body of Christ to make it more beautiful and effective.”

A: God has given each of us **Natural Gifts**. These are gifts that a person is born with including **talents, personality, and special abilities**. God is the creator and endower of natural gifts as well as spiritual gifts.

1. **Psalm 139:1-18** shows us that God was at work planning and gifting us even when we were in our mother’s womb.
2. God designed each of us with natural gifts that will help us to accomplish the **purposes and destiny** He has planned for us.
3. We have a choice to use our natural gifts for sinful or selfish purposes or to use them for God’s purposes, but no matter what we choose; **God does not take those natural gifts from us**.
4. Our **greatest fulfillment and satisfaction** comes when we are using our natural gifts in conjunction with our spiritual gifts in submission to God and for the benefit of His Kingdom.

B. Talents & abilities

1. God chooses which special abilities and talents to give to each of us to bring us fulfillment and to bless others. **Exodus 31:106**.
2. Our natural gifts (given at birth) often coordinate with our spiritual gifts (given at re-birth). For instance someone with the spiritual gift of exhortation or prophecy usually has a natural gift of words or communication.
3. God expects us to use our natural gifts for His purposes. He wants a return on His investment. **Matthew 25:14-30**
4. The author lists talent traits that affect prayer:
 - a. **Word usage/Communication:** This gift makes praying out loud seem effortless. These words can inspire or intimidate others, depending partly on the attitude of the vessel.
 - b. **Music:** Worship and music is a wonderful dimension or prayer in corporate settings or in individual prayer times.
 - c. **Art:** Art is an expression of praise for the creative power of God and communicates His glory to others.

- d. **Timeliness and Orderliness:** This gift helps the person with it to establish time for prayer and an ordered way of praying that keeps them on task and helps them avoid distractions.
- e. **Creativity and Imagination:** This gift allows for experimentation and innovation and freedom in expression in prayer.
- f. **Entrepreneurism:** People gifted this way are doers who want to take action. They are frustrated by share-and-wait prayers and long prayer meetings. Setting goals in prayer and keeping a prayer journal will help keep them motivated to pray.
- g. **Managing and Planning:** People with these talents are stable and usually leaders. They want to look to the future and often pray in that direction. They are able to motivate others to cooperation and unity in prayer times.
- h. **Helping and Nurturing:** Compassion and mercy mark the lives of those gifted in this way. They are especially gifted in intercessory prayer.
- i. **Promoting and Motivating:** Those gifted this way are the champions of causes and have a persuasive personality that brings urgency and passion and causes others to take up the cause. Manipulation can be a weakness when these people pray in a group.
- j. **Problem Solving and Analyzing:** These are deep thinkers who try to identify root causes for problems and why God is dealing with us in a certain way. Presumption can be a problem for these people.
- k. **Character intuition:** These people are able to detect insincere motives in others when praying with a group but must guard against judgment.

C: Personality Traits (temperament): The author lists 10 contrasting Personality Traits with descriptions in our text. I won't elaborate on these, but they will help you determine your particular personality traits and how they affect prayer if you study that section of your book. Also sometime this week, complete the Personality Assessment Guide in Appendix D, Page 163 of your book to help you identify your personality traits.

1. Optimistic vs. Solemn
2. Assertive vs. Submissive
3. Subjective vs. Objective
4. Expressive vs. Reserved
5. Spontaneous vs. Persevering

II. **Spiritual Gifts:** Natural and Spiritual gifts complement each other. When you submitted your life to Jesus and received salvation, God released Spirit-impacted gifts into your life. These gifts also affect the way each of us prays. Every Christian receives spiritual gifts and joy and fulfillment comes from discovering and using our gifts. **1 Corinthians 12:1-6** Every gift is for the purpose of benefiting and building up the Body of Christ. Scripture gives three different listings of spiritual gifts:

A: **Motivations (charismation):** the basic inward drive which God places in each Christian. Romans 12:3-9 Given by God, the Father (Romans 12:3)

1. Prophecy
2. Service
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Administration (leading, ruling, organizing)
7. Mercy

B: **Ministries (diakonion):** the opportunities of Christian service which are open to us for the exercise of our basic motivation. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 Given by Jesus Christ, the Son (Ephesians 4:7-14)

1. Apostle
2. Prophet
3. Evangelist
4. Pastor
5. Teacher
6. Miracles
7. Healings
8. Helps
9. Administration or Governments
10. Tongues

C. **Manifestations (enegema phanerosis):** the actual result or activities of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those to whom we minister as determined by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Given by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:8)

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healings
5. Working of Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

For more information on spiritual gifts see the handout.

III. Prayer Anointings:

A: We are gifted differently in **prayer anointings and callings** as well as in talents, and spiritual gifts. ! Corinthians 12: 1-7 says that the Holy Spirit works in different ways in each of us and through each of us. We are all called to be **intercessors** (those who pray for other people or situations-stand in the gap and lift someone or something to God in prayer) and we are called to pray for all the areas listed below, but we also are given individually specific “burdens” or areas we feel passionate about and want to pray about. These are an indication of our specific prayer anointing. We will often have more power in prayer if we join with others who are anointed as we are to pray. We need to concentrate on those areas of our passion and anointing, but also be open to the Lord moving us to pray in a different area at times.

1. **General Intercessors** are those people we generally speak of as intercessors. They can and do pray about anything and everything

and may spend many hours praying and enjoying it. They feel freedom to pray about anything and are passionate about all prayer. Most of us do not fit into this category but are more specialized in our prayer anointing.

2. **Specialized Intercessors** have an area of prayer where they are most comfortable.
 - **Personal Intercessors:** pray for a particular person as God places that person on their heart and mind. God often gives personal information about the person being prayed for to the intercessor in order to guide their prayers. The Gifts of **Word of Wisdom, Word, of Knowledge, Discerning of spirits, and prophecy** are tools the Holy Spirit may use to guide our prayers for individuals.
 - **Crisis Intercessors:** pray in life and death situations as the Holy Spirit directs. Decisive, critical and immediate prayer is needed. God may or may not give information to guide us other than the person's name and an urgency to pray. Our prayer language is a valuable tool in these situations. The gifts of **Tongues, Prophecy, and Faith** are needed.
 - **Church Ministry Intercessors:** called to pray for the ministry areas or leadership of the church body. Called to pray for unity of the church with other churches in the area. **Gifts of discerning of spirits, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and faith are needed.**
 - **Family Intercessors:** often these are women who are called to pray for their own families or family concerns for others (family disunity, divorce, child abuse, etc.) **Gifts of mercy, healings, pastor, helps, may be important.**
 - **Mercy Intercessors:** pray for people in need. Some visit hospitals, retirement homes or other places of need or some pray for items in the newspaper or on television news. **Gifts of mercy, healings, miracles, pastoring, and giving are important.**
 - **Evangelism Intercessors:** Pray for the lost with compassion. They pray for salvation and for felt needs (physical needs such as hunger). **Gifts of evangelism, faith, working of miracles, mercy and faith are important.**
 - **Intercessors for Israel:** These people will always pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the nation of Israel at any prayer gathering. **Gifts of prophecy, evangelism, tongues, and mercy are important.**
 - **Warfare Intercessors:** fight the activity of the enemy over a person, persons, a city, an area, or a nation. Warfare Intercessors must be prepared and

have done research to determine what actions the enemy is taking in an area (darkness) so that they can receive the Lord's strategy for the battle and bring His light. General Douglas MacArthur said in order to win battles you must have (1) the will to win (2) adequate supplies (provision of the Lord's Spirit and other people to help you fight) (3) Knowledge of the enemy, and (4) a sense of timing. **Gifts of prophecy, discerning of spirits, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, will be helpful. The teacher gifting is beneficial in doing research.**

- **Onsite Intercessors:** People who prayer walk or prayer drive a place as they pray asking the Lord for specific insights and guidance. **Prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirits are helpful gifts.**
- **Prophetic Intercessors:** speak forth what God shows them in their prayer closet under the guidance and authority of the church Elders. **Prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirits.**
- **Prophetic Acts:** Ezekiel 37:15-22. These can have a powerful result in prayer. **The same gifts as Prophetic intercessors apply with the Gift of Faith added.**
- **Worship Intercessors:** devotion to the Lord through song and praise Waging spiritual warfare to defeat the enemy through worship.¹
- **National or International Intercessors:** called to pray for a specific nation or people group or many nations.

The final thought for this lesson, is God wants you to be you! He created you beautiful and unique and you are an integral part of his work of art. No matter what your talents, gifts, or personality God wants you to pray and relate to Him in your way. What a relief it is to know we don't have to pray like anyone else. We don't have to be eloquent or impressive in speech. We just need to talk to our God.

¹ Alves, Beth, Prayer Anointing, Taken from Notes from a Spiritual Warfare Conference in Anaheim, CA in 1994.