

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 12 - DISCOVERING YOUR PART IN GOD'S WORK - PART 3

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1. What is the motivational gift of PROPHECY? (E.g. Pastor Fiona Desfontein)

This motivational gift is perhaps better termed **insight** or a **proclaimer of truth**. There are **no grey areas** with the prophet. There is no such thing as a **white lie** with a **truth proclaimer**. He calls a spade a spade and sin is sin. (He is also a good communicator).

1 Sam 9:9 (NASB) *"Formerly is Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he used to say 'Come and let us go to the seer'; for he who is called a prophet now was formerly called a seer."*

Part of this motivational gift would be the **ability to see** or **sense** the spiritual temperature of a person's life. They can **discern** the sincerity of people's attitudes and depth of commitment.

The **basic tendency of this gift** is to view any person, group or situation in the light of their life before God.

1 Cor 14:24,25 (NASB) *"But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;*

25 *the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you."*

The prophet brings **conviction**, brings people to **accountability**, **reveals inner heart motives**, brings **awareness of God's presence**, and **repentance**.

1 Cor 14:3 (NASB) *"But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation."*

The prophet must be **careful** that he does not become too **harsh** in his ministry. He must ensure that he speaks to people for **edification, exhortation and consolation**.

JOHN THE BAPTIST illustrates the gift of prophecy. The prophet tends to focus in on the **sin** and preach a message of **repentance**.

Luke 3:3,7-9,15-17 (NASB) *"And he (John) came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;*

7 *He therefore began saying to the multitudes who were going out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

8 *Therefore bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.*

9 *And also the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'*

15 *Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he might be the Christ,*

16 *John answered and said to them all, 'As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

17 *And His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire' "*

These last 2 scriptures share the heart of the Prophet.

Rom 12:9 (NASB) "Let love be **without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.**"

Psa 51:13 (NASB) "Then I will **teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will be converted to Thee.**"

The prophet may be **misunderstood** in that **frankness may be viewed as harshness.**

2. What is the motivational gift of **SERVING**? (E.g. Pastor George Bartlet)

It is the motivation to demonstrate love by meeting **practical needs**. Servants are fulfilled by serving others. Their gift is best exerted through **deeds rather than words**, for this reason they are gifted with their hands and equipped with **physical stamina** with disregard for weariness. They seem to **see what needs to be done.**

Jesus was a servant in washing the disciples feet. To have been a ruler here would have defeated the whole point of what He wanted to illustrate.

MARTHA is a perfect example of a servant. They tend to **do things themselves** but can also sometimes be **critical** why others are not helping them.

Luke 10:38-42 (NASB) "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named **Martha** welcomed Him into her home.

39 And she had a **sister** called **Mary**, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet.

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, '**Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.**'

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, '**Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;**

42 but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her,

42 (TLB) There is really one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and I won't take it away from her!"

In their willingness to serve they **usually can't say "no"** and so end up with an **overload of commitments**. Servers need those whom they are working for to notice their labors and sincerely appreciate them for it. If they are not appreciated they are **easily hurt**. They need to be reminded that they are loved and of great worth.

To people with other motivational gifts the server may **appear** to be spiritually **superficial** (i.e. to the prophet or the teacher).

They have a willingness to use **personal funds** to avoid delays.

The **servant** has a greater joy when his tasks have **short-range goals** and tends to get frustrated over long-range goals.

Servants can be so committed with helping others that they can **neglect meeting their own family needs.**

(Servers don't make the best Pastors of large churches because they find it difficult to delegate).

3. What is the motivational gift of **TEACHING**? (E.g. Pastor Smiley Papenfus)

Teaching is the **ability to impart knowledge** and to **lead others into revealed truth**. The motivation in teaching is to **search out** and to **validate truth** which has been declared and in turn **share the truth with others.**

APOLLOS fits the characteristics of a teacher.

Acts 18:24a-28 (NASB) *"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an **eloquent man...**"*

The teacher is described as **eloquent, learned, given to words, a gifted speaker** and a man of culture. They spend much time **reading and studying** and place great emphasis on the **accuracy** of facts and words. (E.g. My "Through the Bible in a Year" program).

24b, 28 *"...he came to Ephesus; and he was **mighty in the Scriptures.**"*

28 *for he **powerfully refuted the Jews in public demonstrating by the Scriptures** that Jesus was the Christ."*

They **systematically study** the bible and are **well versed** in scriptures. They are **FACT** oriented and tend to avoid non-biblical illustrations. Prophets and exhorters may preach from experiences, but the teacher will check up on them and want a scripture for everything. (E.g. Fiona and her cousin Lyn who always wanted a scripture for everything).

25a *"This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being **fervent in spirit**, he was speaking and **teaching accurately** the things concerning Jesus..."*

He was **fervent in spirit** or taught with **fiery enthusiasm**.

However a teacher's objectivity may give the impression of a certain **lack of warmth** in their person, for they are **not feeling oriented** (E.g. Kenneth E. Hagin: I'm not moved by what I feel - only by what I believe). They sometimes see people as heads they can fill with knowledge.

26 *"...and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when **Priscilla and Aquila** heard him, they took him aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately.**"*

Teachers are willing to learn from others in order to expand their knowledge.

1 Cor 8:1b (NASB) *"Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies."*

They need to be careful that they don't become puffed up or arrogant in their knowledge.

27 *"And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he **helped greatly those who had believed through grace...**"*

He **greatly helped** the believers. **Teachers are indispensable** to the body of Christ. (Churches that don't have good teachers suffer for it).

1 Cor 3:6 (NASB) *"I planted, **Apollos watered**, but God was causing the growth."*

Teaching is a ministry of **watering** and not **planting**. Teachers take up where apostles, prophets and evangelists leave off.

They have the **gift** of being able to **present the scriptures in a systematic and easy to understand way**.

They need to be **careful** that in presenting the word, they don't give too many details of research which may appear unnecessary to those listening, instead of communicating basic life principles.

4. What is the motivational gift of EXHORTATION? (E.g. Pastor Sam Stark)

It is the motivation to see people grow and become mature and established in their personal life and social relationships. It might be called the **gift of encouragement to personal progress**.

Exhorters tend to be **greatly loved**, for they are **positive** in attitude and outlook.

To the teacher truth from the scriptures is enough, but to the exhorter it needs to first be confirmed in experience. For him the word must become flesh.

Let's look at some biblical exhortations which demonstrate the **strong life related emphasis** of the exhorter.

1 Thes 2:11-12 (NASB) *"...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 may **walk in a manner worthy** of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."*

1 Thes 4:1 (NASB) *"Finally then, brethren, we **request and exhort you** in the Lord Jesus, that, as you*

received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk (ie. by faith) and please God just as you actually do walk, that you may **excel still more.**"

Acts 14:22 (NASB) "Strengthening the souls of the disciples, **encouraging them to continue** in the faith, and saying 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.' "

BARNABAS is an example of an exhorter.

Acts 4:36 "And **Joseph (TCNT)** who received from the apostles the additional name of **Barnabas (NASB)** (which translated means (ASV) son of exhortation or (NASB) encouragement)."

He introduced Saul (Paul) to the apostles when they were afraid to associate with him, lest it was a trap.

Acts 9:27 (NASB) "But **Barnabas** took hold of him (Saul) and **brought him to the apostles** and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus."

Barnabas was sent by the apostles at Jerusalem to encourage the new church at Antioch.

Acts 11:22-24 (NASB) "And the news about them (Greek new converts) reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent **Barnabas** off to Antioch.

23 Then when he had come and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and **began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;**

24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And **considerable numbers were brought to the Lord."**

Notice that through this motivational gift many were brought to Christ (ie. the exhorter often has the makings of a good evangelist).

He went with Saul (Paul) on the first ever missionary journey to **take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.**

Acts 13:2 (NASB) "And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me **Barnabas and Saul** for the work to which I have called them.'"

They returned to the churches they had started and **encouraged the new believers** and **appointed elders** to ensure the success of their spiritual growth.

Acts 14:21-23a (NASB) "And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, **they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,**

22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.'

23a And when they had **appointed elders** for them in every church...they commended them to the Lord..."

5. What is the motivational gift of **GIVING?** (E.g. Pastor Mark Aitkenhead)

Giving might be called the **gift of special sharing**, for sharing is at the heart of this gift. It literally means a "sharing with others...a spending out of one's life with others." (Vine's)

The real motivation behind givers is the support of others. Giving, of course, is inseparable from finances and material things. This gift must not be restricted to wealthy people, for finances is only one of the concrete expressions of this gift.

The new Testament identifies **5** different things with the gift of sharing with others.

i) **Luke 3:11 (NASB)** "And he would answer and say to them 'Let the man who has two tunics **share with**

him who has none; and let him who has food do likewise.' "

Sharing of **material** things such as food and clothing.

ii) **Rom 1:11** (NASB) *"For I long to see you in order that I may **impart some spiritual gift** to you, that you may be established."*

Sharing of **spiritual gifts**.

iii) **Eph 4:28** (NASB) *"Let him who steals steal no longer but rather let him labour, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have **something to share with him who has need.**"*

Sharing of **finances** from one's own honest wages.

iv) **1 Thess 2:8** (NASB) *"Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well pleased to **impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives** because you had become very dear to us."*

Sharing of your **own self**.

v) **Philemon 6** (NASB) *"I pray that the fellowship (or sharing) of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake."*

Sharing of your **faith** and the **Gospel**. (See **1 Thes 2:8** in point (iv) above).

ABRAHAM is a good example of the gift of giving.

James 2:23c (NASB) *"...and he was called the **friend of God,**" who understood the heart of God that **"it is more blessed to give than to receive."** (**Acts 20:35**)*

God knew He could **entrust Abraham with assets**.

Gen 13:2,5-6 (NASB) *"Now **Abram** was **very rich** in livestock, in silver and in gold.*

5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

*6 And the **land could not sustain them while dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.**"*

He could **freely give away** of his very best.

Gen 13:9-11 (NASB) *"Is not the whole **land** before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right; then I will go to the left.*

*10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the **valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere - this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah - like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.***

11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other."

He was ready to **act on behalf of others** when he recognized a valid need. Givers are not gullible. They have the insight when and whom to help.

Gen 14:13-16 (NASB) *"Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew.*

*14 And when Abram heard that **his relative** (Lot) had been taken captive, **he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen,** and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

*15 And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, **and defeated them,** and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.*

*16 And he **brought back all the goods,** and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people."*

He had **no trouble tithing**. No giver has.

Gen 14:20 (NASB) Melchizedek said, *" 'And blessed be God Host High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. 'And he (Abram) **gave him a tenth of ALL.**' ' "*

Without fanfare, he could quietly **sacrifice his all** (Isaac) if he knew God required it.

Gen 22:1-2 (NASB) "Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'

2 And He said, 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, **Isaac**, and go to the land of Moriah; and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.' "

The giver has the ability to make **wise purchases and investments**. However, in their need to deal with money others may view them as spiritually superficial.

6. What is the motivational gift of RULING. (E.g. Pastor Theo Wolmarans)

A number of English words depict ruling. Literally it means one who stands in front of others; thus it has the idea of a leader, a ruler, a protector, a champion etc. The RSV calls it **giving aid** which depicts **one who gives leadership by working with and THROUGH others**.

Unlike servers, rulers do not joy in doing the task themselves. They **maintain** the church by making things **easy** for others.

The word rule literally means **promoting the ease of any action of operation**.

Rulers help the body achieve it's goals (especially long-range goals) effectively by providing leadership.

(**Jesus** was a Ruler in the feeding of the 5000).

NEHEMIAH is a good example of a ruler.

Rulers have a special zeal for the cause of God's people. They are **persistent prayer warriors** who know how to pray the problem through.

Neh 1:3-4 (NASB) "And they said to me, 'The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.'

4 Now it came about when I heard these word, **I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."**

(E.g. Pastor Theo birthed this ministry in prayer for an entire year in his Kensington office).

Rulers can **quickly sense the overall problem** and easily summarize the situation.

Neh 2:11-15 (NASB) "So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

12 And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding.

13 So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon's Well and on the Refuse Gate, **INSPECTING the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire.**

14 Then I passed on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was no place for my mount to pass.

15 So I went up at night by the ravine and inspected the wall. Then I entered the Valley Gate again and returned."

Rulers have an **anointing to convince others of the importance of various tasks and motivate them to action without causing offence**.

Neh 2:16-18 (NASB) "And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the rest who did the work.

17 Then I said to them, 'You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. **Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem** that we may no longer be a reproach.'

18 And told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me, and also about the king's words

which he had spoken to me. Then **they said, 'Let us arise and build.'** So they put their hands to the good work."

Rulers have a **sense of timing** and know how long specific tasks will take.

Neh 2:6 (NASB) "Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, 'How long will your journey be, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and **I gave him a definite time.**"

Rulers can **organize** both human and material resources.

Neh 3 Read at home.

Rulers can **endure**, even under **extreme pressure** and proceed under **fierce opposition**.

Neh 4 & 6 Read at home.

Rulers have **backbone** and are able to face total disorder and discontentment among the workers, sort out their problems and **remotivate** them to the task.

Neh 5:1-3,6-7,10-12 (NASB) "Now there was a **great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers.**

3 And there were others who said, 'We are **mortgaging** our fields, our vineyards, and **our houses** that we might get grain because of the famine.'

6 Then **I was very angry** when I had heard their outcry and these words.

7 And I consulted with myself, and **contended with the nobles and the rulers** and said to them, 'You are exacting usury, each from his brother!' Therefore, I held a great assembly against them.

10b 'Please, let us leave off this usury.

11 Please, **give back to them** this very day **their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money and of the grain, the new wine, and the oil that you are exacting from them.**'

12 Then they said, '**We will give it back** and will require nothing from them, **we will do exactly as you say.**' So I called the priests and took an oath from them that they would do according to this promise."

When the occasion requires it, the ruler personally **works with the people** to set an example to motivate them (**vs 16**) and is not a personal burden to the people himself.

Neh 5:14,16 (NASB) "Moreover, from the day that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, for twelve years, **neither I nor my kinsmen have eaten the governor's food allowance.**

16 And I also **applied myself to the work on this wall;** we did not buy any land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work."

(Eg. Pastor Theo Wolmarans personally worked side by side with the night shift crew to motivate the building of this church in 15 days).

Rulers know how to **delegate authority** and can sense who can best do the job.

Neh 7:1-2 (NASB) "Now it came about when the wall was rebuilt and I had set up the doors, and the **gatekeepers and the singers and the Levities were appointed,**

2 that I put **Hanai my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.**"

Rulers must be **careful** that they don't just view people as resources to complete a task. They must make a special effort to **remain sensitive** to the worker's needs.

The ruler tends to **overlook major character faults** in people provided they can help him achieve his goals. The prophet however would never do this.

7. What is the motivational gift of **MERCY**? (Eg. Lyn Fray)

Mercy is one of the most familiar and needed of all gifts. The gift of mercy is the motivation to identify with and to comfort and relieve those who are in need and distress. It is akin to **compassion, pity, gentleness, and forbearance**. It aims at helping others by **empathizing** with them and doing things for them.

People with the gift of mercy are obviously **strong feeling people**. This gift meets the sympathetic and emotional needs of the body. Men with the gift of mercy must not suppress this gift thinking that it shows weakness. Jesus Christ was a man's man and he freely demonstrated love and compassion to those who were hurting.

Luke 7:13 (NASB) *"And when the Lord saw her, He **felt compassion** for her, and said to her, 'Do not weep.'*

Like givers, mercies are able to detect insincerity and will not sow seed on bad soil.

The **GOOD SAMARITAN** is perhaps the best example of a mercy person.

Luke 10:29-37 (NASB) *"But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, 'and who is my neighbor?'*

30 *Jesus replied and said, 'A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him **half dead**.*

31 *And by chance a certain **priest** was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*

32 *And likewise a **Levite** also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

33 *But a **certain Samaritan**, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he **felt compassion**,"*

He was motivated by compassion for a man who was suffering. He had the **ability to feel** his distress.

He went to him. Mercies are actually **drawn to people who are hurting**. They seem to reach out to the broken and the **underdogs**.

He bound up his wounds so as to **remove the hurt**. (**Luke 4:18**)

He took care of him till he would be back on his feet again.

34 *"and came to him, and **bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.**"*

He paid his bill. He was sensitive to the embarrassment of not being able to pay. He was aware of the delicate matters that hurt other people.

He **discerned** he could trust the innkeeper to be sincere and caring for the hurting man.

35 *"And on the next day **he took out two denarii** and gave them the innkeeper and said, '**Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.**'"*

36 *which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?'*

37 *And he said, 'The one who showed mercy toward him.' and Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same.' "*

Rom 12:8c (NASB) *"...he who shows mercy with **cheerfulness**."*

Mercies need to be **careful** that ministering to the suffering does not build up deep feelings of **depression** inside of them.

Mercies are to practice the following:

1 Pet 5:7 (KJV) *"**Casting ALL your care upon Him, for He careth for you.**"*

Neh 8:10c (NASB) *"...For the **JOY** of the Lord is your strength."*

Mercies need to realize that **there is a time to be firm** with people and exercise discipline. They also need to be careful that their emotions do not get in the way of logic.

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 12

1. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man.
2. You need to clearly understand not only your motivational gifts, but also those of your natural and spiritual family that are close to you, so that you can complement one another and flow together in unity.