

# The Gift of Teacher

## Romans 12:7

### I. What is the gift of teacher?

- A. The word “teacher” means “an instructor,” but it also contains another root word which means “to learn.”
- B. So the person with the gift of teaching not only enjoys teaching others, but also enjoys researching and learning. He gets excited about what he has learned and desires to communicate that knowledge to others. Proverbs 12:1 states, “*Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge...*”
- C. The person with the gift of teaching lives to do two things: learn and teach. Of course there are many different ways to exercise that gift, such as writing, counseling, teaching publicly to groups, etc.
- D. The teacher would rather gain knowledge than eat, sleep, or just about anything else.
- E. The Spirit-filled teacher has a strong desire to research, clarify, and validate the truth of God’s Word.

### II. Why is there a need for the gift of teaching?

- A. It is so important to have people in the body of Christ with this gift. There are only four speaking gifts given to the body of Christ. Of course, the teacher is one of these.
- B. The other three (prophet, pastor, exhorter) usually have to rely on resources from the teacher in order to fulfil their responsibilities to the local church.
  - People who write all the Bible Study books are those with the gift of teaching. Those with the other gifts rely on the teacher for materials to help them grow and learn.
  - By the way, those with this gift will not necessarily be great public speakers, but they may be excellent writers, or good at teaching people one-on-one or in small groups.

- C. So we see how important the gift of teaching is to the body of Christ. We need teachers to write and develop curriculum, be Bible College professors, teach Bible Study classes, work in discipleship with others, counsel those who are struggling with spiritual issues, etc.
- D. Those with the gift of teaching challenge others to learn more, rather than to be complacent with the knowledge they already have.
- E. The teacher reminds us that we are able to keep expanding, learning, and growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 3:18

### III. What are the characteristics of the teacher?

- A. The word “teacher” is also translated “master,” and “doctor” in other places of Scripture. So we are going to look at Luke, who is called “*the beloved physician,*” (Colossians 4:14) as an example of the teacher. Keep in mind that Luke wrote both the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Here are the characteristics:
- B. First, the teacher requires thoroughness in everything he does.
  - 1. There are four gospel accounts of Christ’s earthly ministry (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Guess which one is the longest? Guess which one gives more details and facts about people and places. The answer is Luke, the teacher.
  - 2. Teachers are typically detail people that are very thorough.
  - 3. A teacher would never dream of bringing his Bible Study lesson out on Saturday evening to try to prepare for Sunday. He would live and breathe that lesson all week, digging and researching his topic until he knew it thoroughly.
- C. Second, the teacher wants absolute proofs. Acts 1:3
  - 1. Luke is writing what he considers to be “*infallible proofs*” concerning Christ’s resurrection and the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. The teacher usually isn’t one to get involved in gossip because the teacher isn’t interested in opinions or hearsay. His attitude is, “Give me the facts.” If you don’t have undeniable facts, the teacher’s attitude is, “Sit down, be quiet, and don’t waste my time.”
  - 3. The teacher wants 100% accuracy, and he has little tolerance for people who give wrong information.

- D. Third, the teacher relies on established sources and puts great stock in someone's credentials.
1. In Luke 1:2-3, Luke is quick to establish his source and his credentials.
  2. The teacher is quick to question what he is taught, and to question the knowledge of those who teach him. Many times he has a problem listening to others for this very reason. He is constantly questioning.
  3. The teacher can tend to measure others' spirituality by the amount of their Bible knowledge and can easily forget that credentials do not make a good teacher. The Holy Spirit must be the ultimate teacher. 1 Corinthians 2:13
- E. Fourth, the teacher likes to present truth systematically. Luke 1:1, 3
1. Notice how Luke lays everything out "*in order.*" In other words, Luke systematically laid out the details about Christ and His ministry.
  2. The teacher is technical, usually methodical. The teacher is analytical, loving charts, graphs, and lists.
  3. The teacher likes for things to be "*in order.*" He has an organized system for everything. Sometimes, the teacher's organization can drive others crazy.
  4. The teacher can be so organized and systematic that he loses all practicality. The greatest challenge to the teacher is to be practical, yet simple enough so that people can grasp what is being taught and then apply it. He must learn to make practical application to God's Word.
    - If the teacher doesn't learn this, he can tend to be dull and dry as he lays out facts, charts, and statistics systematically.
  5. The most effective teacher is the one who can teach more-than-average knowledge with more-than-average simplicity.
- F. Fifth, the teacher has a need to validate truth and clarify misunderstandings. Luke 1:4
1. The teacher loves the Word of God and enjoys reading it.
  2. The teacher has a great burden to know and teach the whole Bible and enjoys studying for long periods of time. He tends to view himself as a defender of the faith and of the truth.

#### **IV. How does Satan attack people with the gift of teaching?**

- A. Causes pride and feelings of superiority because of his knowledge
- B. Causes him to lose sight of people and their needs
  - His answer to everything is a chart, graph, or list. He can get caught up in all his charts and figures and lose sight of people and their needs.
- C. Causes discouragement because of others' lack of interest
- D. Causes a lack of zeal
  - The teacher can get so wrapped in his book learning that he has no zeal to go out and reach people and serve God. He would rather just sit off by himself and gain knowledge. Remember, knowledge alone puffs up. Knowledge is vain unless you use it to help people. Knowledge must be guided by a love for people.
- E. Causes the teacher to have problems exercising faith because he wants everything worked out on paper
- F. Causes a negative attitude towards those over him because of their lack of knowledge

#### **IV. Scriptures that the teacher should memorize**

- A. 1 Corinthians 8:1
- B. Hebrews 11:1
- C. Hebrews 11:6
- D. 1 Corinthians 2:13
- E. Romans 12:11
- F. James 1:22