



learned in his own study can be monotonous and boring, he can turn people off by his impractical teaching. This can cause people to think that the Bible is not practical and does not really apply to daily life. Now, let's consider the positives of this gift.

 The following is a list of characteristics devised by Bill Gothard in his material on spiritual gifts. Each of these characterizes the Christian who possesses the gift of teaching. Alternate reading these qualities and discuss them as a group. Indicate beside each quality, on a scale between 1-5 (1 being lowest) how well each of these describes you.

- ___ 1. The need to validate truth; to certify statements which have been made by others.
- ___ 2. The tendency to validate new truth by established systems of truth
- ___ 3. The prompting to give teaching credentials before speaking and to get them from others before listening
- ___ 4. The desire to present truth in a systematic sequence.
- ___ 5. A delight in researching and reporting as many facts on a subject as possible.
- ___ 6. An emphasis on the importance and accuracy of reporting.
- ___ 7. An alertness to factual details which are not noticed or mentioned by others.
- ___ 8. A tendency to remain silent until information has been heard, observed, and discussed.
- ___ 9. A need to exercise diligence and endurance.


 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, _____


In this study we will examine the spiritual gift of *Teaching*. Noah Webster defines the word *Teach* in this way: *1. To instruct; to inform; to communicate to another the knowledge of that of which he was before ignorant.*


Of course, in the context of the church, the knowledge which this man or woman with the gift of teaching is communicating is the word of God. The gifted teacher is *one who communicates an understanding of the word of God to those who were before ignorant of it.*


Teacher or Preacher?


We have already examined the gift of *prophecy* in lesson one. The man who possesses the gift of prophecy often exercises it in the role of a Pastor or an Evangelist. In these cases, this man is said to be a *preacher*. So, is there a difference between a teacher and a preacher?

 Matthew 11:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to _____ and to _____ in their cities.

 Acts 15:35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, - _____ and _____ the word of the Lord, with many others also.

 2 Timothy 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a _____, and an apostle, and a _____ of the Gentiles.

 Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to _____ Jesus Christ.

 Based on the use of the words *teach* and *preach* in the above verses, do you think there is a difference between the two?

Q. How might a teacher present truth differently than a preacher?


Q. In what circumstances might the one approach be better than the other?

There *is* a distinct difference between *teaching* and *preaching*. To preach means to *herald* or *proclaim*, while to teach simply means to *instruct*. The preacher conveys truth with passion and urgency and sometimes with a loud voice. The teacher is more likely to convey truth calmly and systematically, being more deliberate and sharing more detail.

It would be inappropriate for a small group leader to stand and *preach* to his group! And it wouldn't make sense for an evangelist to stand on a street corner and calmly teach while folks walked by. There are real differences between teaching and preaching and the body of Christ (the church) needs members who possess each of these gifts.


Luke – The Teaching Doctor

When we read Luke's gospel account and learn about his life, it seems very likely that this man possessed the gift of teaching.


 Colossians 4:14. **Q.** What was Luke's profession? _____.

As a Doctor, Luke surely enjoyed research and learning. This is one of the marks of a teacher. The teacher loves to **Discover** truth. He will read, study and research in order to satisfy his desire to learn truth.


Not only does a teacher like to *Discover* truth, but he also likes to *Delineate* truth. That is, he likes to put it in logical and practical order.


 Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee _____, most excellent Theophilus,

Luke, having learned and understood the doctrines of the faith states that the reason for his gospel was to put *in order* the facts that he had learned. The teacher is one who has the ability to discover truth and to put it in practical and logical order. He can then take the truth that he has *Discovered* and *Delineated* and then **Declare** it to others so that they might also have the same knowledge.


 Luke 1:4. **Q.** What did Luke hope Theophilus would gain from reading his gospel?


The teacher enjoys reading, but not just for personal fulfillment. He enjoys reading and studying so that he can then take what he has learned and help others to understand the same things. This was Luke's approach to his ministry and is a clear mark of the man or woman who has the gift of teaching.

 Teachers are an integral and important part of the body of Christ. What are some ministries that would not succeed if it were not for teachers?


 How have men or women with the gift of teaching helped you in the church?

Like all other spiritual gifts, the gift of teaching has its positives and its negatives. Let's look now at some of the ways that this gift can be misused.

 According to 1 Cor 8:1, what can knowledge do?


 Why do you think the teacher might become arrogant or prideful? How might this affect the way he treats others?

In John 9 we read an interesting account of a blind beggar. This man was healed by Jesus, he then had a run-in with the "educated" men of that day. While they debated who Jesus really was, the uneducated beggar knew exactly who he was. In verse 33 he said, *John 9:33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.*

 According to John 9:34, how did they react to this man?

This blind beggar may not have been highly educated but he had practical wisdom and knowledge based on his experience. One of the possible pitfalls for the Christian with the gift of teaching is that of rejecting the practical wisdom possessed by those who are not as educated as they are.

The teacher may be reluctant to accept the instruction of others and may find himself "picking apart" their teaching. This can be a good trait, as we learn from the Bereans:

 Acts 17:11. Why were the Bereans considered more *noble* than those at Thessalonica?

These Christians had a healthy skepticism and desired to validate truth by comparing it to the word of God. This is a good and important quality, but can be misused by becoming critical of others or discrediting them because they are not correct in every detail that they teach.

Lastly, the *teacher* can misuse his gift by not wisely choosing how to present the truth that he has learned. Teaching with too much detail of what he has