

# Christian Maturity

Challenges People face with Gifts of Holy Spirit - II

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**INTRO VERSE:- EPH 4:11-16**

**MAIN VERSE:- 2 TIM. 1:6**

**“HIS IS WHY I REMIND YOU TO FAN INTO FLAMES THE SPIRITUAL GIFT GOD GAVE YOU WHEN I LAID MY HANDS ON YOU.”**

**SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE:- Rom 16**

**1 PETER 4:9-11**

# What we learned in Last session?

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- Introduction about Spiritual Gifts
- Purpose of Gifts of Holy Spirit
- Abuse of Gifts of Holy Spirit
- Types of Gifts
- Why to Discover your Spiritual Gift
- Discussion

# Few Questions from Last Session ???

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- *How can I be a mentor for others if I don't have much Biblical knowledge?*
- *How to define boundaries between Gifts if I have more than one?*
- *What to do if I have all the Gifts?*
- *What's the difference between Natural & Supernatural Gifts?*
- *I think I have Gift of counseling. My husband is not happy I do that late at night. But now after attending this class, what may happen I will do it since God has given me the Gift.*
- *I think only few people get opportunity to use their Gift in Church.*
- *What to do if all people will have Gift of Preaching?*

# Purpose of Each Type of Gift

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Gift Type & Purpose	Gifts	
<b>SPECIAL GIFTS</b> -> TO EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Apostles</li> <li>•Prophets</li> <li>•Evangelists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pastors</li> <li>•Teachers</li> </ul>
<b>SPEAKING GIFTS</b> -> TO EXPLAIN GOD'S TRUTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prophecy</li> <li>•Teaching</li> <li>•Exhortation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Word of Wisdom</li> <li>•Word of Knowledge</li> </ul>
<b>SERVING GIFTS</b> -> TO ENABLE GOD'S WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Serving</li> <li>•Helps</li> <li>•Leadership</li> <li>•Administration</li> <li>• Giving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Showing</li> <li>•Mercy</li> <li>•Discerning of Spirits</li> <li>•Faith</li> <li>•Hospitality</li> </ul>
<b>SIGN GIFTS</b> -> TO ESTABLISH GOD'S AUTHORITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tongues</li> <li>•Interpretation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Miracles</li> <li>•Healings</li> </ul>

# Natural Talent vs. Spiritual Gifts

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**Exo.28:3 - “Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest.”**

- **Every thing is from God**
- **Spiritual Gifts Benefit Man's Spiritual Nature -- It is true that talents such as musical ability, artistic skill or athletic coordination are also gifts from God. But they are gifts on a physical or social level only and are given to benefit mankind in his "natural" life. Spiritual gifts, on the other hand, are given to benefit the realm of the spirit of man, the realm of an individual's relationship to God.**
- **Only Christians Have Spiritual Gifts -- Talents, obviously, are distributed to men and women quite apart from any reference to their spiritual condition. But only Christians have spiritual gifts, because they are given only to those in whom the Spirit of Christ has come to live (1 Corinthians 12:7).**

# Natural Talent vs. Spiritual Gifts

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- It is Quite Possible for a Christian to Have a Talent, but Not to Have the Corresponding Spiritual Gift. -- Suppose you had a talent for teaching, but lacked the spiritual gift of teaching. If this is the case and you were asked to teach a Sunday school class, *you would be quite capable of imparting considerable information and knowledge of facts, but your teaching would lack the power to advance your students spiritually.* Another example is that we have listened to Christians sing without exercising any spiritual gift. We find our hearts left cold and unmoved by a technically excellent performance, but without spiritual power.
- Conversely, It is Quite Possible For a Christian to be Given a Spiritual Gift That Has Absolutely Nothing to Do with Any Natural Inclinations or Talents He or She Possesses. -- For example, it was not necessary for the Acts 2 disciples to have a natural talent for languages before they spoke in tongues.

# Natural Talent vs. Spiritual Gifts

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<b>Natural Talents</b>	<b>Spiritual Gifts</b>
1. Source: From God through parents	1. Source: From God independent of parents
2. Possessed: From birth	2. Possessed: Probably from conversion
3. Purpose: To benefit mankind on the natural level	3. Purpose: To benefit mankind on the spiritual level
4. Process: Must be recognized, developed, exercised	4. Process: Must be recognized, developed, exercised
5. Function: Ought to be dedicated by believers	5. Function: Ought to be used for God's glory to God for His use and glory

# How to Discover your Gift 1

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- **Pray and Ask God to Show You** - Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be ignorant" (1 Corinthians 12:1). It is God's intention for us to understand and know how He has gifted us.
- **Study the Biblical Possibilities** - Begin with the Scripture passages on Spiritual Gifts and then use a concordance or cross references to find other passages regarding the spiritual gifts.
- **Watch How God Is Using You (Check Results)** - There are a number of good spiritual gift inventories available to help you identify how God is using you. You can find lot of "Spiritual Gift Inventory" or "Spiritual Gift Discovery Tool." You may use it if you want.
- **Seek A Spiritual Gift:** Desire a gift and fast and pray for it. The Bible tells us to seek spiritual gifts: But covet [desire, seek] earnestly the best gifts... (I Corinthians 12:31) We each have at least one gift, but this verse implies we can also seek a gift which we do not now possess.
- **Counsel With Others** - Many times other people who know you and have served with you can easily identify what your spiritual gifts are. Talk to your pastor, Cell Group Leaders, Christian friends etc who have served with you, and to your family. "For waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers" Proverbs 24:6.
- **Expect Confirmation From the Body** - Spiritual gifts will be recognized by the Body of Christ, because spiritual gifts (properly exercised) edify the Body of Christ. They bring blessing to God's people and extend God's kingdom.



# Do I need to Develop Gifts?

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- In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul tells Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God” which was in him.
- Initially a spark may go unnoticed. If it makes contact with fuel and oxygen it can be stirred up into a major fire.
- Similarly, a gift may be that small spark inside of us that needs to be developed and nurtured to reach its full potential. If a fire is neglected it will die out.
- Likewise, gifts need to be used. The best way to develop gifts, to fan them into flame, is to use them.

# Case Study-Priscilla and Aquila

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## Only 7 Places They are mentioned

- **Acts 18:2 ( Paul)**

There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,

- **Acts 18:18**

[Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by **Priscilla** and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken.

- **Acts 18:19**

They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left **Priscilla** and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

- **Acts 18:26 (Apollos)**

He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

- **Romans 16:3-5**

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house.

- **1 Corinthians 16:19**

[ *Final Greetings* ] The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and **Priscilla** greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

- **2 Timothy 4:19**

[ *Final Greetings* ] Greet **Priscilla** and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

# Case Study-**Priscilla** and **Aquila**

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- Where Did they Live? (Acts 18:2, 19) -Rome, Corinth, Ephesus.
- They were Jews from Italy (Acts 18:2)
- Their Occupation- Tent Making (Acts 18:3)
- All places they are mentioned together.
- 5/7 times Priscilla is addressed first.

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- They practiced hospitality
- The Apostle Paul was on his 2nd missionary journey in the fall of A.D. 51 when he came to Corinth
- Paul "met them" (ACT 18:2,3)
- Paul "stayed with them" (ACT 18:3)
- they housed the Apostle Paul (ACT 18:3)
- They offered their home to Paul while he was in Corinth.
  - the rules of hospitality demanded that they offer their home to this stranger, Paul.
  - they developed a relationship that allowed Paul to stay as long as he desired.
  - Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 mo., probably with Aquila and Priscilla the entire time as their guest (ACT 18:11).

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- **Paul "worked with them" (ACT 18:3).**
  - they shared a common occupation.
  - they were business associates in a common business.
  - Aquila and Priscilla not only opened their home to Paul, they opened up their work to him as well, so that Paul was able to support himself while he ministered at Corinth before the arrival of Silas and Timothy (ACT 18:5).
- **They disciplined Apollos (ACT 18:24-25).**
- **They accompanied Paul from Corinth to Ephesus and settled there (ACT 18:18,19).**

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- **Priscilla and Aquila met Apollos at the synagogue in Ephesus (ACT 18:26).**
  - they heard Apollos teach (ACT 18:26).
  - he was learned in the Scriptures (ACT 18:24).
  - he was fervent (ACT 18:25).
  - he taught about Jesus accurately (ACT 18:25).
  - he knew of the baptism of John (ACT 18:25).
    - ✦ the baptism of John was to prepare a seeker for the coming Messiah.
    - ✦ the baptism was one of repentance and dedication,
    - ✦ without a full message of salvation (ACT 19:4)..
  - he was bold (ACT 18:26).

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- they instructed him- Apollos (ACT 18:26).
  - they invited him to their home (ACT 18:26).
  - they made an overture of friendship.
  - they privately taught Apollos.
  - they explained "the way of God more adequately" (ACT 18:26).
- Obviously they had acquired a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures and God's plan of salvation, perhaps before they met Paul, but certainly afterward enough to instruct a scholar like Apollos.

## **WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS?**

- ACT 18:27,28 "When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia [Corinth], the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. **For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.**"

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- They served God at risk of their own lives (ROM 16:4)
- ROM 16:4 "They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them."
- **WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THIS HAPPENED NOR WHAT OCCURRED BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY WERE READY TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR PAUL'S SAKE.**
  - the literal translation of that phrase means "they laid down their own necks", i.e. they were in real mortal danger for Paul's sake.
  - they shielded Paul from death and thus helped all Gentile churches by preserving him.



# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- They hosted a house church (1CO 16:19; ROM 16:5).
- they had a house church in Ephesus (1CO 16:19).

1CO 16:19 "The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house."

- they had a house church in Rome (ROM 16:5).

ROM 16:5 "Greet also the church that meets at their house."

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- they had returned to Rome.
- the Jews returned to Rome after the death of Emperor Claudius in A.D. 54 (Lenski, "The Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles", pg.745).
- in Paul's letter to the Romans, A.D. 55? or 57? He mentions their residence there so they had returned fairly soon after Claudius' death.
- It is interesting to note how freely Priscilla and Aquila moved around in the Roman world: first they were in Rome, then Corinth, then Ephesus, then Rome again. Finally Again in Ephesus.

# Priscilla and Aquila-What did they do?

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- They were "fellow workers" with Paul.
  - ROM 16:3 "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus."
- they were considered by Paul to be his equals.
- they labored at gospel work- they were busy for the LORD wherever they were.
- **THE LAST SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE TO PRISCILLA AND AQUILA IS FOUND IN 2TI 4:19 WHERE THEY WERE ONCE AGAIN IN EPHESUS ABOUT A.D. 66, DURING PAUL'S SECOND ROMAN IMPRISONMENT.**

# Priscilla and Aquila-What Can We Learn From Them?

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- God gives us appropriate mates with which to minister and work.
- Sometimes God moves His people, His "light" around to "spiritually dark" areas for the purpose of illuminating the darkness- preaching the truth and ministering to others in Jesus' name.
- "Bloom where you are planted" was the motto Priscilla and Aquila lived by; they were faithful in serving the LORD wherever they were.
- They never did any miracles or Preached sermons (not mentioned in Bible)
- They never took missionary journeys like Paul
- Paul says all churches of Gentiles are thankful to them

# Conclusion

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- Behind every great man of God or big church there are countless unknown men & women
- In heaven Paul will lead a group of gentiles to Priscilla & Aquila and tell them to thank them.
- Priscilla never traveled but gentile souls are there to thank her
- Will there be any soul to thank you?
- Easy to criticize and find fault. Will you cry?
- Will you use the Gift God has given you ?