

**Pastor Mark Mikels - December 8, 2019**  
**"THE SPIRITUAL 'GIFTING' OF GIVING"**  
(Romans 12:8; Acts 4:36-37; Acts 16:13-15)

**Intro ...** Today we continue our examination of one of the unique features of the Church of Jesus Christ ... Christ's Church is a **'gifted body'** with each of its members imprinted with one of the seven **'Giftings'** identified in Romans Chapter Twelve.

These **'Giftings'** are each vital to the healthy functioning of Christ's Church – they complement one another and together they give full expression to the character of Christ.

So far, we have examined four of them ...

**Prophecy, Serving, Teaching and Encouraging.**

Today we come to **'Gifting'** number five ...

**TODAY'S GIFTING IDENTIFIED ... Romans 12:8b**

*"If a man's 'gifting' is **GIVING** ..." (KJV)*

*"If a man's 'gifting' is **CONTRIBUTING** to the **NEEDS** of others ..." (NIV)*

**THE 'GIFTING' OF 'GIVING' DEFINED ...**

*"If a man's 'gifting' is **METADIDOMAI** ..." (NIV)*

The Greek word that the Apostle Paul uses here is really made up of two Greek words: **'meta'** which can be translated: *'with'* or *'to'* or *'for the purpose of'* and **'didomai'** which is the most common Greek word for *'give.'* (as in: *'God so loved the world that He **gave** ...'*)

*So, we have a word that means: "Giving with a specific purpose in mind."*

The NIV translation zeroes in on that **purpose**:

*"Contributing to the needs of others"*

Here's how we are going to **'amplify'** this **'Gifting'** today:

*"The Desire and Ability to Strategically **EMPLOY** one's material resources for the **BENEFIT** of one's **FELLOW BELIEVERS.**"*

Now, before we look at some amazing examples of this kind of **'Gifting'** in the Early Church, let me draw **three clarifications** that might be helpful to our understanding.

## **THE 'GIFTING' OF GIVING CLARIFIED ...**

\* This is not the Gift of **SPENDING**

- The '*Spiritually Gifted Giver*' is usually quite **FRUGAL** -

You could almost say that the '*Gift of Giving*' involves the '*Ability to Accumulate*' - that along with it comes the *disposition* and the *discipline* to live well within one's means and to always have funds in *reserve*.

\* This is not to be equated with **TITHING**

- The Believer's Tithe is not to be used at the believer's **DISCRETION** -

Now you and I know (Biblically speaking) that '*tithing*' is not actually '*giving*' at all. '*Tithing*' is an act of joyful obedience that focuses our attention upon the provision of God in our lives.

God says: "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.*"

The *size* of the tithe-check reflects the *size* of the Provision.

*Some years ago*, our congregation was presented a '*Tithe Check*' for \$25,000 -

You do the math. A \$250,000 provision had been given.

There was great rejoicing on both ends of that tithe.

*Just recently* one of our most faithful members handed me

a tithe check for \$79,742.57 - You do the math on that one.

God's provision for this dear saint was mind-blowing to say the least.

Totally out of the blue!

Praise be to Our '*Fabulously Wealthy*' Abba Father  
and to all of our meticulously faithful *Sonlife* Tithers!

\* This is not generally an Act of **SACRIFICE**

- These are generally gifts given out of one's **ABUNDANCE** -

The one with this '*Gift of Giving*' is not generally characterized by the common phrase: "*He would give you the shirt off his back.*" That type of sacrificial need-meeting would more likely be done by someone with one of the other '*Helping or Serving*' Giftings.

The person with the '*Gift of Giving*' would more likely bring you three or four brand new shirts from his closet or take you on a shopping trip to Macy's.

So, we are talking about a very special kind of '*Gift of Giving*' ...

We are talking about ...

*'Giving out of our abundance to meet the needs of our fellow believers.'*

So, what might this type of '*Giving*' look like?

Time for a couple of *Early Church* examples.

***THE 'GIFTING' OF GIVING ILLUSTRATED ...***

\* ***BARNABUS*** - a gift of ***PROPERTY*** - Acts 4:36-37

*"Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."*

\* ***LYDIA*** - a gift of ***HOSPITALITY*** - Acts 16:13-15

*"If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us ..."*

*Here's a Sonlife example:*

***Just*** this past Summer, a check for \$28,600 was "***Given***" to the church by a couple in our congregation. They told me that they had received an inheritance and they decided to "***Give it all to the church to meet the needs of the Body.***"

That's '***Metadidomai***' -***Type Giving***' in action!

***Over*** the past five years alone, \$51,000 worth of needs have been met for distressed members of this congregation.

There's a '***Spirit of 'Metadidomai***' in this place!

I have no doubt that that number would be significantly increased if we added all the help that various ones of you have given personally and privately to one another.

***THE 'GIFTING ' OF GIVING REFINED ...***

*"If a man's 'gifting' is metadidomai, let him do it with haplotees."*

***Haplotees:*** when referring to the nature of the ***GIFT***, it should be translated '***GENEROSITY***' ... when referring to the nature of the ***GIVER***, it should be translated '***SINCERITY.***'

The '*King James*' translators focused their attention on *the nature of the GIVER* and chose the phrase "*let him do it with simplicity.*" In other words, do it with no complex method or devious motive.

The '*New International*' translators focused upon *the nature of the GIFT* and simply said: "*Let him give generously.*"  
Don't skimp and just help a little.

Consider now with me what I would offer as the ...

### ***MIKELS AMPLIFIED ENGLISH VERSION ...***

Now if a man possesses the desire and the ability to ***EMPLOY*** material resources for the ***BENEFIT*** of his fellow believers, ('*metadidomai*') then by all means, let him employ those resources with ***SINCERITY*** (with no ulterior motives) and let him employ them in as ***GENEROUS*** a way as possible ('*haplotees*').

Now let's perform our weekly '*Alignment*' ...

### ***THE 'GIFTING' OF GIVING ALIGNED WITH THE OTHER 'GIFTINGS' ...***

One with the '*Gift*' of *Prophecy* says: "Let me ***TELL*** you!"

One with the '*Gift*' of *Serving* says: "Let me ***HELP*** you!"

One with the '*Gift*' of *Teaching* says: "Let me ***ENLIGHTEN*** you!"

One with the '*Gift*' of *Encouraging* says: "Let me ***ENERGIZE*** you!"

One with the '*Gift*' of *Giving* says: "Let me ***MATERIALLY ASSIST*** you!"

### ***THE 'GIFTING' OF GIVING ALIGNED WITH THE REST OF THE BODY ...***

It's a ***blessed*** church that possesses within its membership some who are imprinted with this '*Gift*' of *Giving* for in such a church, unexpected or unusual ***NEEDS*** are regularly met by unexpected and unusual ***GIFTS***!

### ***Final Thot ...***

When ***NEEDS*** in the Body of Christ ***NEED*** to be ***MET***,  
Pneuma frequently '*TAPS the shoulder*' of one in whom  
He has ***IMPLANTED*** the "*Gift*' called "***GIVING***."