

THE LESSER GIFTS

Selected studies of biblical gifts
in the New Testament by Tom V.
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I. Some Introductory notes

First of all, there are no lesser gifts in terms of importance. There are some that are less discussed and less apparent and some of these constitute the area of thinking in this series. But in terms of service, importance, and usefulness among the people of God, no gift may be thought of as lesser.

Some gifts get a great deal more attention and while there is still room for further study, I am intentionally moving away from these. It happens that some believers are awed by the more impressive gifts and then think themselves not helpful to the body. But every believer (in the language of 1 Corinthians 12) is marked by the Spirit of God with ability to honor God and serve the fellowship. Gift is the term that is broadly used to describe such ability.

So what we want is that everyone who is born again will understand the reality of being brought to the Lord's family for purposes of worship and service. All are equipped to function in this way. The particular gift is not so important as is the attitude of the believer who intends, with the help of God's Spirit, to give of self for the testimony of the Lord. Every believer is endowed by the Spirit to function for God and our concentration is on some of this functioning that is less seen. This is what we mean by the "lesser gifts."

Our study is, therefore, rather topical although we will begin with a careful look at part of Romans 12. While topical study may not be what we enjoy the most, it is a convenient way for handling this sort of material...items that show up here and there and may be easily overlooked. I will attempt to treat five of these "lesser gifts" with an emphasis on how they help in the health of the body.