

The Gift of Exhortation

This is a verbal Gift from the Holy Spirit to the body

The definition of the word Exhortation is to apply the word of God

The Teaching Gift and The Gift of Exhortation are very similar

The Teaching gift tells you step by step how it happened

The Exhortation gift will take the teachers insight and apply that knowledge on how you can change

The word in the Greek for exhortation is Parakaleo which means to come alongside

It can also be translated the gift brings you comfort encourage, urge, appeal, or beseech you

We can all function in the gift of exhortation, we just have to ask Holy Spirit God has given some people the gift of exhortation

Exhorters say things like, "This is what bible says." Then they take that scripture and customize it so it can be understood and activated and applied in that person's life

With this gift, God gives you the ability to see people's past, present, and future. So we can disciple them

The word disciple means one that learns or a disciplined learner

You hear this word mentor a lot today, the bible calls them exhorters

We need to be careful. The world is always creeping into the church

I if I have a mentor, it will solve all your problems.

It helps me to accountability.

Without the Spirit it can be a counterfeit of the world

Jesus is the only one that can solve your problems

Jesus is the great exhorter or Mentor

What we are really looking for in this life is love. How do we get love? It comes through relationship with others and God

Sometimes what we really need is a good Christian friend

How did the early church stay so strong

Acts 2:42-47

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every

soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The gift of an exhorter

1. They lift you up
2. Guide you
3. The gift will bring change we need into are life

This is how exhorters think

- A. Exhorters love people. They like being around people. They will go find people so they can us their gift
- B. They have a great need to lift people and in return, they are lifted up because they are being used
- C. They will get a call and drop things that are important
- D. They see people for who they are, but their main focus is on where people our going, not so much where they are now
- E. They are very careful to not offend people
 - a. They take the time to know you so they can have the greater impact in your life

This gift shows how much we our loved by God. And how we are to love one another

Jer 29:11-12

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

The exhorters gift

1. Comfort us
2. The gift will move us forward

How does the gift work?

The gift of exhortation can be used in corporate teaching to the body but it mostly is used one on one

The Gift can bring a rebuke

- a. This is very rare, but if it is done, it is always is done in love
- b. John is rebuking the religious leader of the day

1. Rev 2:1-6 - "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent.

In verse 1 ³ This is what they were doing right

In verse 4 Nevertheless

- a. You left your first love
 - b. repent
2. Rev 3:1-3 - These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits^b of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.
 - a. You are dead, wake up. John is speaking to born again believers serving God

- b. Remember what you have received and heard
Repent and (obey)
- 3. The gift of teaching will help you see where you went wrong, and the gift of an exhorter, through the Holy Spirit, will give the insight on how to get back
 - a. Acts 4:36-37 - ³⁶ And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' fee
 - 1. Barnabas was one that encouraged
 - a. With his word
 - b. In deeds (he sold his land and gave the money to the apostles for what purpose to help others)

Some of the negative effects of this gift

1. You may be easily discouraged or often discouraged. Because people don't want to hear what you have to say or they start to avoid you because they don't want to change

Elijah was at the height of God's anointing and it was flowing

1 Kings 18:32-39 - ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces, and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood." ³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. ³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

1 Kings 19:1-3 - Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." ³ Elijah was afraid^a and ran for his life.

Elijah had this great victory with God's help. Then Elijah ran into some opposition and then he ran and hid. Because Jezebel was trying to kill him, he had become discouraged

1 Sam 8:6-7 - ⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

What can be so discouraging to an exhorter is that most Christians don't see the needs or don't seem to be willing to help or care

You can easily over extend yourself. You need to learn the word no
You can be overwhelmed by all I need that people have

The gift can see

1. The need they have
2. Their past that effects the present
3. You can see where God wants to take them. Always use the word of God to help them (He is their source not you)
4. It's not your job to do everything for them it is God's job
5. Keep things confidential that you have been told. In an exhorter's mind, if it will help this person, its ok. People need to trust you
6. God will talk to you while you are talking to people. Listen to them intently. Ask them again if you need to. If there is two voice its hard keep it straight
7. God will show you things, but it might not be for now, so when we are speaking to people, we need to ask God, "Is this for now or later?" We need to be careful not to give them your opinion. Ask the holy spirit and he will guide you in his word

Prov 3:5-6 - ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

We need not lean on our understanding

Guidelines for the gift of Exhortation

1. Don't make their decisions for them, let them hear from God for themselves
2. Don't let people become dependent on you. People will become attached to you and not Jesus
3. Don't let yourself become attached to people and their needs. (To give you value) Because it feels good to help people and be used by God

How do we get a word of Exhortation

1. Hear them or think them. It's an impression in your mind (audible voice very rare)
2. You see mental pictures in your mind or a movie (open vision rare)
3. An entire thought enters your mind
4. You can experience it. It is not happening to you but you feel it deeply. Later the Holy Spirit gives the reason for it
5. You have a dream about someone or what happened to them. God has healing for them in that

The last two weeks we had homework. First week was Comforter Counselor, second week was Helper and Intercessor.
How is the holy spirit working in our lives?

The Holy Spirit Attributes

1. He is our Comforter
2. Counselor
3. Helper
4. Intercessor
5. Advocate
6. Strengthenener
7. Standby
8. A teacher
9. He speaks to us

How are we doing on our Journaling? Remember, why do we write things down?

1. You can forget details of the word God is speaking to you and when its written down, we won't.
2. You can consider with the Lord at a later time
3. When you write something down by hand it activates a higher level of electrical activity across a wide range of regions in the brain responsible for movement, vision, sensory, processing, and memory

How do we receive activation

Hab 2:2 - **2** And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.

Josh 1:8 - **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe *and* do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely *and* have good success