

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #31:  
PNEUMATOLOGY (Part 9):  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS #6:  
Gift of Exhortation  
Rm. 12:4-8  
Grace Community Church  
Kingston, Tennessee  
Wednesday, September 18, 2019**

1. Rm. 12:4-8, (4) For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. INTRODUCTION:

a. Romans 12:8 the verb EXHORTS and the noun EXHORTATION come from the Greek verb *parakeleo*

i. *parakeleo* is a Greek verb which combination of two Greek words:

1. *para* (preposition) which means:

- a. Beside
- b. Along-side of

2. *kaleo* (verb) which mean:

- a. To call
- b. To summons

ii. So, *parakeleo*

1. Literally means: to call:

- a. Beside
- b. Along-side of

2. Is used to describe calling someone to stand beside you

- iii. The noun form of this word is used of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16, ““And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever ....””
- iv. The noun form of this word is used of Christ in 1 John 2:1, “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

**b. USAGE OF THE WORD *PARAKLETE* (noun form of *parakeleo*, “exhort”) IN GREEK:**

- i. Job 16:2, “I have heard many such things; Miserable COMFORTERS [are] you all!”
- ii. This is how the word is used of Christ in 1 John 2:1 where Scripture says, “ ... we have an ADVOCATE [*paraklete*] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”
- iii. The word *paraklete* also means, to “*exhort or to urge*”<sup>1</sup>

**3. DEFINITION OF THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION:** “The [spiritual] gift of exhortation involves the supernatural ability to come alongside to help, to strengthen the weak, reassure the wavering, buttress the buffeted, steady the faltering, console the troubled, encourage the halting.”<sup>2</sup>

**4. PEOPLE WHO EXHIBITED THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION:**

**a. The apostle Paul possessed the spiritual gift of exhortation**

- i. Acts 14:21-22, referring to Paul it says, (21) And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, (22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, EXHORTING [verb form of *paraklete*] them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
- ii. Acts 16:40, “So they went out of the prison and entered [the house of] Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they ENCOURAGED [verb form of *paraklete*] them and departed.”
- iii. Acts 20:1, “After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to [himself], embraced [them], and departed to go to Macedonia.”
- iv. [See Acts 20:17-35]

<sup>1</sup> William Barclay, *New Testament Words*, p. 220.

<sup>2</sup> Leslie B. Flynn, *19 Gifts of the Spirit*, p. 82.

**b. Judas, not Iscariot, and Silas had the gift of exhortation**

**i. Acts 15:**

- 1. V. 31, “When they had read it, they rejoiced over its ENCOURAGEMENT.”**
- 2. V. 32, “Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, EXHORTED and strengthened the brethren with many words.”**

**c. Peter had the spiritual gift of exhortation**

- i. 1 Pt. 5:1-2, (1) The elders who are among you I EXHORT, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: (2) Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;**

**ii. Peter was fulfilling the commission given him by Christ**

- 1. Luke 22:32, ““But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to [Me], strengthen your brethren.””**

**5. Many of the spiritual gifts are things we as believers are ALL expected to be doing anyway**

**a. EX:**

- i. Evangelism**
- ii. Giving**
- iii. Helping**
- iv. Showing mercy**
- v. Faith**

- b. But, even though we are ALL expected to do the things required by most of the spiritual gifts, there are certain believers who are particularly endowed to do those things**

**6. There was one particular person in the NT who epitomized EXHORTATION**

- a. But Acts 4:36 tells us that the apostles renamed him BARNABAS, a name which means, SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

**b. THE MINISTRY OF BARNABAS**

**i. BARNABAS HELPED NEEDY SAINTS**

1. Acts 4:36-37, (36) And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, (37) Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**ii. BARNABAS ENDORSED AN UNWELCOME CONVERT**

1. Acts 9:27, "But Barnabas took him and brought [him] to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus."

**iii. BARNABAS ACCEPTED UNACCEPTABLE BELIEVERS**

**iv. BARNABAS MENTORED A REJECTED, YET PROMISING TEACHER**

**v. BARNABAS DEVELOPED A GIFTED ASSISTANT**

**vi. BARNABAS RESTORED AN IMMATURE QUITTER**

1. Acts 15:36-40, (36) And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. (37) And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. (38) But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. (39) And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; (40) And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.
2. 1 Peter 5:13, "She who is in Babylon, elect together with [you], greets you; and [so does] Mark my son."
3. Later, even the Apostle Paul valued Mark's companionship and ministerial skills
  - a. Colossians 4:10, "Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him) ...."
  - b. Philemon 1:24, "[as do] Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers."

- c. **2 Timothy 4:11, “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”**

## **7. CONCLUSION:**