

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #34:
Pneumatology, Part 12
Gifts of the Spirit, Part 9: Hospitality
1 Pt. 4:9-11
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

1. INTRODUCTION:

- a. The apostle Paul does not include HOSPITALITY in any of his lists of spiritual gifts, but, in 1 Peter 4, the apostle Peter refers to HOSPITALITY in v. 9, then in the next two verse he says that whatever spiritual gifts believers have, they should faithfully exercise them.

- 2. TEXT: 1 Peter 4:9-11, (9) Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. (10) As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (11) If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

3. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Spiritual gifts are GRACE GIFTS—they are gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit when we are saved.
- b. Spiritual gifts are to the spirit world what talents are to the physical world.
- c. Some of the spiritual gifts refer to things that all believers are to be doing, but those believers with those spiritual gifts are more empowered to do those things and are more effective in those areas than other Christians without those gifts.
 - i. EX: Evangelism, mercy...
- d. There are some believers who are especially empowered of God to show hospitality, but hospitality is demanded of all God's children.
 - i. 1 Pt. 4:9, "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."
 - ii. In Romans 12:13 Paul says that believers are to be "given to hospitality."

1. The Greek word translated as GIVEN means TO PURSUE¹

¹ *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, δίδωμι.

- iii. In 1 Tm. 3:2 the requirements for elders is that they must be lovers of hospitality
- iv. 1 Timothy 5:10, “[before a widow could receive relief funds] if she has lodged strangers”
- v. Heb. 13:2 exhorts believer, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”
- e. The Greek word translated as HOSPITABLE in 1 Pt. 4:9 literally means, “a lover of strangers.”²
- f. Therefore, the SPIRITUAL GIFT OF HOSPITALITY is a supernatural ability to LOVE those who are not of your own family.
- g. But the SPIRITUAL GIFT OF HOSPITALITY is more than a mere fondness for strangers, it also involves manifesting that fondness for strangers through gifts of service to them.
- h. The hospitality on the part of believers in the first century helped propagate the Gospel throughout the world.
- i. EX:
 - i. Luke 10:4-5, (4) Carry neither moneybag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. (5) But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.'
 - ii. Acts 9:43 says that Peter lodged “many days in Joppa with one Simon, a tanner.”
 - iii. In Acts 16:15, Lydia, a seller of purple at Philippi, urged Paul saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay."
 - iv. Act 16:33, “And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.”
 - v. Act 21:8, “On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.”
 - vi. Act 21:16, “Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.”

² Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, φιλόξενος.

- vii. Rom 16:23, “Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.”
- j. The apostle John wrote 3 John to Gaius, who was well known for exercising his spiritual gift of hospitality
 - i. 3 John 1:5-6, (5) Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, (6) who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,
- k. What kept freeloaders from taking advantage of believers’ hospitality?
 - i. They probably had travelers who:
 1. Came
 2. Stayed
 3. Took advantage of the hospitality of their hosts
 - ii. A Christian treatise written between A.D. 80-120, entitled *Didache*, or *Teaching of the Twelve* taught, “...a false prophet [was] any traveling preacher who stayed more than two days [with a host] or who asked for money for himself. A traveler who wished to settle in a locality was required to work at his craft for his bread. Idleness [on the part of the itinerate preacher] was considered trafficking on Christ.”³
- l. Believers were not expected to offer hospitality to everyone. There were some limitations placed on hospitality in NT days
 - i. 2 Jn. 10-11, (10) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; (11) for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.
- m. That same level of hospitality which was commonplace in NT days for itinerate preachers is not particularly necessary today because of the prevalence of accommodations for travelers.
- n. But, yet today there are needs within local churches for the exercise of the SPIRITUAL GIFT OF HOSPITALITY.
- o. The exercise of hospitality is not to be done for accolades.
 - i. Luke 14:12, “Then He also said to him who invited Him, ‘When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your

³ Leslie B. Flynn, *19 Gifts of the Spirit*, p. 112.

relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.”

- p. The aim of the exercise of the gift of hospitality is to be used of the Lord in the lives of others.
- q. There are earthly rewards and heavenly rewards for those who exercise hospitality.
 - i. The three siblings, Lazarus, Mary and Martha demonstrated hospitality to Christ.
 - ii. The home of Zaccheus demonstrated hospitality toward Christ and enjoyed special blessings.
 - 1. Lk. 19:9 Christ said of that encounter, “Today salvation is come to this house.”
 - iii. In the book of Acts, Ananias demonstrated hospitality to the newly converted apostle Paul.
 - iv. In Acts 28 Publius, governor of Melita, received Paul and his shipwrecked entourage.
- r. There are benefits in today’s world when saints demonstrate hospitality
 - i. EX: The Childs in my home church in Knoxville
 - ii. There have been wonderful earthly consequences from the Childs’ exercise of the gift of hospitality over the years.
- s. The ultimate rewards for those who exercise their spiritual gift of hospitality DOES NOT come in this world, but at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- t. If you have the spiritual gift of hospitality, you may think that that is not much of a spiritual gift. Only Eternity will tell the full the impact you have had on the lives of those to whom you have ministered.
 - i. EX: Abraham showed hospitality to 3 strangers
 - 1. Hebrews 13:2, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”
 - ii. EX: Charles Lindbergh