

# CAPACITY

HOMECELL LEADER DEVELOPMENT COURSE **SESSION SEVEN**

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS - PS CRAIG

It is important to understand that the gifts we are discussing tonight are not the same as the gifts as mentioned by Paul in the book of 1 Corinthians 12, where he mentions

*The word of wisdom*

*The word of knowledge*

*Faith*

*Gifts of healing*

*Workings of miracles*

*Prophecy*

*Discerning of spirits*

*Different kinds of tongues*

*Interpretation of tongues*

*Administration*

*Helps*

These gifts are often called "motivational gifts." Every born again believer is given at least one of these gifts and should be motivated to serve others within the body, through one or more of these gifts.

These gifts are not set aside especially for Pastors, priests or leaders, but as Peter explains to us in

### **1 Peter 4:10 NLT**

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.

Use them well to serve one another.

Notice here that he says EACH believer has been given a spiritual gift!

It is also possible that a believer may be strong in more than one spiritual gift, but no believer will have all the gifts!

Paul gives us the following analogy about the different gifts:

### **1 Corinthians 12:18-20 NLT**

But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.

Each member of the body needs the other, there are no unimportant spiritual gifts in the household of God!

So the gifts that God has given each one of us are there to serve the body of Christ, in other words the church! The bible tells us that the gifts of the spirit are given to build up believers in the house of God, for the work of the ministry!

They are not there for personal benefit!

Therefore it is important for you to know and understand where your gifting lies, and we learn to excel in our gifts as it benefits the body!

It's also important to understand that although your strongest gifting might be in a specific area, this does not mean that you would not operate in other areas.

For example your gift might not be giving, however this does not mean that you do not give, the bible is clear, giving is for ALL!! Some people are just called to give over and above most other people.

Your gifting might not be serving, this does not mean that you never serve, it was Jesus Himself that modeled for us the importance of BEING A SERVANT having a servant's heart, no matter where our stronger gifting lies!

We are now going to dissect each of the 7 gifts, so let's read our flagship scripture!

### **Romans 12:6-8 New Living Translation**

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

## 1) Prophecy:

Paul said in

### **1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV**

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Prophecy is the ability to receive a divinely inspired message and deliver it to others in the church. These messages can take the form of exhortation, correction, disclosure of secret sins, prediction of future events, comfort, inspiration, or other revelations given to equip and edify the body of Christ.

Prophecies do not replace the Word of God, but are the human interpretation of the revelation that was received from God. Basically it means effectively communicating God's messages. They are spoken in understanding, through a human mind which is why they should be tested against the Scriptures.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of prophecy to some believers to make God's heart known and to edify the church. Those with this gift are sensitive to both the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the church body.

**Prophecy doesn't mean you are a prophet. it just means you use the gift of prophecy.**

Someone with this gift should continually study the Scriptures in order to test these revelations before speaking them. When they do speak, they should allow and even expect others to compare what is said against the Scriptures and interpret the message accordingly.

A practical example of this may be found in

### **Acts 11:28 NLT**

One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.)

So here we have a member of the church sharing a word he believes he received from God, predicting something that was still to happen. The key in the scripture is the fact that he was predicting BY THE SPIRIT, and not on his own accord.

## 2) Serving:

The gift of serving means, to do service, or to help, this gift is given to people to help the work of the church in a supporting role.

We can see a good example of this in

### **Acts 6:2-4 NKJV**

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Here we see a number of men being specifically chosen to support the apostles, and because these men took on these supporting roles, or ministry of helps, the apostles were able to concentrate on other areas of ministry like praying and preaching the gospel.

### **These gifts of serving and helping, support the greater ministry.**

Someone who is strong in this gifting is motivated by meeting practical needs within the church, and is always willing and prepared to sacrifice their time in order to get things done!

A server will normally be found doing tangible work. They serve by doing, not by explaining, teaching, discussing, giving or organizing, although they may do some or all of those things as well.

Someone who is strong in this gifting would love serving in the usher ministry, someone who would volunteer down at the church office, even if it just meant helping with cleaning, someone that may put their hand up to help with admin, really anything that helps lighten the load!

Also remember that although this might not be your strongest gifting, we are all expected to serve in one way or another.

Remember it was Jesus that said,

"if you want to be great, you must be the servant of all others!"

### 3) Teaching:

The spiritual gift of teaching is one that carries a heavy responsibility in the church. In fact,

**James 3:1 NKJV**

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Like every believer, teachers are to be stewards of every word that comes out of their mouths. Teachers DO NOT allow yourself to have a loose tongue, you will give an account of every word!

Teachers have been entrusted with the task of effectively communicating what the Bible says, what it means, and how we as followers of Jesus Christ are to apply it to our lives here and now.

Someone with the spiritual gift of teaching will teach, instruct, instill doctrine, explain, and express the word of God.

Those with the spiritual gift of teaching love to study and share the Word of God with others! They hate when Scripture is abused and used out of context or with ill intent. They love the truth and speak the truth in love, they will never hide or withhold it.

Those with the gift of teaching have a special ability to communicate God's principles to others in effective ways. The goal is to equip believers to serve, build up believers, lead toward biblical unity and knowledge, and ultimately to maturity.

Teaching can take place in a sermon, a bible school class, a home cell, an office, and almost anywhere else. Some people with the gift of teaching are called to serve as elders or pastors in the local church.

### 4) Exhortation / Encouraging:

The spiritual gift of exhortation is often called the "gift of encouragement." The meaning of this gift is to beseech, exhort, call upon, to encourage and to strengthen, it is also very much a counseling gift!

Your main motivational drive is to encourage believers to mature in Christ and to grow spiritually. Exhorters will often help people with this through discipling, teaching, and counseling!

Exhortation is a gift that enables a person to encourage others to become mature in Jesus Christ. Those with this gift will always attempt to bring out the best in people, and to try to help them to spiritual maturity.

This is not the same as teaching, although it is quite common for people to have both the gift of teaching and exhortation.

The Spirit of God gives this gift to people in the church to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith.

Those with the gift of exhortation can uplift and motivate others as well as challenge and rebuke them in order to help spiritual growth and action.

## 5) Giving:

As a giver you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God. You have a strong desire to meet the financial needs of your fellow Christians and church members.

Giving can apply to other areas of your life as well, such as giving of your time and talents, however the main use of this gift does lean more towards financial and material giving.

When you are strong in the gift of giving it is much more than just your average giving, you will give over and above of what is asked or expected, and you are extremely generous.

As a giver you probably feel that the best way you can give of yourself is to give of your material gain for the work of God.

You give without public recognition and usually do not want people to know who you are or how much is given.

You disapprove of anyone who gives for the wrong motive. Your motive is to further the work of God and meet real needs, not to show off or get something in return.

The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to some in the church to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves.

People with this gift are normally very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others. They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy. They are grateful when someone shares a need with them, and are always excited when they can meet that need.

## **6) Leading:**

Someone with the gift of leading has a passion to lead, assist, protect and care for others.

This gift is more people oriented than task oriented!

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of leadership to some in the church to care for God's people and lead them into a deeper relationship with Christ and each other. People who are strong in this gifting will help others succeed and grow in their spiritual walk with Jesus.

As a gifted leader, you have the desire to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for the needs of a group of Christians. You are usually very patient, people-centered, and willing to spend time in prayer for others.

You have a burden to see others learn and grow and are protective of those under your care, you will always lead relationally and with a deep concern for the well-being of others.

## **7) Mercy / Kindness:**

All Christians are called to be merciful because God has been merciful to us.

The Greek word for this spiritual gift means to be patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering or afflicted. People who are strong in this gifting have a concern for the physical as well as the spiritual need of those who are hurting.

Those with this gift have great empathy for others in their trials and sufferings. People with the gift of mercy long to see people come through a healing process and are able to give their time, over an extended period in some cases, to go through it with them and support them.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of mercy to some in the church to love and assist those who are suffering, and walk with them until they have overcome their struggles.

People who are strong in this gifting do not just feel sorry for people, but because of their deep rooted compassion are moved into action.

Jesus was probably our greatest example of true mercy, as we see Him throughout the New Testament healing the blind, the crippled and the sick!

Having mercy for someone is far more than just using kind words, [true mercy is shown when a person sees a need and acts to meet that need!!](#)

## HOMECELL DO'S & DON'TS - PS CRAIG

Through that illustration we can see very clearly, the difference between how to, AND how not to run a Homecell!

But in this last session of mine I want to focus specifically on how we as leaders should work together with our media, to facilitate an effective Homecell, and not allow the media to do all the work.

The fact of the matter is the media / video is NOT the leader, or the vessel God wants to use to disciple your small group, **YOU ARE!!!**

You are the leader (or leader in training), you are the vessel anointed and appointed by God Himself to facilitate, lead, inspire and disciple your small group!

The media that we have access to is an amazing, powerful, impactful add on, or tool that we get to use every week to be more effective in our roles as leaders.

I want to share 5 quick points on how we must effectively work together with the media to ensure we have meaningful, impactful, spirit-filled home cells:



## 1) LEADER PREPARATION -

- Preparation is vital for most things in life - it is KEY to success!
- Do not allow the media to make you into a lazy leader! It is not just about pressing a button, it's much more than that. Eg. like leading, facilitating, engaging and being aware of what is going on in front of you!

In one of our earlier trainings we learnt about excellence in the Homecell, the key to that excellence was in the **PREPARATION:**

- Prepare the venue in excellence
- Prepare the food in excellence
- Prepare the atmosphere in excellence
- Prepare hearts in excellence
- Prepare your team in excellence
- PREPARE THE WORD - WHAT DOES THE LORD WANT TO DO IN THE MEMBER'S LIVES THIS WEEK?
- Preparation also shows that you have a genuine heart for the Homecell, and that you place great value and honour on the group!
- You take the time every week to prepare and plan because your heart is to make sure you leave the people better off than when they arrived.
- Just going through the motions, ticking boxes and pushing buttons is no way to effectively disciple the people God has placed in your trust!
- I believe God has called us to live pro-active lives and not RE-active lives, the only way we can be pro-active is through being prepared for what is coming!
- When you are prepared you are attentive and ready for action!!

## 2) STRUCTURE (as in church) with 5 W's -

- As a leader of a Homecell it is very important for you to maintain structure within the group -

**THINK OF A CHURCH SERVICE - THERE IS A STRUCTURE EVERY WEEK, BUT THE SPIRIT MOVES EVERY WEEK!**

**Your objective as a leader is to:**

- To create an environment of warmth, and to always make sure all members and visitors feel welcomed.
- To help provide a platform for worship and in depth study of the word of God.
- And to bring a focus on the works, which is in summary to reach the lost and to make a difference in our communities.

- The media provided is there to help you achieve all of these things, however even without the use of technology you should still be able to create a warm welcoming environment where people can still freely encounter Jesus!

### **3) PRESENCE OF GOD -**

- Without the presence of God the Homecell is just a Holy huddle or a religious social club! Without the presence of God in Church it's just a gathering of people.
- Although we do take time to fellowship and to socialise, the purpose of the meeting is to encounter God as a group of believers.
- As a leader one of your greatest objectives, if not the greatest one, is to help make disciples who make disciples.
- If you are a leader that allows the media to do all the work for you, the chances are you will create a religious group who will have little or NO impact for Jesus!
- Ps Thabo reminded us in one of his sermons recently that we need to FIGHT to get into the presence of God, as a leader you will need to lead that fight within your Homecell.
- Remember leader, you will need the presence of God to fulfill your purpose as a Homecell, use the media to assist you in every way possible, but remember you are the living vessel who God Himself has placed there to make a difference.
- You need to be aware of what is happening for example, in the time of P&W, is everyone pressing into His presence, or going through the motions. When you start praying in the spirit, are your people truly pressing in, or do they just sound like clanging symbols?

### **4) ACTIVATION THROUGH THE WORD -**

- As a leader you cannot allow this time of the Homecell to be a tickbox
- I remind you of what I spoke about in point number 1, preparation, you need to be well prepared for the word section!
- Make sure you have taken the time to meditate on the scriptures, and study the questions beforehand.
- I do want to emphasize the point however, as well prepared as you maybe, it is important for you to allow the group to speak and share.
- Do not over "dominate" this time, that you speak so much that no one else can get a word in, allow the members to share and give their views. This will also help you to gauge where people are in the word, if at all!

- Then you can come and add some "meat" to the discussion!
- As Christians we need the word of God to grow and mature, like spiritual milk or the bread of life, without it we can never become the men and women who God desires us to become.
- YOU NEED TO HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT THE LORD WANTS TO DO THROUGH THE WORD BEFORE THE HOMECCELL, HOW TO MOVE PEOPLE TOWARDS IT!  
(help guide people in the direction you believe God wants to take them)

## **5) ANOINTING flows through people / not the method / video**

- The anointing is in people, not the methods, the videos or the media! Think about a Sunday church service, it's not Ps Thabo's slides that carry the anointing, it's the anointing flowing through him!
- Every one of you have the anointing to run a life changing Homecell for Jesus!
- Think about what would happen if your media completely failed! Will you still be prepared and spirit lead to make sure the Homecell is just as powerful and impactful?
- You are the one who is responsible for helping to create an atmosphere where people can come and encounter Jesus!
- If you are a leader that allows the media to do all the work and carry the Homecell every week, people will quickly discern and you may find yourself struggling to hold on to the people you have.
- People are drawn to the presence of God, people's lives change in the presence of God, things grow and bear fruit in the presence of God, make sure you place honor in that and don't rely on the media to carry your Homecell.
- Make sure there is a smooth flow throughout your Homecell, do not be a robot / mechanical! As you transition from Praise & Worship to prayer to the word section etc. be natural, flow in the spirit, and God will do great things in and through your Homecell!

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