

HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND USE CHARISMA

Faith and Action

Banska Bystrica, 15th March 2015

Rom 12:1-6 Παρακαλώ οὖν ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν τοῦ θεοῦ παραστήσαι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν θυσίαν ζῶσαν ἁγίαν εὐάρεστον τῷ θεῷ, τὴν λογικὴν λατρείαν ὑμῶν. ² καὶ μὴ συσχηματίζεσθε τῷ αἰῶνι τούτῳ, ἀλλὰ μεταμορφοῦσθε τῇ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ νοῦς εἰς τὸ δοκιμάζειν ὑμᾶς τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ εὐάρεστον καὶ τέλειον. ³ Λέγω γὰρ διὰ τῆς χάριτος τῆς δοθείσης μοι παντὶ τῷ ὄντι ἐν ὑμῖν μὴ ὑπερφρονεῖν παρ' ὃ δεῖ φρονεῖν ἀλλὰ φρονεῖν εἰς τὸ σωφρονεῖν, ἐκάστῳ ὡς ὁ θεὸς ἐμέρισε μέτρον πίστεως. ⁴ καθάπερ γὰρ ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι πολλὰ μέλη ἔχομεν, τὰ δὲ μέλη πάντα οὐ τὴν αὐτὴν ἔχει πρᾶξιν, ⁵ οὕτως οἱ πολλοὶ ἐν σώμα ἔσμεν ἐν Χριστῷ, τὸ δὲ καθ' εἰς ἀλλήλων μέλη. ⁶ ἔχοντες δὲ χαρίσματα κατὰ τὴν χάριν τὴν δοθείσαν ἡμῖν διάφορα,

Rom 12:1-6 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:...

OUTLINE

0. INTRO: CHARISMA IN GENERAL

- 0.1. CHARISMA: THE GIFT OF GRACE
- 0.2. CHARISMA MEANS SERVICE
- 0.3. CHARISMA MUST BE LIFE-INTEGRATED

1. THE GIFT OF THE CROSS → THE GIFT OF ONESELF

- 1.1. THE MERCIES OF GOD
- 1.2. OUR PRIESTLY MINISTRY TO GOD

2. THE GIFT OF THE CHRISTIAN MIND → THE GIFT OF CHANGED LIFE

- 2.1. THE “HOW” OF THE TRANSFORMATION
- 2.2. THE “WHY” OF THE TRANSFORMATION

3. THE GIFT OF FAITH → THE GIFT OF SERVICE

- 3.1. THE MEASURE OF FAITH
- 3.2. THE BENEFITS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRO: CHARISMA IN GENERAL

0.1. CHARISMA: THE GIFT OF GRACE

- natural talents → supernatural workings of the Spirit
- when you use opportunity/gifting/ability for God’s glory and kingdom, it proves to be spiritual

0.2. CHARISMA MEANS SERVICE

- beware of the “celebrity complex”
- never get offence (“Never look for justice but never cease to give it. If you do look for justice, you will become bitter and cease to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.”)¹
- you serve only One – and you only care about what He thinks = “the audience of One”

0.3. CHARISMA MUST BE LIFE-INTEGRATED

- four important decisions for the young people: (1) school, (2) job, (3) partner, (4) home

1. THE GIFT OF THE CROSS → THE GIFT OF ONESELF

1.1. THE MERCIES OF GOD

- Rom 1-8 (1) [my] sin, (2) forgiveness, (3) Adam→Jesus, (4) Jesus→myself, (5) the law and the Holy Spirit
- Spiritual gift of seeing the cross = gratitude becomes my MOTIVATION to anything I do for Him

1.2. OUR PRIESTLY MINISTRY TO GOD

- sacrifice → complete self-giving to God
- “bodies” – the spirit is already his (you are a Christian!) – you use your body (source of pleasure or pain) for God
- Do “whatever” occurs (e.g. singing, ushering etc.) – when you’re at the right place and do it with the right attitude you’re service to the Lord is spiritual

2. THE GIFT OF THE CHRISTIAN MIND → THE GIFT OF CHANGED LIFE

(1Cor 13!)

Love His will, love His thoughts, love the truth.

Changed mind = attitude of humility. Beware of getting offended!

2.1. THE “HOW” OF THE TRANSFORMATION

- [PASSOW] ... (3) to behave or demean one's self in a certain way, give one's self a certain appearance, Lat. *simulare*... (behaviour)
- using: renewed mind (νοῦς – [PASSOW] ...turn of mind, disposition, mood...)
- **1Jn 5:20** ...the Son of God has come and has given us understanding (διάνοια), so that we may know him who is true

2.2. THE “WHY” OF THE TRANSFORMATION

- admiration, love, obedience of (τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ εὐάρεστον καὶ τέλειον) → loving the will of God
- thinking according to one’s knowledge of the will of God → where I do not see God’s will as *good, acceptable, perfect*, there I am lacking faith!

3. THE GIFT OF FAITH → THE GIFT OF SERVICE

3.1. THE MEASURE OF FAITH

- faith as *fruit* (Gal 5:22)
- faith as *gift* – knowing the will of God in a particular area of ministry/service
- the “audience of one”

3.2. THE BENEFITS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

- not self-realization – but *Christ-realization!*
- Charismata – the gifts to be used, not displayed (tools for work – to get fruit...)

¹ CHAMBERS, O. *Shade of His Hand*, Hants UK: Marshall, Morgan & Scott

4. TO REMEMBER

- To look for spiritual gift is to look for service. (Beware of the “celebrity complex”!)
- Spiritual gifts are effective only if they are used in conjunction with the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- Spiritual gifts raise spiritual opposition. Be neither self-assured or offended (**Heb 10:39** ...shrink back...)!)