

Grace Function vs. Gift Function

Principle: Every Christian has only one spiritual gift.

Question: If every Christian has only one spiritual gift, how do we explain the Christian who seems to have more than one spiritual gift?

Answer: The answer is not difficult. Each spiritual gift has a “gift function” (see below), and it is possible for a Christian to *function* in a spiritual gift without possessing the gift, however, this Christian will not be comfortable because he/she is *functioning* in a spiritual gift that he/she does not possess. This type of *function* can be called “grace function,” not “gift function.”

Conclusion: Grace function, then, is the means by which any Christian uses a spiritual gift that he/she does not possess. Spiritual growth is the key to “grace function.”

Stepping Aside: When a person without the appropriate spiritual gift is “filling in” until someone with the appropriate spiritual gift comes along, the person “filling-in” is pleased to turn the ministry over to the person with the appropriate spiritual gift because the one “filling-in” will always be uncomfortable in ministry outside the function of his/her own spiritual gift.

Multiple Gifts ???: There are at least two things that cause a Christian to contend that he/she has more than one spiritual gift: 1) a lack of humility, and/or, 2) a lack of Bible knowledge about spiritual gifts.

GIFT

Pastor-Teacher

Evangelist

Teacher

Helps

Mercy

Giving

Exhortation

Governments

Ruling

Ministry

GIFT FUNCTION

Pastoring-Teaching

Evangelizing

Teaching

Helping

Showing Mercy

Giving

Exhorting

Governing

Ruling

Ministering