



## **2** Equipped for the Ministry: Theology and Assessments

Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Torrance | 2009

## Review

Christ is the head of the church and distributor of all gifts of Spirit (Eph. 4:11)

- ▶ “Serving” grace in the context of saving grace (Eph. 2:8-10)
- ▶ **“My spiritual gifts are not my own; they belong to Christ and to his church.”** - Thomas Martin
- ▶ Saving grace = unity, serving grace = diversity (One body, many parts - 1 Cor. 12:12-26)
- ▶ Word-gifts (charismata) and deed-gifts > God of word and deed - 1 Peter 4:7-11
- ▶ Word-gifts given to the church to equip the saints to build up the body of Christ > Goal: “one holy catholic and apostolic church”

## PCA Membership Vow

(All of) you being here present to make a public profession of faith, are to assent to the following declarations and promises, by which you enter into a solemn covenant with God and His church.

- ▶ 1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
- ▶ 2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- ▶ 3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

- ▶ 4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
- ▶ 5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

**Notice the context of serving = gospel. “Serving” grace in the context of saving grace (Ephesians 2:8-10)**

# The Goals of Ministry

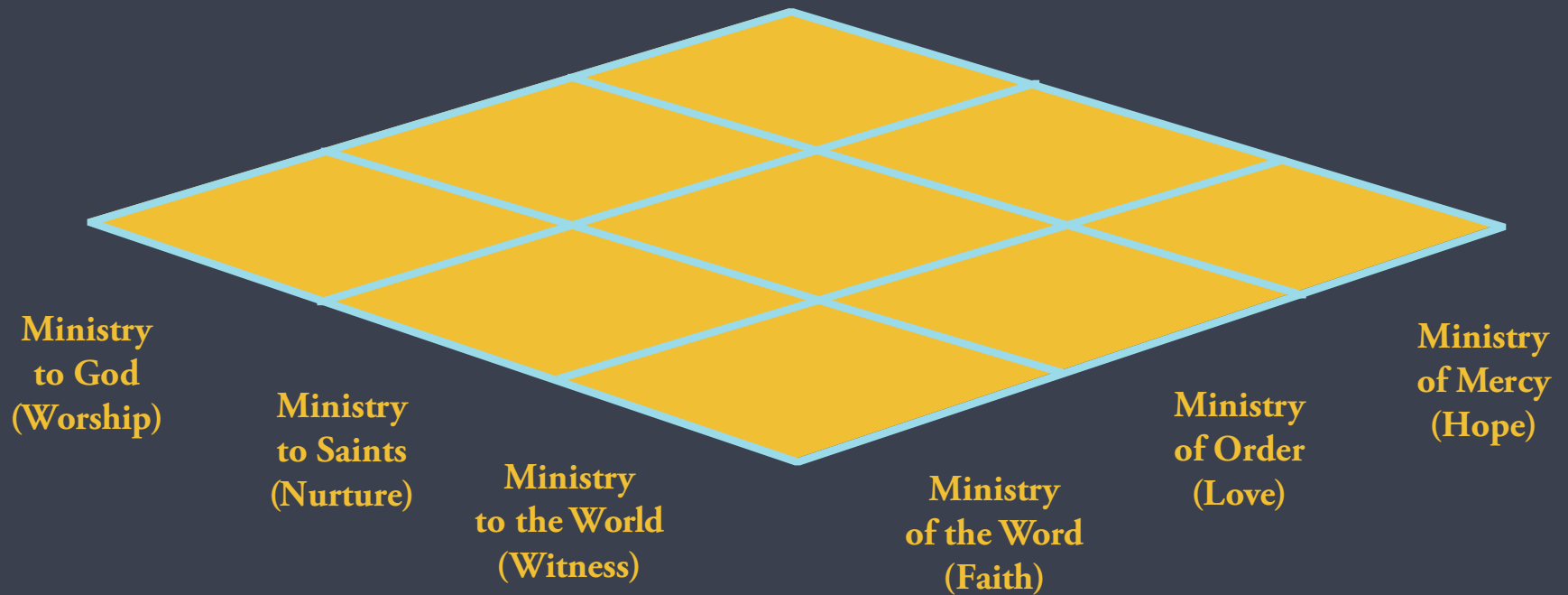
What is the Lord's purpose in calling his people? Scripture presents a threefold purpose.

- ▶ **[Ministry to God: Worship]** The first is directed to the Lord himself—the church is called to be a worshipping assembly. (1 Peter 2:9; Romans 15:8-16)
- ▶ **[Ministry to the Saints: Nurture]** A second purpose of the ministry of the church is its service to the saints. (Ephesians 4:12-26)
  - ▶ We grow together as we receive the ministry of the word from those called of Christ to teach it. Those who minister to us enable us to minister to others.
  - ▶ Development into maturity as Paul describes it is not an individual achievement, it involves the whole community of the church.

- ▶ **[Ministry to the World: Witness]** A third purpose of the ministry of the church is mission to the world. The church is called to witness. It is both a city set on a hill, to which nations are drawn, and an army of ambassadors carrying the good news to the ends of the earth.

## Goals of Ministry

## Means of Ministry



## The Means of Ministry

How are to accomplish the goals of our ministry? Three means of ministry are presented in the New Testament.

- ▶ **[Ministry of the Word]** We are called to minister the truth of the gospel in faith and to faith.
  - ▶ The growth of the church can be described as the growth of the word (Acts 12:24; 19:20)
  - ▶ We are brought to birth by the word of God preached to us (1 Peter 1:23, 25) and nurtured by its ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12)

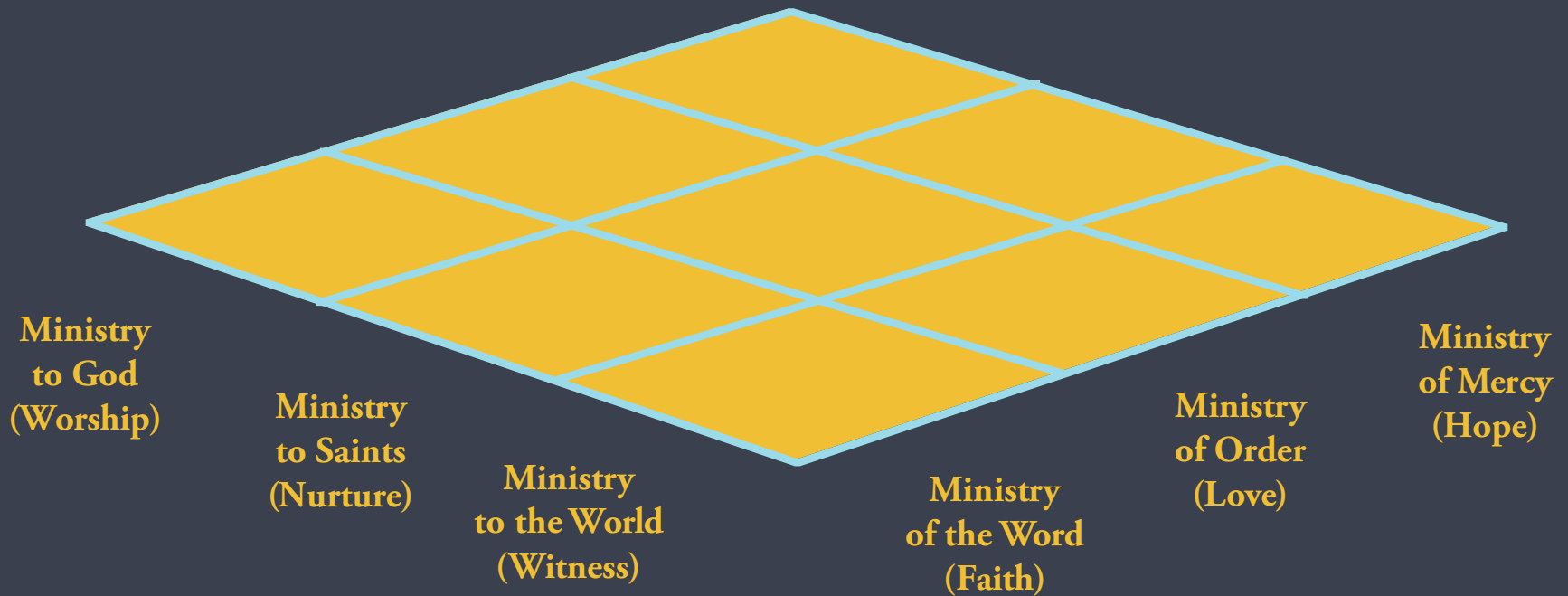
- ▶ **[Ministry of Order]** The second means is the ministry of order. This is closely associated with the faithful administration of the sacraments and includes the whole discipline of love in the body of Christ.
- ▶ The discipline of the Spirit in the church is by no means limited to official acts of discipline. It is grounded in the faithfulness with which Christian encourage and counsel one another. (Romans 15:14) **(Fellowship)**
- ▶ In baptism and the Lord's Supper the communion of the saints is displayed before the world as a witness. In these sacraments the church also submits to the word of Christ in the ordering of his fellowship.

- ▶ **[Ministry of Mercy]** The ministry of mercy is the third way in which the ministry of the church is carried on. The teaching of the word builds faith. The maintaining of order shows love. The ministry of mercy is a sign of hope.
- ▶ Jesus charged his disciples to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, visit those who were sick or in prison. By ministering to their brothers and sisters in the Lord they would minister to the Lord himself. (Matt. 25:31-46)
- ▶ “The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that the love that inspires sharing with the needy is modeled on the compassionate love of our Lord. It is the love of grace. We dare not ask, ‘Who is my neighbor?’ in an effort to limit the number of those whom we are obligated to love. Rather we must ask, ‘To whom am I a neighbor? Where does God give me an opportunity to reveal love like the undeserved love by which I was saved?’ The gospel of grace requires us to show compassion in Christ’s name, first to the household of faith; then, as we have opportunity, to all men. (Luke 10:36, Gal. 6:10)” - Edmund Clowney

	<b>Ministry of the Word</b>	<b>Ministry of Mercy</b>	<b>Ministry of Order</b>
<b>Christ</b>	<b>The Word of God</b>	<b>The Sacrifice</b>	<b>King of Kings</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>Moses and the Prophets</b>	<b>Aaron and his House</b>	<b>David and his House</b>
<b>Church Officers</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Elder</b>
<b>A True Church</b>	<b>Faithful Preaching of the Word of God</b>	<b>Right Administration of the Sacraments</b>	<b>Proper Exercise of Discipline</b>
<b>Man as He Was</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Holiness</b>	<b>Righteousness</b>
<b>Man as He Is</b>	<b>Ignorance</b>	<b>Guilt</b>	<b>Sinfulness</b>
<b>Conversion</b>	<b>Knowledge (Law and Gospel)</b>	<b>Feeling (My Need of Christ)</b>	<b>Will (Accept Free Offer)</b>

## Goals of Ministry

## Means of Ministry





## The Lists of Gifts

- ▶ The lists are not complete but selective and representative.
- ▶ Paul's rationale for selections in each case has not been demonstrated conclusively.
- ▶ Too sharp a line should not be drawn between many of the gifts because the exegetical differences (wisdom vs. knowledge, teaching vs. exhortation, etc.) have not been clearly demonstrated.
- ▶ There is a degree of overlap between certain gifts as well as the exercise of more than one by a given individual. (i.e. the apostle as apostle, prophet and teacher)
- ▶ The apparently random character of the lists should not keep us from recognizing that each of the gifts belongs to one of two basic categories: word-charismata and deed-charismata. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

	<b>Ephesians 4:11</b>	<b>1 Cor. 12:8-10</b>	<b>1 Cor. 12:28-30</b>	<b>Romans 12:6-8</b>	<b>1 Peter 4:11</b>
<b>1</b>	Apostles		Apostles		
<b>2</b>	Prophets		Prophets	Prophecy	
<b>3</b>				Service	Service
<b>4</b>	Evangelists				
<b>5</b>		Wisdom			
<b>6</b>		Knowledge			
<b>7</b>	Pastors				
<b>8</b>	Teachers		Teachers	Teachers	Speaking
<b>9</b>				Exhortation	
<b>10</b>		Faith			
<b>11</b>		Healing	Healing		
<b>12</b>		Working miracles (Prophecy)	Working miracles		
<b>13</b>		Ability to distinguish spirits			
<b>14</b>				Contributing	
<b>15</b>			Helpers	Giving aid	
<b>16</b>				Mercy	
<b>17</b>			Administrators		
<b>18</b>		Tongues	Tongues		
<b>19</b>		Interpretation of tongues	Interpretation of tongues		

## What Then Do These Lists Teach Us?

They provide a brief, compressed overview of the entire New Testament teaching on spiritual gifts.

- ▶ Various distributed character of the gifts given to the congregation.
- ▶ The gifts as particular manifestations of the grace of God.
- ▶ The ministerial nature of the gifts.
- ▶ The dual profiling of the gifts in terms of word and deed.

## Identifying Your Gift(s) - Richard Gaffin

*Perspectives on the Pentecost: New Testament Teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

- ▶ **(Application Process: Westminster Seminary vs. Covenant Theological Seminary)**
- ▶ Wrong Question: “What is my ‘thing’ spiritually, my spiritual speciality, that sets me apart from other believers and gives me a distinguishing niche in the church?”
- ▶ Right Questions: “What in the situation in which God has placed me are the particular opportunities I see for serving other believers in word and deed (cf. 1 Peter 4:10f)? **(Alphabet Church - something only church)** What are the specific needs confronting me that need to be ministered to?”

- ▶ “Probably the most important and certainly the most difficult lesson for us to learn is that ultimately spiritual gifts are not our presumed strengths and abilities, not something that we ‘have’ (or even have been given), but what God does through us in spite ourselves and our weakness. ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness’ (2 Corinthians 12:9). This word of the exalted Christ, to us as well as Paul, is the bottom line to the existence of every Christian, including the matter of our spiritual gifts.”
- ▶ “Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” - 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

▶ “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

▶ **R.C. Sproul - Preaching in Weakness**

## Identifying Your Gift(s) - James Boice

*Foundations of the Christian Faith: A Comprehensive and Readable Theology*

- ▶ We can begin by studying what the Bible has to say about the spiritual gifts.
- ▶ We must pray.
- ▶ We will be helped by making sober assessment of our own spiritual strengths and abilities.
  - ▶ What do I like to do ?
  - ▶ What am I good at?
  - ▶ What are my talents?
  - ▶ We can seek the wisdom of other Christians.

## Spiritual Gifts Assessments

- ▶ General revelation insight
  - ▶ Not perfect nor exhaustive
  - ▶ Just a starting point for reflection (**Kirk of the Hills PCA | CSUF School of Education**)
- ▶ What to do with the results?
  - ▶ Prayerfully reflect upon your gifts and ministry
  - ▶ Obtain additional training to further develop your gifts and talents
  - ▶ Seek the wisdom of your spiritual leaders for ministry opportunities and placement



## Assessment 2 > Spiritual Gifts

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