

Gifts and Titles by Rene Brown

Dear Brother in Christ,

You asked about gifts and titles and I am giving you my comments and pertinent scriptures below. I am listing below first the principle scripture I use in ordination and then the scriptures that are about ministries. These ministry gifts are simply that: Gifts. They have nothing to do with position nor ability nor status nor intelligence. They are simply gifts of Christ given to us to accomplish what He has called us to do. Nothing more. They are not titles, were never meant to be titles. In fact, titles are forbidden [See Matthew 23:9-11 below]. No, we are to be servants as indicated in Matthew 23:11. Titles just set us apart, and we are not to be set apart but rather a part of the same body - it is just that some people have a different function. But our relationship is as brothers and sisters.

It is in the nature of man to lord it over others as Jesus said in the following scripture: (Mat 20:25-28 RSV) But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Men seek after titles to gain status that God has not been willing to give them. Why cannot we be satisfied that God has chosen to use us to bless others? Isn't service for the King of Kings reward enough? If we seek after titles here on earth, we have our reward. We are not laying up treasure in heaven. God may even have to discipline us to show us He is displeased. He will not take the gift away as the gifts of God are ours permanently - (Rom 11:29 RSV) "For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." This is why you see deceitful, despicable, evil men who are still able to preach effectively and bring people to Christ. They are men with gifts but no character or integrity.

You do not know men by their gifts but rather by their fruits - (Mat 7:15-16 RSV) "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?" Gifts tell us nothing about the character of a man or woman. We are to look and see if they are bearing fruit - fruit of the Spirit - as in Gal 5:22-24 RSV "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Rene

Some Key Scriptures:

For Ordination: (2 Tim 4:1-5 NKJV) "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

Gift Ministries: (Eph 4:11-12 NKJV) "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for

the edifying of the body of Christ,"

Gift Ministries: (1Cor 12:28 NKJV) "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."

Leadership: (1Tim 5:17 NKJV) "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine."

Leadership: (Titus 1:5 NKJV) "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you;"

Forbidding Titles: (Mat 23:9-11 NKJV) ""Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰"And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant."

Our Relationships in the Body of Christ: (Mat 12:48-50 NKJV) "But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" ⁴⁹And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰"For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.""

*****End of Lesson*****