

to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2); that is, have both ruling and teaching gifts (1 Tim. 5:17).

14. Teaching is rewarding.

Jesus was "praised by all" when He taught in the synagogues (Luke 4:15). They hung on every word (Luke 19:48) and got up early in the morning to hear Him teach in the temple (21:38). Teachers are "worthy of double honor" (1 Tim. 5:17).

15. Teachers will be rewarded for feeding their sheep at the judgment seat of Christ.

They'll receive an unfading crown of glory (1 Peter 5:24). What is taught is either wood, hay, and stubble, or gold, silver, and precious stones (1 Cor. 3:10-15). Junk or jewels! Some teachers will be rewarded, others will not. Perhaps teachers who build with gold, silver, and precious stones are rewarded with heavenly gold, silver, and precious stones (cf. Rev 3:18). Jesus calls eternal rewards "treasure in heaven" (Matt 19:21; Luke 12:33). So "pay close attention to...your teaching" (1 Tim. 4:16). Don't teach what you don't understand. And don't teach what you haven't studied. "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19).

Always remember that the best rewards are given for listening to God's Word. No doubt Martha received a prophet's reward for showing hospitality to a Prophet (cf. Matt 10:41-42), but her portion or reward for serving was smaller and of lesser value than Mary's. Listening to the Word is choosing "the best [positive adjective used as a superlative] portion" of the inheritance Jesus received from his heavenly Father (Luke 10:42; cf. Heb.

1:2). The most important thing in life, then, is listening to the Word of God (cf. Deut. 8:3; Psa. 138:2). The more gold, silver, and precious stones a teacher teaches, the more gold, silver, and precious stones his listeners receive. So structure your life around this principle: The most important thing in life is Bible teaching. The availability of sound Bible teaching should influence where you live, work, go to church, and how many hours and days you work.

16. The gift of teaching is more than imparting information: it should renew minds and change lives (Rom. 12:2).

17. Your teaching should glorify God, not yourself (John 7:14-18).

Those who teach a different doctrine are conceited and understand nothing (1 Tim. 6:3-4), in it for the money (Titus 1:11), and seek to glorify themselves (John 7:18).

He who speaks from himself
seeks his own glory;
but He who is seeking
the glory of the one who sent Him,
He is true,
and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
~ John 7:18 ~



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The Gift of Teaching



We proclaim Him,
admonishing and
teaching everyone
with all wisdom,
so that we may present
everyone
perfect in Christ.
~ Colossians 1:28 ~

1. The gift of teaching is a supernatural ability to dig out and understand the content of the Bible, to explain it clearly, and to show others how to apply it to their lives. It's mentioned three times in the Bible—in Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28, and 12:29.

With this gift comes the ability to teach the promises and principles of Scripture effectively. If you don't have the gift, no amount of practice or seminary training will make you an effective Bible teacher. If you have the gift, formal training (archaeology, history, geography, theology, linguistics, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic) will make you even more effective.

2. Teachers are appointed by God (1 Cor. 12:28; cf. 1 Tim. 2:7 and 2 Tim. 1:11).

God decides who He wants to teach; we just try to identify our place in the body.

3. The gift of teaching is one of the highest gifts given today. It's mentioned third in a list of eight gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:28.

4. The primary responsibility of this gift is to study and teach.

The command "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15) is addressed to teachers. The word for "workmen" (*ergat@s*) is used elsewhere of laborers who work all day in a vineyard (Matt. 20:1). Bible study is hard work and consumes a lot of time. "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17).

5. Those with teaching gifts have a strong desire to dig out the truth on their own.

They're not completely satisfied with the

teaching of others. They want their teachings rooted in the Word of God, not built on the teachings of men. They must see the doctrines they teach in the pages of Scripture to teach with confidence.

6. Teachers have an insatiable desire for accuracy.

They're detail people. They'd better be—the command to handle accurately the word of truth is addressed to them. Apollos, for instance, "was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus" (Acts 18:25). After Priscilla and Aquilla "explained to him the way of God more accurately" (18:26), "he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ" (18:28).

7. Teachers are enthusiastic about learning new things from the Word, and usually can't wait to tell others.

They're always talking Bible. The Bible is their life; nothing else seems as important as studying and teaching.

8. They have a desire to learn and teach the meat of the Word.

Milk is not enough. They're unhappy when Christians aren't growing (1 Cor. 3:1–3; Heb. 5:11–14). They see spiritual maturity as the primary goal of the Christian life. The gift of teaching is given to help others grow to maturity (Eph. 4:11–16). "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ" (Col. 1:28).

9. Teachers need to rely on the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:12–13) because He knows "the depths of God" (1 Cor. 2:10).

This keeps us humble and tells us not to rely completely on our own exegetical abilities.

10. The gift of teaching was given to help fulfill the Great Commission.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you*; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19–20, italics mine). This commission consists of four parts: go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. It's more than evangelism. It's impossible to fulfill the Great Commission without Bible teaching!

11. Expect opposition.

In the last days many will turn their ears away from the truth and seek teachers who teach what they want to hear, not what God wants them to hear (2 Tim. 4:2–4). Expect discouragement. Not everyone will listen. After Jesus' teaching on the bread of life, "many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him any more" (John 6:66).

12. Teachers are accountable to God for what they teach.

They will be judged more severely at the judgment seat of Christ than those who have other gifts. "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment" (James 3:1). Think twice before teaching. Are you willing to study? Pay attention to details? Strive for accuracy? Pray for illumination?

13. Church leaders must have teaching gifts.

Pastors have a combined gift called "pastor and teacher" (Eph. 4:11). Elders must be "able