

The Gift of Administration

Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28

I. What is the gift of administration?

- A. We have taken the gifts of ruling in Romans 12:8 and governments in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and called them by one name - the administrator.
1. In Romans 12:8, "*ruling*" means "to preside."
 2. In 1 Corinthians 12:28, "*governments*" means "to steer; directorship; pilotage."
- B. These words carry the idea of a helmsman, or captain of a ship. In fact, the original root word for "*governments*" meant "a steersman for a ship who had the responsibility of bringing a ship into harbor through the rocks and under all types of pressures."
- C. So, administrators are leaders. They enjoy steering the ship, being at the helm, and leading people. They have a Spirit-given capacity and desire to administer, promote, and lead in various affairs and ministries of the church.

II. Why is there a need for the gift of administrator?

- A. Every ship must have a steersman. Every car must have a driver. Every business must have a boss. Every church must have leadership.
- B. 1 Corinthians 11:1 teaches us that God leads through other men.
- Did you ever notice how God worked in the past when He needed something done? He would always raise up a person (a leader) to get the job done.
- C. Would the Israelites have left Egypt if they didn't have Moses? It required a man with a vision and clear-cut direction to go to the leaders of Israel. Would they have conquered the Promised Land without Joshua?

- D. God has given to the body of Christ those that are leaders, administrators, rulers, and organizers, and the church would be wise and more effective if it would place people who have the gift of administration in positions of leadership.

III. What are the characteristics of the administrator?

- A. We will use Nehemiah as an example of an administrator. He had a tall task. He and a group of Jews would attempt to rebuild the broken-down walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah had a vision, set a goal, organized, and led the people to complete this task for God. Nehemiah 6:15
- B. Let's look at Nehemiah and draw out some characteristics of the administrator.
- C. First, the administrator is not afraid to take on difficult tasks.
 - 1. Nehemiah hears the news about Jerusalem (1:3) and takes it upon himself to head up the restoration project (2:5). Administrators are willing to attempt impossible tasks, and even enjoy tasks that challenge them.
 - 2. The administrator is a "take charge" person who is not afraid to jump in feet first and start giving orders when nobody else is in charge. If there is a project that needs to be done, he almost instinctively has a plan to carry it out.
 - 3. Possible danger: The administrator can overstep his authority and boundaries and expect the pastor or others in leadership to follow him. An effective administrator must learn how to follow before he can lead.
- D. Second, the administrator is able to visualize final results.
 - 1. When Nehemiah rode around Jerusalem, everything was broken down (2:11-16). But Nehemiah had a vision of what it could be (2:17). Where others saw ruin and rubble, Nehemiah saw a finished wall that brought glory to the God of heaven.

2. The administrator dreams big dreams for God, and God puts a vision in his heart of the finished project.
- E. Third, the administrator gets other people excited. 2:18
1. The administrator is a serious-minded, highly motivated, intense person. Because of this, he is able to motivate and excite others. His enthusiasm rubs off on others. He often finishes one project and is moving on to another before anybody has a chance to catch their breath.
 2. He says, "Come, follow me," and others tend to follow.
- F. Fourth, the administrator is not deterred by criticism. 2:19-20
1. He knows what has to be done, and nobody is going to stop him. Opposition, criticism, and ridicule make him all the more determined. He's competitive by nature.
 2. His attitude is, "If you don't want to help that is fine, but don't get in my way."
- G. Fifth, the administrator has the ability to delegate to others. 3:1-32
1. Nehemiah gave everyone a job to do. The administrator realizes he can't do it all himself.
 2. The administrator delegates whenever possible, but knows when he can't.
 3. If you're the type person that has to do everything yourself, you most likely don't have this gift.
 4. A leader sets the vision and direction, but doesn't want to get bogged down in all the details of making it happen. He relies on others and their gifts.
- H. Sixth, the administrator is capable of making quick decisions and sticking to them. 6:2-4
- Danger: An administrator can be so decisive that he doesn't acknowledge the mind of Christ and pray about things like he should.

IV. How does Satan attack people with the gift of administration?

- A. Causes pride because of his leadership role
- B. Causes discouragement and frustration when goals aren't met
- C. Causes him to become bossy and impatient with others, have a lack of grace, run over people, and give orders without explaining
- D. Causes discouragement in others because he is so hard to please, and his standards are too high
- E. Causes him to be a perfectionist with little tolerance for mistakes
- F. Causes rebellion against those in authority over him
- G. Causes selfishness because of success, not giving glory to Christ, or sharing the success with those under him

V. Scriptures that administrators should memorize:

- A. 2 Peter 3:18
- B. Ephesians 4:15
- C. 2 Timothy 2:24-25
- D. Hebrews 13:17
- E. Proverbs 29:18