

What is the work of pastor in the church?

- The pastor must not only preach the Word from the pulpit, he must teach the Word in the church

“Devote yourself to preaching and teaching.” 1 Ti. 4:13

- As a matter of fact, “teach” appears over 200 times in the Bible whereas “preach” appears only 140 times.

A. Teaching and learning defined

While preaching carries the idea of proclamation, and has an element of exhortation, the emphasis in teaching is to:

- ✓ Instruct
- ✓ Explain
- ✓ Train
- ✓ Equip

Preaching, too, is limited by:

- ✓ Its formality
- ✓ The constraints of the pulpit setting
- ✓ Time limitations

In teaching, the pastor has the opportunity to be more creative and expressive and the setting allows for more freedom and involvement by the audience.

People are more likely to feel like they are a part of a teaching context than a preaching situation.

Remember: All of the instructing, training and equipping in the Word which is necessary for spiritual growth cannot come solely from the pulpit.

The effective pastor must:

- ✓ involve himself personally in teaching

- ✓ train other faithful believers to teach

A sound teaching ministry in the church will complement and affirm the pastor's pulpit ministry.

Teaching Principles and Methods

While the word "teaching" focuses on the role of the teacher to instruct and train, the real focus must be on the student because the purpose of teaching is to:

- ✓ cause people to learn
- ✓ educate people

To learn = emphasizes the desired change which should occur in the student because he has acquired new knowledge or skills.

To educate = to cause people to acquire knowledge or skill.

The basic meaning of the word "educate" is to lead or to draw out.

So, the teacher is supposed to cause the student to learn, to lead the student to acquire knowledge or skill.

Teaching does not occur unless learning occurs and learning does not occur unless life change results.

The teacher's role is:

- ✓ not simply to impart knowledge, but
- ✓ to cause learning (change) to occur.

B. Biblical basis for teaching

Scripture is quite clear that God intends for His Word and His ways to be taught to His people.

- God directed Moses to teach the people God's Word.

"These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe." Dt.

6:1

- Proverbs emphasizes the value of teaching.

“Teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.” Pr. 9:9

- Ezra devoted himself to teaching God’s Word.

“For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.” Ezz. 7:10-11

- Jesus commanded us to teach all nations.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey all I have commanded you.” Mt. 28:19-20

- Jesus Himself continually taught God’s Word.

“Every day He [Jesus] was teaching them in the temple.” Lk. 19:47

- Jesus taught until right before His ascension.

“I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day He was taken up.” Ac. 1:1

- The early church emphasized teaching.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” Ac. 2:42

- Paul instructed Timothy to teach others.

“The things you have heard from me entrust to reliable men who also will be qualified to teach others.”
2 Ti. 2:2

- Pastors are to teach sound (correct) doctrine in the church.

“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.” Tit. 2:1

It is likely that a pastor can cause more spiritual growth among his people through his systematic teaching of the Bible than through his preaching.

Teaching may not be as appealing as preaching, but it may be more productive to the church members.

TEACHING PRINCIPLES AND METHODS

What makes a good teacher ?

I. Characteristics

A number of qualities and attitudes characterize a good Bible teacher:

- Relies on the Holy Spirit.
- Studies and prepares diligently.
- Has a humble, servant attitude remembering that he is also a learner.
- Stands under the authority of the Word.
- Maintains a teachable spirit remembering that Christ is the Teacher.
- Is open and honest, not pretending to be what he is not.
- Exemplifies the truth he teaches.
- Genuinely cares for the people he teaches.
- Realizes that teaching involves a trust relationship between student and teacher.
- Understands that the real goal of teaching is life change.
- Accepts without bias the different responses and abilities of students.
- Challenges students to think for themselves.
- Sees himself as:
 - a guide
 - a motivator
 - an encourager

- a sower.
- Sees all of his students as:
 - discoverers
 - learners
 - harvesters
 - having potential.

A good teacher is: equipped by study empowered by the Holy Spirit excited about teaching God's Word expectant for God to transform the lives of his students

2. Scriptural cautions to teachers

The Bible cautions teachers with a number of serious warnings. Be careful before you teach. The teacher is especially accountable to God. Jas. 3:1

What the teacher should not do

- Don't teach the precepts and traditions of men in the place of God's truth. Mt. 15:3-9
- Don't teach false or strange doctrine not grounded in the Word. 1 Ti. 1:3; 1 Ti. 6:3
- Don't be overly interested in controversial questions. 1 Ti. 6:4
- Don't quarrel over words. 2 Ti. 2:14
- Don't engage in godless (worldly) chatter. 2 Ti. 2:16
- Don't participate in foolish and stupid arguments. 2 Ti. 2:23; Tit. 3:9
- Don't be ashamed or apologize for the Word of God. 2 Ti. 1:8; Ro. 1:16
- Don't distort, dilute or deviate from the Word of God or deceive people. 2 Co. 4:2
- Don't teach for dishonest gain. Tit. 1:11
- Don't have anything to do with godless myths and old wives' tales. 1 Ti. 4:7

- Don't quarrel with people you teach. 2 Ti. 2:24

TEACHING PRINCIPLES AND METHODS

What the teacher should do?

- Handle accurately the Word of truth. 2 Ti. 2:15
- Make sure you understand what you are teaching and those matters you confidently assert. 1 Ti. 1:7
- Watch your teaching closely. 1 Ti. 4:16
- Maintain a practice of teaching sound doctrine based on the Word with faith and love. 2 Ti. 1:13; Tit. 2:1
- Guard the truth of the Word entrusted to you as a teacher. 2 Ti. 1:14
- Exercise his gift of teaching. 1 Ti. 4:14
- Teach with careful instruction and great patience. 2 Ti. 4:2
- In his teaching show integrity and soundness of speech. Tit. 2:7-8
- Contend for (defend) the faith. Jude 3
- Oppose, challenge and correct false teaching. Tit. 1:12, 13
- Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Tit. 2:15
- Be kind, not resentful to false teachers, and gently instruct them. 2 Ti. 2:24-25
- Teach spiritual principles, concepts and truths, not facts. Knowing a fact will not change a life, but obeying truth will. 1 Ti. 4:6
- Teach the Word of God.

And keep in mind how beautifully the Psalmist describes God's Word:

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

The word "spiritual" means "characterized or controlled by the Holy Spirit." A "gift" is something freely given from one person to another. A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to a believer to minister as part of the Body of Christ.

GIFT AND GIFTS

There is a difference between the "gift" of the Holy Spirit and "gifts" of the Holy Spirit.

- The "gift" of the Holy Spirit occurred at Pentecost (Acts 2) when the Holy Spirit came in answer to the promise of Jesus:

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter...Even the Spirit of truth...(John 14:16-17a)

The "gift" of the Holy Spirit has already been given in answer to this promise.

- "Gifts" of the Holy Spirit are supernatural abilities the Holy Spirit gives believers to enable effective ministry:

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. (Mark 16:20)

GIFTS AND TALENTS

There is a difference between spiritual gifts and natural talents.

- **A talent** is a natural ability inherited at birth or developed through training.
- **A spiritual gift** is a supernatural ability which did not come by inheritance or training.

It is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to be used for specific spiritual purposes.

It is possible that a natural talent may be sanctioned [approved and blessed] by the Holy Spirit after one becomes a believer. When this occurs the talent then becomes a gift as well as a talent. For example, a person may have a natural talent in administration because of training he has received. After baptism in the Holy Spirit this natural talent may be sanctioned [approved] by the Holy Spirit and he may be used in the spiritual gift of administration.

Spiritual gifts provide spiritual capabilities far greater than the finest natural talents.

Although we should use all our natural talents for the work of the Lord, we still need spiritual gifts.

GOD REVEALS HIS PLAN A STEP AT A TIME

One final important principle in the matter of God's will is to recognize God reveals His plan a step at a time. This means He does not reveal the entire plan for your life, with all the details, at one time. God does not just speak once in a lifetime to you. You cannot develop a relationship with someone on the basis of one conversation. Relationship is a continuing process of communication. God continues to speak, and you increase in your ability to recognize His voice. God has reasons for revealing His will a step at a time. Often, you are not ready to know the whole plan because it might overwhelm you or cause feelings of inadequacy for the task ahead.

Jesus once said to His disciples:

I have many things to say unto you, but **you cannot bear them now**. (John 16:12)

God told Israel that he would defeat their enemies in Canaan "**little by little**" as they were ready and able to assume responsibility for the new land He was giving them.

God also does not reveal His entire plan because we tend to worry over the future. The Bible warns:

Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.
(Matthew 6:34)

Do not worry about the future. Make only the decisions necessary for today. The future is controlled by God. This does not mean you should not do wise planning for the future. But you are not to worry about it. What is important is to live in the revealed will of God for this day. Learn to hear His voice in your daily Christian walk. A daily walk in His will results in a lifelong walk in His will.

God does not reveal His total plan because He wants you to learn to live by faith. It is easier to take the first step if one knows where the path is headed. It is not as easy to make a step of faith into the unknown.

The Bible states regarding Abraham:

By faith, Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. (Hebrews 11:8)

Nothing can build faith in God better than walking a step at a time. Taking a step at a time as God reveals it means you cannot move too hastily. Moses moved too quickly and killed an Egyptian. Abraham moved ahead of God's plan and tried to substitute Ishmael for the chosen heir.

The book of Esther stresses the importance of waiting on God. The people of God were in danger of being destroyed by an evil man named Haman. He had asked the King to destroy all Jews.

Queen Esther was aware of the plot. She knew it was not God's will for the Jewish people to be destroyed, but she did not act in haste. She waited until God gave her a plan and then she waited an extra day before talking to the King. During that waiting period an important thing happened. The King discovered that Mordecai, a Jew, had saved his life from a plot to murder him.

When this was made known, then Esther revealed Haman's plot against the Jews. The king acted against Haman's plan, the Jews were saved, and Haman was punished for his evil--all because Esther waited one more day before acting.

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

But you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bible speaks of four different baptisms:

1. The baptism of suffering experienced by Jesus.
2. The water baptism performed by John the Baptist.
3. Christian baptism in water.
4. Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Our concern now is the baptism of the Holy Spirit

2. DEFINITION

The word "baptize" means to completely immerse or submerge in something.

3. PROMISE OF THE BAPTISM

After the resurrection and prior to His return to Heaven, Jesus gave important instructions to His followers:

And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry you in the City of Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)

The promise to which Jesus referred was the Holy Spirit:

And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him; but you know Him; for He dwells with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. (John 14:16-18)

This was not a new promise. The gift of the Holy Spirit had been promised since Old Testament times:
...for with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith you may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing... (Isaiah 28:11-12).

...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh...(Joel 2:28)

4. THE EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As you learned, the Holy Spirit has many purposes in the lives of believers. One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit, however, is to make the Christian a powerful witness for the Gospel:

But you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me...to the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The true evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was visible immediately in the life of the Apostle Peter. Before the Day of Pentecost he had fearfully denied that he knew Jesus. After his baptism in the Holy Spirit, Peter stood and gave a powerful witness to the Gospel that resulted in the salvation of 3,000 people.

It was the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church that resulted in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.

The book of Acts is a record of this powerful witness which was evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.