**SHEPHERDING/EVANGELIZING CLUSTER**

*This cluster is made up of four gifts.*

*(column 2)*

**1. The Gift of Evangelism**

**Definition.**

Evangelism is the Spirit's gift to share the gospel, to invite people to commit themselves to the Lord, and to unite with the church.

**A Woman with the Gift of Evangelism**

* + is at ease asking people to make a decision for Christ.
  + experiences that others often ask her how to be a Christian.
  + can, through the Holy Spirit, lead people to a commitment to Jesus.
  + often is more interested in the end results of soul winning than in how people are led to decision.

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Personal ministries leader; give Bible studies; lead out in Bible-oriented seminars; church planting in new areas; prison ministry; branch Sabbath School (adult); Women's Ministries retreats; visiting; follow- up media interests.

**When the Gift is Misdirected**

In a desire for decisions, it is possible for Christians to use salesmanship techniques rather than depend on the influence of the Holy Spirit. A person with the gift of evangelism is irresponsible if no plans are made for the nurture of new converts.

**2. The Gift of Shepherding**

**Definition.**

Shepherding is the Spirit's gift to guide, protect, nurture, and feed the members of the church.

**A Woman with the Gift of Shepherding**

* is, or would like to be, spending much of her time nurturing church members rather than in outreach.
* is very concerned with promoting unity in her church and combating any element which threatens the unity.
* enjoys taking "newborn" Christians and seeing them through hardships, fear, or doubts.
* provides a calming, strengthening effect on those around her.

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Church nurture, visitation, single's ministry, Women's Ministries, study-group leader, hospital visitation, counseling, social committee.

**When the Gift is Misdirected**

Ezekiel 34:1-6 contains a scathing rebuke to shepherds of the sixth century B.C. who lived during the Babylonian captivity. According to this passage, shepherds abuse their calling when they:

* feed themselves but not the flock
* fail to care for the wounded sheep
* neglect the lost
* dominate the members (and thus promote dependency)
* fail to search for the wandering

**3. The Gift of Speaking Up For God**

**Definition**

Speaking up for God is the Spirit's gift to give instruction, encouragement, and comfort among the church family.

*(The King James Bible calls this gift "Prophesy." We need to be aware that Paul emphasized that this gift is given to lay people in local congregations and that it is a world apart from the colorful thundering prophets of the Old Testament. Roy Naden calls it "speaking up for God" which is faithful to Paul's definition of teaching, counseling, and comforting.)*

**A Woman with the Gift of Speaking Up for God**

* finds that people are motivated when she speaks
* speaks the truth forthrightly to improve a situation
* is able to apply Scripture to life in a clear, logical, and powerful way
* has the ability to exhort, teach, and console in her speaking

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Lay preacher/evangelist, elder, prison ministry, Women's Ministries, lead out in seminars.

**When the Gift is Misdirected**

The gift ceases to function according to the Bible's definition when those who claim to have this gift:

* speak contrary to the word of God
* claim an authority above the Bible
* disallow the Spirit to speak directly to and through other Christians

**4. The Gift of Cross-Cultural Ministry**

**Definition**

Cross-cultural ministry is the Spirit's gift to share the gospel in another country/or culture, joyfully accepting the major adjustment to a new location and lifestyle.

*(Migration patterns have introduced pockets of ethnicity to many cities. To reach these people with the gospel requires a cross-culture ministry.)*

**A Woman with the Gift of Cross-Cultural Ministry**

* will be happy to live in primitive circumstances as long as she can share the gospel
* feels comfortable with people who are racially and cultural different from herself
* can cope with separation from friends and family in order to share the gospel in another land
* is able to communicate well with people from all walks of life

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used:**

Student missionary committee, visitation committee, refugee aid, inner-city work, cross-culture evangelism, Women's Ministries.

**When the Gift is Misdirected:**

There have been instances in the past where missionaries have confused the gospel with culture and have tried not only to share the good news but to change the indigenous people into replicas of their "home" culture. In the first century A.D., the Jerusalem Council agreed on the inappropriateness of this confusion.

**WORKSHEET FOR SHEPHERDING/EVANGELIZING CLUSTER**

1. Go through each spiritual gift.

Help each member of the group to identify herself with one of the gifts in the cluster.

2. Questions for group discussion:

Church growth studies suggest that some ten percent of a local congregation will probably have the gift of evangelism. Are you aware that only about one tenth of your congregation is probably involved in outreach that leads people to accept the Lord and become members of the church?

To what degree do you think the nation's largest churches have grown through the ministry of gifted, trained, and expertly organized and motivated lay people with the gift of shepherding? How much growth would you say is due to the influence of a charismatic minister?

What are some methods being used successfully in outreach in your area? How can Women's Ministries become a successful outreach in your church through women with the gift of evangelism?

Is the cross-cultural ministry as necessary today as it was in the early Christian church or in the early days of world missions in the nineteenth century? What reasons could be suggested for indigenous leadership to take over administrative responsibilities and transfer Western missionaries out of foreign lands as quickly as possible? What reasons might caution against moving too fast in this direction?

Which do you see is the greatest need of your congregation?

* occasional visit from a professional evangelist?
* a year-round evangelistic program sponsored by your local church or a group of local churches?
* some combination of the above? Explain.

Is there any evidence that lay people with the gift of shepherding are presently ministering in your local congregation? If so, in what ways? If not, why?

Are there any attitudes that would need to be modified before someone who claims to have the gift of speaking up for God could be accepted to exercise it in your congregation?