

**These Perilous Times**  
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**Gifts for Jesus.**

What is the first thought that crops into your mind when you think about the term disciple? What about Apostle or missionary? What about evangelists, teachers, or pastors? What about witnesses?

“And God hath *set some* in the church, “first apostles,”  
secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that  
miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments,  
diversities of tongues. **Are all apostles? Are all prophets?**  
**Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the**  
**gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Bo all**  
**interpret? But “covet” earnestly the best gifts...**

I Corinthians 12:28-31

“**And he gave some** apostles; and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelist; and some, pastors and  
some teachers; **For the perfecting of the saints, for**  
**the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the**  
**body of Christ: Till we all come into unity of faith,**  
**and the knowledge of the son of God unto a**  
**perfect man, unto the measure of the statue of the**  
**fullness of Christ.** That we henceforth be no more  
children tossed to and fro, and carried about, with every  
wind of doctrine, by the sleigh of men, and cunning  
craftiness, whereby they lay in wait to deceive; **But**

speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ... Ephesians 4:11-

15

Which of the above gifts do you believe God has blessed you with? Which one {s} do you covet? To follow Jesus, means you will also be sent by Him with the “everlasting gospel.” To be sent by Him means that you will use all of your gifts and talents for **His glory and purpose.**

A Spiritual gift is a bestowal of God’s Spirit on **whomever He pleases;** it is not a talent that one can purchase at the local music store. As a musician, I’ve acquired “relative pitch” through much hard work and extensive ear training—which envelops good intonation through the extensive study of musical scales and recognizing intervallic pitch relationships between various musical notes.

However no amount of musical training will render a musician as having “perfect pitch” it is a musical gift given by God’s Spirit only. <sup>1</sup> That doesn’t mean that one stops playing music. Most musicians do not have “perfect pitch,” but do have a talent for music.

When studying with The Amazing Facts College of Evangelism at the Black Hills Health & Education Center, in South Dakota, the students were required to take several courses in the field

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<sup>1</sup> James 1:17

of evangelism, including homiletics, {at the time I didn't know what homiletics were}. After I delivered the first of my two practice sermons the instructor, Louis Torres said I didn't need to take the course. Puzzled, I asked him why? He said that "you have the gift of public speaking." So I said ok, and kept writing and delivering God's messages.

What does this mean for us?

### **Obvious Signs Do Tell The Story**

**God gives gifts and talents to all of His people**

The book of John states that that Jesus' sheep hear **HIS voice**, he knows them and they follow HIM. <sup>2</sup> Friends, that does not necessarily mean hearing audible voices-but the Holy Spirit's voice speaking to our hearts-through the study of God's Word exclusively.

Peter states that when we **repent** and are **baptized** in the **name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins** we will receive the **gift of the Holy Ghost**. <sup>3</sup> **Obedience** is a pertinent part in receiving the **Holy Ghost**. <sup>4</sup> This is very simple math-With out, and living contrary to the Holy

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<sup>2</sup> John 10:27

<sup>3</sup> Acts 2:38

<sup>4</sup> Acts 5:32

Spirit's prompting, no Spiritual Gifts. This also means that if we refuse to use our spiritual gifts and talents for God we are in jeopardy of losing them.

“The Corinthian church did not lack in any spiritual gift {I Cor. 1, 4, 7}. Unfortunately they bickered like little children over which gifts were more important. Concerned about the divisions in their church, Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the true nature of these gifts and how they were meant to function. Spiritual gifts, he explained, are gifts of grace. From the **same Spirit** come “diversities of gifts,” which lead to “differences of ministries,” and “diversities of activities.” But Paul emphasized that it is “the same God who works all in all” {I Cor. 12:2-6}.<sup>5</sup>

**Go!**

God has called and gifted His remnant people for one divine purpose, to partner with Him to “finish the work.”

“The Disciples were to teach what Christ had taught. That which He had spoken, not only in person, but through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament, is here included. Human teaching is shut out. There is no place for tradition, for man’s theories and conclusions, or

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<sup>5</sup> Spiritual Gifts and Ministries, “Seventh-day Adventists Believe,”  
Fundamental Belief # 17 pp.237-245

for church legislation. No laws ordained by ecclesiastical authority are included in the commission. None of these are Christ's servant's to teach. "The law and the prophets," with the record of His own words and deeds, is the treasure committed to the disciples to be given to the world... <sup>6</sup>

"Evangelistic work, opening the scriptures to others, warning men and women of what is coming upon the world, is to occupy more and still more of the time of God's servant's. <sup>7</sup>

"The *Sacrifice of Christ* as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, *every truth in the word of God*, from Genesis to Revelation, must be *studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary...*" <sup>8</sup>

**Whatever your gifts and talents are, won't you use them for God today?**

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<sup>6</sup> E. G. White. Desire of Ages, p. 826. {1898}.

<sup>7</sup> Review & Herald, Aug. 2, 1906.

<sup>8</sup> E. G. White. Gospel Workers, p. 315, {1915}.

