

# Understanding Redemptive Gifts

According to theologians, there are 3 types of gifts given to us by the Spirit. These are:

- 7x Motivational Gifts or Redemptive Gifts – Romans 12:6-8
- 9x Manifestation Gifts or Spiritual Gifts – 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- 5x Office Gifts or Governmental Gifts<sup>1</sup> – Ephesians 4:11-13

‘Redemptive Gifts’ is a term used by Arthur Burk<sup>2</sup> in his teaching, which many have used as their primary source on the topic.

Romans 12 doesn't use the term Redemptive Gifts at all, and that's the case for any English translation on BibleGateway<sup>3</sup>. They are simply called “gifts”. Of course, as the set of gifts has a biblical basis, that tends to make them seem very spiritual. However, the term is simply a man-made, theological category of personal characteristics that Christians use to try to understand themselves.<sup>4</sup>

These gifts, as catalogued are:

- Teacher
- Giver
- Ruler
- Exhorter
- Mercy
- Prophet
- Servant

To identify any of these gifts in their life, a person usually does a survey/questionnaire.<sup>5</sup>

Like church offices<sup>6</sup>, this category of gifts is a church construct which has no relevance in the Kingdom. The reason why the list and category isn't required in the Kingdom is that sons follow what Father tells them about themselves and they leave their identity and gifting in his hands. The reason that we take that stand is that he's the one we align with, not church leaders. Living life in the Kingdom, then, is not trying to understand one's self, but allowing Father to uncover what he wants us to know about ourselves, whenever he's ready.

Some modern Kingdom people utilize and refer to Redemptive Gifts because they are still dealing with people who are inside the church system. These people have heard of these gifts or talk about them, so some understanding is needed for us – in case we're asked to talk about them.<sup>7</sup> Here's some background:

*“The difference between redemptive gifts, spiritual gifts, personality types. [They're] all of the different things that make up who they are and help them to see that God has created them in a particular way that is designed to help them fulfil their identity and destiny. They're wired in a particular way to engage the world. Ultimately, I think, as we become more and more like Jesus, we become more rounded in redemptive gifts. But they're still primarily certain things which, I think, are the way we sort of see the world, think about it and engage.*

*So when it comes to that, helping people realize that some of the way they do things and the way they think about things is related to the way God made them and they don't need to try and change that. They need to try and benefit from it and use it, and then that means they don't [need to] be like anybody else.*

1 – NOTE: Also known as the 5-fold Ministry Gifts. I prefer to call them the Ascension Gifts to get away from the systemic use for creating hierarchical division in the church. They were given when Jesus ascended so that's an appropriate term to use.

2 – CD SET: Arthur Burk “The Redemptive Gifts of Individuals” [theslg.com/downloads/the-redemptive-gifts-of-individuals-download](https://theslg.com/downloads/the-redemptive-gifts-of-individuals-download)

3 – [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

4 – SUMMARY: Arthur Burk “Redemptive Gifts of Individuals” [Plumblin Ministries] [www.davenevins.com/ftp/mp3/talks/arthur%20burk/redemptive-gifts\\_arthur-burk.pdf](http://www.davenevins.com/ftp/mp3/talks/arthur%20burk/redemptive-gifts_arthur-burk.pdf)

5 – [www.freedomtrust.org.uk/AR/Presentations/Destiny/Redemptive%20Gifts%20Questionnaire.pdf](http://www.freedomtrust.org.uk/AR/Presentations/Destiny/Redemptive%20Gifts%20Questionnaire.pdf)

6 – i.e. Governmental Gifts

7 – Gerri “Seven Redemptive Gifts Of Individuals” [placesinthefathersheart.org/seven-redemptive-gifts-of-individuals-by-gerri](http://placesinthefathersheart.org/seven-redemptive-gifts-of-individuals-by-gerri)

*Redemptive gifts are individually for the person. You don't therefore look at someone else or want to be like them, because they may have a totally different redemptive gift. Which means that, if you're trying to be like them, you're trying to operate outside of really who you are.*

*So when it comes to things like that, once a person has an idea and has a desire, then you begin then to help them identify the way they see the world by asking the right questions. Now, obviously, redemptive gift surveys are designed to help Christians identify the way God made them to be.”<sup>8</sup>*

*(Permission to quote Mike Parsons received on 20-7-2020)*

However, having stated that Redemptive Gifts can be used to assist people, a focus on them is just another distraction for us, despite how nice the idea seems. Many have spiritualized their gifts and made them a focus of ‘ministry’.<sup>9</sup> However, talking about them as a topic among sons is irrelevant, just like any drive to know them is irrelevant.

But here’s the problem, and it’s a BIG one: All NT giftings relate to the *ekklesia* and that usually causes us to ignore gifts and talents used in our life outside of that gathering. Unfortunately, this dualism comes from Greek philosophy which entered church theology in the very early centuries, and its effect is to relegate ‘worldly’ things to the ungodly.<sup>10</sup> It is a fact that things which originate from the world system don’t belong to the Kingdom, but our function as sons is to impact the world for good, as well as expand the Kingdom – just like Jesus of Nazareth did. Until the Kingdom fills the Earth and we enter the next Age, we have to live in the world and do all kinds of good. To that end, Father gifts and experiences us to live life, to have a vocation, to earn a living and to positively affect the lives of those we come in contact with.

From that Kingdom perspective, where are the doctors, nurses and paramedics listed in the Redemptive Gifts? These people are gifted by Father to positively impact people’s lives because he cares for every single person through them. Focusing on the need to operate in Redemptive Gifts would cause a person who is intended to be a medico to reject a medical vocation and become something else – usually something in the church or a ‘ministry’. That’s how erroneous it is to completely focus on Redemptive Gifts and give them inordinate importance.

That was the case for Lance Walnau who was called to do what he’s doing today – spreading information about our responsibility to impact society – but he chose to train and become a pastor because he thought that’s what a Christian ought to do with their life. It wasn’t until our King ‘pulled him up’ and set him on the right path that he repented and did what was intended for him.

Likewise, where are the musicians and artists who the Spirit can use to impact the world with beauty and harmony? They aren’t listed in the Redemptive Gifts. For instance, take a listen to these young musicians who are extremely talented and who are looking to honour “God” with their lives.

**WATCH:** “Sleepy Man: Roots Trio From New Jersey” [youtu.be/OM2Luzbd4uI](https://youtu.be/OM2Luzbd4uI)

**[Early years:** “Teenaged boy wonders play bluegrass | The Sleepy Man Banjo Boys”]  
[youtu.be/BNHGY0PB1UU](https://youtu.be/BNHGY0PB1UU)

My wife’s gift is encouragement, which she uses every time she connects with others. You could say that she fits into the Redemptive Gift’s ‘exhorter’ category, but that would be trying to fit something into what doesn’t exist. You see, Paul gave a list of gifts, but he didn’t say they were all that there was.

What about hospitality, which Paul writes about that on 7 occasions? Is that a gift, even though its an action?

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8 – Mike Parsons (7-5-2023) “Redemptive Gifts – Identity” [youtu.be/2h0TMp2ISrM](https://youtu.be/2h0TMp2ISrM) [0:05-1:53]

9 – e.g. “Redemptive Gifts, the Brain, the Spirit” [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWcYn20Rc2I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWcYn20Rc2I) (Bride Ministries International)

10 – SEE: “Is the Gospel of Salvation Very, Very Dodgy?”

[canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Is-the-Gospel-of-Salvation-Very-Very-Dodgy-notes.pdf](https://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Is-the-Gospel-of-Salvation-Very-Very-Dodgy-notes.pdf)

What about ‘helps’ and ‘administrations’ which Paul listed in a group of gifts.<sup>11</sup> They don’t feature in any of the 3 classes of gifts that I’ve covered at the top of the first page.

Putting things in categories and lists, due to our societal training, also helps us feel we are in control of life and the things around us. You see, through Aristotelian Greek philosophy, which our society is firmly based on, we love to classify everything so that it seems ordered. That’s the foundation of the classification of living things and it’s the basis for the ‘proof’ of evolution, creating genetic links when there’s no proof of it.

**CONCLUSION:** As sons, we need to forget about gift categories, in the same way that we have to ignore church offices. Our responsibility is to grow in intimacy with the Trinity and allow them to speak into our lives as often as they want to. That way we’ll find out what gifts and talents we have, and in the end, our gifts will make way for us, becoming evident and leading to their utilization.

**WISDOM:** Here’s some wise words about following what Father has to say rather than the wisdom on religion: *“Why fool yourself? What is esteemed as wise according to popular Jewish sentiment is folly. There is no compromise when it comes to wisdom; the only wisdom that matters is what God deems wise, even if it seems foolishness to the reasoning of typical religion. Much rather be ridiculed by religion than esteemed as wise by them.”*<sup>12</sup>

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9-5-2023

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

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11 – 1 Corinthians 12:28

12 – 1 Corinthians 3:18 (MIRROR) Scripture taken from THE MIRROR. Copyright © 2012. Used by permission of The Author.

Mirror Bible - [www.mirrorword.net](http://www.mirrorword.net)