

TEACHING

The supernatural ability to clearly explain and effectively apply God's Word. This can be done vocally, visually or by example. For example, the gift of teaching can be used to teach or preach the Bible to people of any age, to train others to minister, or to direct a group spiritually.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. A need to validate truth and to certify statements made by others.
2. A tendency to validate new truth by using established systems of truth.
3. A desire to give teaching credentials before speaking and to get them from others before listening.
4. A desire to present truth in a systematic sequence; a delight in researching and reporting as many facts on a subject as possible.
5. An alertness to factual details that are not noticed or mentioned by others.
6. A tendency to remain silent until information has been heard, observed and discussed.

CAUTIONS

1. Becoming proud of their knowledge. "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies." *I Corinthians 8:1*
2. Despising practical wisdom shared by uneducated people, discounting learning that does not take place in the classroom. "The Jews were amazed and asked, 'How did this man get such learning without having studied?'" *John 7:15*
3. Communicating skepticism toward other teachers: "It isn't right until I check it out and say it's right." A teacher may give the impression that he or she is the only source of truth, and in fact, develop an unteachable spirit.
4. Criticizing sound teaching when there are technical flaws. It is difficult for a teacher to endorse or receive a teaching if there are small factual errors, and easy for them to reject the entire teaching.
5. Depending on human reasoning rather than on the Holy Spirit. A teacher's primary tool is their mind, yet God warns that we are not to lean on our own understanding because our thoughts are not His thoughts. *Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 55:8; I Corinthians 1:20; 2:14*
6. Providing information which lacks practical application. Teachers can be so heavenly minded they are no earthly good. *Romans 8:29*
7. Boring listeners with details. Teachers enjoy their research and assume others will also. When they give extensive background details to validate a point or to display their knowledge it can detract from the teaching itself.
8. Retreating into their own world of books. Research is very time consuming and may result in teachers shutting themselves up into their own world and closing out those around them.