



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

ADMINISTRATION

DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO GUIDE AND ORGANIZE PEOPLE AND MINISTRIES TOWARD A COMMON GOAL. (I Corinthians 12:28)

These org's move forward Christ's mission!

- The word comes from the verb that means to steer or guide a ship. This word shows up one time in the New Testament (I Corinthians 12:28) and three times in the Greek translation of the Old Testament - these three refer to acts of guidance (Proverbs 1:5, 11:14, 24:6).
- Although similar in some respects, the gift of administration is different than the gift of leadership. It is the difference between the ship owner and the "captain." The owner gives the captain his orders regarding where to sail. The captain follows the orders, charts a course that will bring the ship into the right harbor. The leader gives the destination (vision). The person with the gift of administration figures out how to get there.
- This gift complements the gifts of leadership and pastor-teacher. When the gifts (administration with either leadership or pastor-teacher) are not found in the same person they will normally be exercised in close proximity to the other people with those gifts.

Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28 (this is the only NT reference!)

Contribution: this gift helps move the church in the direction that God is leading, it brings "order out of the chaos," pulling together the church's resources (mainly people) to fulfill the vision of the church, through its people and ministries. It is a gift that relies on others and hence draws more people into service and helps the church move closer toward an "every member ministry." It is a gift which often frees others up "from the details" in order to carry on their God-given roles.

Biblical Examples: Perhaps some of Paul's associates like John Mark, Luke or Titus

Characteristics - People with this gift :

- find great satisfaction in organizing people and things
- tend to bring "systems" which help make the work grow in efficiency and effectiveness
- understand the importance of delegation and for this reason involve others with them
- understand and accept the direction given them

Cautions:

- don't forget to submit to the vision and direction of the church's leadership
- don't put your confidence in a good plan, put your confidence in our great God
- don't forget to minister to the people that you are guiding, don't treat them as a means to the end
- don't lose sight of the goal or joy of serving