

Teaching and Exhortation: Gifts of Grace

Romans 12:7-8 | Pastor Darrin Wright | November 1, 2026

Main idea: God gives teaching and exhortation to help His people understand His Word, live in obedience to it, and grow together toward maturity in Christ.

1. Understand the Gifts

Teaching explains God's Word clearly and accurately. Exhortation comes alongside others with encouragement, counsel, comfort, and help toward obedience. We need both understanding and a faithful response. These gifts serve the church's growth. Read: Romans 12:7-8.

2. Learn from Luke and Paul

Luke's careful investigation and orderly account illustrate teaching that helps people have confidence in the truth. Paul's ministry illustrates encouragement that helps believers mature, apply truth, pursue unity, and persevere through difficulty. Both ministries depend on Scripture and care about people's lives. Read: Luke 1:1-4; Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12.

3. Recognize the Dangers

Teachers can become proud, overly critical, dependent on their own ability, or absorbed in details while overlooking people and application. Exhorters can expect growth too quickly, neglect their responsibilities, speak before listening, or encourage dependence on themselves. Humility, love, patience, and wise listening protect the people we serve. Read: 2 Timothy 2:24-25; James 1:19, 22; Proverbs 18:13.

4. Depend on the Spirit and Point to Christ

Ask God to shape your preparation, words, and attitudes. Faithful teachers pursue clarity and love those they teach. Faithful exhorters listen patiently and help people trust Christ. Our service matters, but God gives the growth. The aim is a church growing in obedience, spiritual health, and unity for Christ's glory. Read: 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

Reflect and Respond

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Words to Remember

“The goal isn't to impress other people with how much you know, but to help people understand what God has said.”

“It is possible to know all kinds of facts about the Bible and remain spiritually immature.”

“The prerequisite to being a good teacher is having love for people.”

Consider Your Response

1. What truth from Scripture do I understand but need help putting into practice?

2. When I explain Scripture, am I seeking the good of the person listening? What would make my explanation clearer and more helpful?

3. Do I hear the whole concern before offering counsel? Am I patient with another person's growth?

4. Is my help encouraging dependence on Christ? Am I also caring faithfully for the responsibilities God has already given me?

One Practical Step

Choose one biblical truth and write down one specific response it calls for this week. Ask a trusted believer to pray with you and encourage you. If you are helping someone else, listen carefully and help that person identify an appropriate step without taking control of the outcome.

Truth I need to apply: _____

My next step: _____

Someone to pray with or encourage: _____

Prayer

Father, thank You for those who help us understand Your Word and live it. Give us humility as we learn, love as we speak, and patience as we encourage one another. Help us depend on Your Spirit, point people to Christ, and use Your gifts for the good of Your church. Amen.

Continue Exploring

Useful by Grace - Romans 12:3-6: grace, humility, and our place in Christ's body.

Living in View of God's Mercy - Romans 12:1-2: responding to God's mercy.

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