

Timothy: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Here are no less than four generations of Christian teachers in view!

Ryrie (p. 90) writes:

Teaching is the God-given ability to explain the harmony and the detail of God's revelation. Apparently the gift is sometimes given alone (Rom. 12:7) and sometimes it is given along with the gift of pastor (Eph. 4:11). It is more obvious in the case of the gift of teaching that this is a gift that can be developed and must be trained. If we may assume that Peter had the gift, then it is clear that he had to do some studying of Paul's epistles before he could explain them to others (II Peter 3:16).

Sanders (p. 118) says:

This is one of the major gifts of the Spirit to the Church. The teacher's function was to interpret the Word of God to His flock. Teaching, in this sense, was the supernatural ability to explain and apply the truths received from God for the Church. The teacher did not originate his own message, but through study and the Spirit's illumination made divine truth clear to his people. His gift was distinct from that of the prophet who spoke as the direct mouthpiece of God.

Edgar (pp. 327-328) states:

The teacher is also an individual given to the Church in order to build up and train believers (Ephesians 4:11-12). There is little description of a teacher's ministry in the New Testament, but there are certain implications. The Biblical concept of teacher is very similar to the concept today, except possibly for methods and physical facilities.

The Greek term DIDASKALOS, teacher, concerned the fact that "systematic instruction is given." It means teacher or trainer.

It is clear from the Gospels that a teacher instructs regarding certain facts and how to use them. The Christian teacher (in the sense of Ephesians 4:11) instructs regarding Biblical truth and how to apply it in order to train and mature believers. A teacher often has a group of disciples or voluntary students who desire to learn from him. (Matthew 8:10; 9:11; 10:24-25; 2 Timothy 4:3). Although there appears to be a spiritual gift of teaching (individuals who are teachers), the human element of training and the voluntary nature of this ministry are more clearly stated than with other gifts. This is especially clear in Hebrews 5:12 and James 3:1. In Hebrews 5:12 the author is explaining that the Hebrews have been Christians for such a length