



The Spiritual Gift of Shepherding

Definition

The gift of Shepherding is the God-given ability to assume long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of an individual or small group of Christ-followers by nurturing and guiding them toward ongoing spiritual maturity.

Gifts in Action

With the rapid growth of the early church, it soon became apparent that help was needed to shepherd the people. One group needing extra attention was the widows. Some felt they were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The disciples selected seven men to be responsible for this group of women. These seven were selected because they were “full of the Spirit and wisdom.” They demonstrated the gift of shepherding by establishing long-term care for this select group. The seven men chosen were Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch. (Acts 6:1-6)

Scripture References for Shepherding

- Ephesians 4:11-12
- 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 1 Timothy 3:1-13

People With This Gift Like to...

- Provide guidance and oversight to a small group of people.
- Establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships.
- Lead and protect those who are in their care.

Characteristics of People With Shepherding

- Nurturing
- Guiding
- Supportive
- Relational
- Influential

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Shepherding

- Small group leader
- Youth leader
- Sunday school/Bible teacher
- College ministry

RECOMMENDED READING:

Spiritual Leadership – Oswald Sanders
Biblical Eldership - Alexander Strauch
Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire - Jim Cymbala