

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF REDEMPTIVE GIFTS (BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS) *

TEACHER (Principle of Responsibility)

- Needs to validate truth for him/herself. It is at the core of who he/she is. Loves knowledge.
- Does not receive new things immediately. Looks at things from different angles.
- Wants firsthand details. Values precision in sharing details. Sometimes overkill of details.
- Processes and makes decisions slowly. Can slow down impulsive people who jump to conclusions.
- Is a very safe person emotionally and is sometimes confused with the gift of mercy. The difference is the teacher tends to be led by their head and mercy to be led by their heart.
- Has a deep commitment to family and tradition.
- Seen as safe because he/she is patient with those in sin. He/she is willing to lay out the whole picture and allow the other person to choose to do what is right and be reconciled.
- Resists using personal stories and illustrations when speaking or preaching. Prefers dealing with pure doctrine in a theological way. Loves Greek and Hebrew.
- Tends to be unwilling to begin a process until he/she can see the end of the process.
- Can be immobilized by fear or risk. It can keep him/her from obeying God.
- Has a wonderful sense of humor. Practical joker.
- Tends to be the last one to speak in a group. He/she will listen and observe, seeing things from all angles, then summarize the whole picture.
- Does not reject new ideas immediately. Does not go forward as quickly as visionaries think they should.
- Able to hear any kind of sin in people's lives without rejecting them - non-judgmental.
- Tends not to take the initiative to confront what is wrong. Can be too tolerant of sin.
- Prefers the old, established, validated ways. Preserves history.
- Looks for more validation. Seeks out more credentials to attest to his/her competence.
- Tends to feed his/her mind more than his/her spirit. There may be perceived dryness as he/she dispenses truth with intricate details.
- Tends toward selective responsibility. Can be extremely responsible and reliable in one area, but does not carry that same behavior over to other areas.
- Is unwilling to impose responsibility on others. Finds it difficult to compel someone to do what is right. His/her natural tendency is to explain, reason, and put forth truth, expecting or hoping the other person will pick up the truth and act on it voluntarily.
- Is not easily swayed from the truth. Can keep the more impulsive gifts in check. Serves as an anchor.
- Wants to verify truth with his/her natural wisdom. May lead to struggle with intellectual pride.
- Can have difficulty with emotions because of a desire to rationalize, explain, and systematize how he/she feels.
- Relies heavily on knowledge. Thinks that knowledge is the inside track, and if he/she has knowledge, he/she has intimacy. Thinks the more he/she knows about God, the closer he/she is to God.
- Willing to die for convictions.
- Has a burden for spiritual, physical, natural healing (Priesthood of Levi - priests handled all medical care in the Old Testament)

Major Weaknesses

- ❑ **PASSIVE.** Unwilling to impose responsibility on others. Can be soft on sin and too patient with people who are doing wrong.
- ❑ **SELECTIVE.** Struggles with issues of timeliness and responsibility in selective areas. Procrastinates on practical things.
- ❑ **TOO HIGHLY VALUES REASON.** Wants to live by sight, not by faith. Wants to know the end before beginning.
- ❑ **DOCTRINE OVER INTIMACY.** Intimacy and prayer may be a major battle for the teacher. Tends to pursue a doctrinal system rather than intimacy with his/her Father.

Biblical Examples of Teacher - Daniel, Luke, Isaiah, Levi (priesthood tribe), Samuel, Ezra, Mary (mother of Jesus), Mordecai (Esther's uncle)

NOTES