

## THE GIFT OF R U L I N G - A SERVING GIFT

TEXT: Romans 12:8,14; I Cor. 12:28

### EXPLANATION

#### I. WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THIS GIFT

- A. This gift is the God-given ability to organize, administer, and lead effectively.
- B. It is simply stated the spiritual gift of leadership and it involves setting goals, motivating others, and leading others to fulfill specific goals.
- C. The person with this gift will not be domineering but will have the ability to administer affairs and work with others in a fair and equitable way.
- D. The word "governments" in I Cor. 12:28 conveys the idea of a shipmaster or a steersman who would pilot a ship. Thus, when this gift is exercised it will result in specific goals being met or a certain project being fulfilled. This will translate into the Lord's ministry being developed and the spiritual growth of those involved in a specific undertaking.

### EXERCISE

#### II. HOW THIS GIFT WAS EXERCISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. This gift was exercised by the twelve apostles in the early church (Acts 4:37; 9:27). Note also Acts 8:1,4 indicates that the apostles remained in Jerusalem and steered the early believers during the time of persecution.

- B. This gift was also exercised by the pastors and deacons in the various churches (Acts 6:1-7; I Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17).
- C. One good example involves the collections for the poor saints at Jerusalem. Paul, exercising this gift, challenged the churches and certain ones were appointed to preside over this goal and certain ones were involved in its fulfillment (II Cor. 8:7-24).

#### EXTENT

### III. HOW THIS GIFT OPERATES AND APPLIES TO INDIVIDUALS IN OUR DAY

- A. The gift of governments or ruling applies to numerous areas of ministry in our day. It is needed by those who preside and direct over missionary boards, Bible colleges and seminaries, Christian publishing houses, and other Christian service organizations.
- B. This gift is exercised by pastors and deacons in the ministry of a local church (I Tim. 3:4,5; I Pet. 5:2) and it also demonstrates itself in those who serve over various committees or projects where management skills are needed.

#### ERROR

### IV. HOW THIS GIFT CAN BE MISUSED AND MISAPPLIED

- A. Those called upon to serve may become proud of their position and their authority can "go to their heads." (I Tim. 3:6)

- B. Those with this gift may be tempted to be bossy and dictatorial over others. This is illustrated in Diotrephes III John 9,10.
  
- C. Notice the words "ministers" and "deacons" convey the idea of humble servants and not dictators. (I Pet. 5:3; Phil. 2:17-30; I Cor. 4:1)