**Romans 12 – Motivational Gifts Part 2**

**Exhortation**

* Exhortation – what is it?
	+ *Parakaleo* – to call near, invite, invoke
* It is used 104 times in the new testament; here are some of the top meanings of the word:
	+ Beseech – to plead for earnestly – 43 times
	+ Comfort – to console or give strength to through affirmation/consolation – 23 times
	+ Exhort – encourage or strengthen or to build up – 21 times
		- Most often, the word used by itself is translated as beseech. It is used when the author is trying to draw serious attention to a particular subject or point that is being made. It would be akin to starting a sentence off with, “I really need you guys to pay attention to this.”

The gift of exhortation is what we want to focus on though, and while it may be multifaceted and slightly confusing, it’s a good one.

* This gift is unique in that it bears some similarities to other gifts, but it is altogether different. Initially it is easy to link it to parts of teaching and mistakenly call it a “teaching gift.” Secondly, it overlaps a bit with prophecy, so it can also mistakenly be called a “prophecy gift.” Were it to fall into one of these categories, the apostle wouldn’t have taken the time to list it as a separate one.
	+ As far as teaching is concerned, teaching focuses on the dispensation, clarification, and understanding of biblical truths. Exhortation is the next step in that process. Exhorters take the truths that are taught by the teachers and they make sure they have worked them into action.
	+ As far as prophecy is concerned, most people have a skewed view of what the prophetic is, so it gets lumped in the same category as anything that is vaguely supernatural. As Laura said on Saturday, exhortation is not only Spirit inspired speech, but Spirit inspired timing as well. Because it is reliant on the Spirit, most people want to lump it in with the prophetic. While I understand how it can look similar, it is different than the biblical gift of prophecy.
* So here are some things are wrapped up in this somewhat misunderstood gift:
	+ Encouraging others through the Spirit and the Word; not giving out compliments
	+ They are supernaturally in tune to what the Spirit has to say about others
	+ Partner with people to “walk out their salvation”
	+ They want to see others mature in the faith, how ever that applies to the person or situation
	+ A desire to walk along side of those in trouble, despair, confusion and help them out of it
	+ Give wise council about how to resolve situations, and about God’s perspective on things
	+ Admonish and assist those who are going/have gone astray from the Word

Here is a great resource for anyone who wants further reading:

<https://iblp.org/questions/what-spiritual-gift-exhorting>