

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFT OF HELPS (SUPPORT) ILLUSTRATED FROM THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

CHARACTERISTICS	ILLUSTRATIONS
1. An ability to see practical needs and desire to meet them.	Timothy's desire to meet needs is confirmed by Paul: "For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state" (Philippians 2:20).
2. A joy in serving when it frees others to do more important things, not just to keep busy	Timothy served Paul so that Paul could carry out his ministry. He served Paul "as a son with the father" (Philippians 2:22).
3. A tendency to disregard personal health and comfort in serving others.	Timothy's physical ailments were revealed when Paul wrote: "Drink no longer water but use a little wine for the stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (I Timothy 5:23).
4. A difficulty in saying "no" resulting in a variety of involvements and a tendency to get sidetracked.	Timothy was told twice by Paul not to get sidetracked: "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me . . . Do thy diligence to come before winter" (I Timothy 4:9,21).
5. A special enjoyment in providing for physical needs and comforts. An ability to remember likes and dislikes.	Timothy was instructed to bring Paul his cloak, books, and especially the parchments (II Timothy 4:13).
6. A need for appreciation to confirm that service is necessary and satisfactory. A desire for clear instructions (without time limits).	Timothy was given more instruction and praise by Paul than any other assistant (I and II Timothy).
7. A strong desire to be with others, thus providing more serving opportunities.	Timothy is almost always working with others (Acts 16:2; 17:14-15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4).
8. An enjoyment of short-range projects and a tendency to become frustrated with long-range responsibilities.	Timothy was urged to maintain the endurance of a soldier and to continue in the calling that he was given (I Timothy 4:16; II Timothy 2:3).
9. A tendency to feel inadequate and unqualified for spiritual leadership.	Timothy was reassured by Paul that he was qualified by his ordination and by training of his mother, grandmother, and Paul (I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 3:10-14; II Timothy 1:5).