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Chapter 2 titled "The Pastor and His Preparation" delves into the time after one has received the call to become a pastor. Russell Moore's testimony points to why preparation is important before going into a field. When entering any occupation, preparation is key. It is impossible to do a job right without receiving proper training and knowledge. The chapter presents two types of preparation needed when becoming a pastor, spiritual and educational.

The spiritual preparation starts before a person is born. God has known that your life will take you to the point of becoming a pastor, regardless of circumstance or environment. It is important to realize as one prepares that God has not given us work that is too difficult for us. If it is God's plan, we will be prepared to accomplish the job. (Pg18) The Holy Spirit is another important part of spiritual preparation. To preach effectively and with power, a pastor must be filled with the Holy Spirit. It will guide and lead the pastor, so that they may lead their congregation. The Holy Spirit not only leads us but also gives gifts that will help us in our ministry. The authors break these gifts into three categories, motivational, ministry, and manifestation.

As the chapter continued in delved more into motivational gifts that God provides for a pastor. It is important to remind myself that every Christian is given at least one of these gifts. It is not exclusive only to ministers of God, but it is open to all Christians. It is also important to realize that we may never receive every gift that is listed. God will give the gift that is necessary for your ministry. While I may want to gain the gift of prophecy, it may not be the gift that will help my ministry. The chapter also taught me that while we

may never have all the gifts, a pastor will take part in each of those gifts during their time. We will have to teach, to serve, and to sometimes show mercy on those around us.

These motivational gifts are important in anyone's life. However, a pastor must develop the gift given to them. As mentioned in the Bible, these gifts are amazing things that can bear incredible fruit. If used poorly it will lead to negative consequences. These gifts will be wasted. It is important that within my own life I not only develop my gift but also develop those around me when it is fitting. It is also important not to give ourselves a gift we do not have.

The second half of the preparation has to do with education. While a pastor may not need the education to preach, it can be a useful tool in the life of a pastor. Education provides a biblical foundation that would be important for anyone to have. As the book mentions, there is no excuse not to get an education. Learning has never hurt anyone and the more knowledge you have does not hurt to have.

Preparation is important in all circumstances. When it comes to my own life, I do not know what my gift is. As I read the chapter, I learn that though I may not know what it is God will make sure that the gift matches my ministry. I must learn to develop myself through the help of others. There are times in my life in which I may misuse the gift that God has given to me. There are times where I will be upset that others have a gift that I wish to have. It is open for me to realize that I do not need the gift of serving to help people. I do not need the gift of mercy to show mercy. God will provide us with a gift, but he will also work in us in many ways for his kingdom.

Gifts are given to people. Everyone is given a certain gift depending on what God wants to do through them. A pastor needs to surround himself with people who has each of the gifts. As great as each individual gift is on their own, together they complement each other. If there is a hole that one person may have, there may be another to fill in the gap, and make it complete. We are not called to be individuals but called to be a body of Christ with each person providing their own gifts and values.