

Numbers Lesson 04

Numbers Chapter 4

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Memory verses for this week: *1 Pet 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 1 Pet 3:11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.*

Introduction: We continue our study on Numbers this week as we begin Chapter 4. Last week we discussed the various families of the Levites and how God positioned each of these in certain locations around the tabernacle inside the other 12 tribes. God had a specific job for each family, and a specific place to stay. In the work of the Lord, God has a definite plan, and we need to stick to God's plan.

I. Israel Prepares at Mt. Sinai

*Num 4:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
Num 4:2 Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers,
Num 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.
Num 4:4 This shall be the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation, about the most holy things:*

We find another example of the Lord speaking to Moses which again is in relation to the tribe of Levi. This time he speaks to both Moses and Aaron which happened earlier in Numbers Chapter 2. He commands them to take a census count of the number of men 30 years old and upward to 50 years of age of the sons of Kohath.

These were to be the ones to do the work of the tabernacle. God gave special work to these sons of Kohath. He was the son of Levi and a grandfather of Aaron. So this made them descendents of Levi, but not priests as they were not of the family of Aaron. These were the ones who bore the ark on their shoulders when the tabernacle was moved.

Matthew Henry commented on the importance of this age of 30-50.

Who were to be taken into this number. All the males from thirty years old to fifty. Of the other tribes, those that were numbered to go forth to war were from twenty years old and upward, but of the Levites only from thirty to fifty; for the service of

God requires the best of our strength, and the prime of our time, which cannot be better spent than to the honour of him who is the first and best. And a man may make a good soldier much sooner than a good minister. Now,

They were not to be employed till they were thirty years old, because till then they were in danger of retaining something childish and youthful and had not gravity enough to do the service, and wear the honour, of a Levite. They were entered as probationers at twenty-five years old, (ch. 8:24), and in David's time, when there was more work to be done, at twenty (1 Chr. 23:24, and so Ezra 3:8); but they must be five years learning and waiting, and so fitting themselves for service; nay, in David's time they were ten years in preparation, from twenty to thirty. John Baptist began his public ministry, and Christ his, at thirty years old.

This is not in the letter of it obligatory on gospel ministers now, as if they must either not begin their work till thirty years old or must leave off at fifty; but it gives us two good rules:—(1.) That ministers must not be novices, 1 Tim. 3:6. It is a work that requires ripeness of judgment and great steadiness, and therefore those are very unfit for it who are but babes in knowledge and have not put away childish things. (2.) That they must learn before they teach, serve before they rule, and must *first be proved*, 1 Tim. 3:10.

They were discharged at fifty years old from the toilsome part of the service, particularly that of carrying the tabernacle; for that is the special service to which they are here ordained, and which there was most occasion for while they were in the wilderness. When they began to enter upon old age, they were dismissed, (1.) In favour to them, that they might not be over-toiled when their strength began to decay. Twenty years' good service was thought pretty well for one man. (2.) In honour to the work, that it might not be done by those who, through the infirmities of age, were slow and heavy. The service of God should be done when we are in the most lively active frame. Those do not consider this who put off their repentance to old age, and so leave the best work to be done in the worst time. i

So based upon Numbers 8:24, the ages of service for the sons of Kohath began at 25 where they would be an apprentice for 5 years learning to do this job. God wants his men to be fully trained before becoming pastors also.

Num 8:24 This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:

Num 8:25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more:

1 Tim 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

iHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.

1 Tim 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1 Tim 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Num 4:5 And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering veil, and cover the ark of testimony with it:

Num 4:6 And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins, and shall spread over it a cloth wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves thereof.

Num 4:7 And upon the table of showbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon:

Num 4:8 And they shall spread upon them a cloth of scarlet, and cover the same with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put in the staves thereof.

The sons of Kohath had the responsibility of bearing the holy things of the tabernacle. Only Aaron and his sons (the priests), could actually see and touch the uncovered vessels. This is mentioned beginning in verse 5 and continues through verse 14. Note all of these things being wrapped and prepared was done by Aaron's sons, the priests. When it came time for the congregation to move, Aaron's sons would take down the covering veil.

This veil was the one which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. When they took this veil down, they used it to cover the Ark of the Testimony. The blue cloth was not covered with anything as were most of the other items. This blue cloth was clearly visible for everyone to see as Israel marched. The table of showbread had a covering of blue with dishes, spoons, bowls, and covers to cover them all.

They were to place the continual bread on top of this. Verse 8 says that these things were covered with a cloth of scarlet and badgers skins and they were to be carried with staves. There were rings or loops on the sides where they slid in these staves to carry it.

The only ones who ever saw the articles that belonged in the Holy of Holies—the ark and the mercy seat—were Aaron and his sons. Those articles were carefully covered by Aaron and his sons before the Kohathites came to carry them. **ii**

II. Rules Regarding the Candlestick and other Vessels

Num 4:9 And they shall take a cloth of blue, and cover the candlestick of the light, and his lamps, and his tongs, and his snuffdishes, and all the oil vessels thereof, wherewith they minister unto it:

iiJ. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all the vessels thereof within a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put it upon a bar.

The candlesticks, lamps, tongs, snuffdishes, and oil vessels were covered with a cloth of blue. And after that, they were covered with a covering of badgers' skins and put upon a bar. If you remember the layout of the tabernacle, you remember that on the top of the roof, it was covered in badger skins. We mentioned last week how that when you looked upon the tabernacle on the outside, it was not all that desirable.

But when you got inside, and saw all the tapestry and the altar of gold and the vail, it was a beautiful place. Oh that we could make others who don't know the Lord to understand that nothing is more beautiful than to be in a place of the Lord where God's presence dwells. And when we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells inside our earthly tabernacle, and we are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

Paul talked about this earthly body or tabernacle that we live in when he wrote his second letter to the church at Corinth.

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Cor 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

2 Cor 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

2 Cor 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

2 Cor 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

2 Cor 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2 Cor 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2 Cor 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Num 4:11 And upon the golden altar they shall spread a cloth of blue, and cover it with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put to the staves thereof:

Num 4:12 And they shall take all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a cloth of blue, and cover them with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put them on a bar:

The golden altar was covered with a blue cloth and then badgers' skins to be carried with staves. Then all the instruments of ministry used in the sanctuary were put in a blue cloth and then covered with badgers skins and put on a bar.

Num 4:13 And they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth thereon:

Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all the vessels thereof, wherewith they minister about it, even the censers, the fleshhooks, and the shovels, and the basins, all the vessels of the altar; and they shall spread upon it a covering of badgers' skins, and put to the staves of it.

I thought I might have read verse 13 wrong when it said to take the ashes from the altar and put them in a purple cloth. But that is what it says. The ashes from the brazen altar were gathered in a purple cloth with the censers, fleshhooks, shovels, basins, and all the vessels of the altar. It was then covered with badgers' skins and put to the staves.

Matthew Henry pointed out that God had reasons for moving the tabernacle this way. Each of these items were moved in a certain way with purpose.

All these coverings were designed, [1.] For safety, that these holy things might not be ruffled with the wind, sullied with the rain, nor tarnished with the sun, but that they might be preserved in their beauty; for *on all the glory shall be a defence*. The coverings of badgers' skins, being thick and strong, would keep out wet; and, while we are in our passage through the wilderness of this world, it concerns us to be fenced *for all weathers*, Isa. 4:5, 6. [2.] For decency and ornament. Most of these things had a cloth of blue, or purple, or scarlet, spread outmost; and the ark was covered with a cloth *wholly of blue* (v. 6), an emblem (say some) of the azure skies, which are spread like a curtain between us and the Majesty on high, Job 26:9.

Those that are faithful to God should Endeavour likewise to appear beautiful before men, that they may *adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour*. [3.] For concealment. It signified the darkness of that dispensation. That which is now brought to light by the gospel, and revealed to babes, was then hidden from the wise and prudent. They saw only the coverings, not the holy things themselves (Heb. 10:1); but now Christ has *destroyed the face of the covering*, Isa. 25:7. iii

Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 4:16 And to the office of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest pertaineth the oil for the light, and the sweet incense, and the daily meat offering, and the

iiiHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.

anointing oil, and the oversight of all the tabernacle, and of all that therein is, in the sanctuary, and in the vessels thereof.

After Aaron and his sons covered all the vessels of the sanctuary, then and only then, could the Kohathites bear them. If any son of Kohath touched any holy thing, he would die. Seems severe in that these men were trying to do their work, but some things are to be taken seriously. Moving this tabernacle had to be done according the pattern God laid out. And ONLY the sons of Kohath could move the ark.

They bore it on their shoulders, a man on each end. Eleazar, Aaron's son, was given special responsibility for the light, sweet incense, daily meat offering, and anointing oil. He was also in charge of all the tabernacle, the sanctuary and vessels. This was passed down through the generations to sons of Eleazar.

Num 4:17 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Num 4:18 Cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites:

Num 4:19 But thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in, and appoint them every one to his service and to his burden:

Num 4:20 But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die.

We find the Lord speaking to both Moses and Aaron in verse 17. God tells them to not cut off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites. He both gave direction and protection for this family. He promises that if they (the sons of Kohath) obey Aaron and his sons, that this would bring them life and a good testimony. A final order is given in verse 20. They were not to look upon the holy things that had been covered.

All of the vessels and altar and things mentioned in this chapter that were covered were not to be uncovered by the sons of Kohath. That job was for the priests only. There were no exceptions to this rule. We can see this following over in the Church today. We are not to take God's Word and change it nor alter it in any way. It doesn't need improving, it needs to be obeyed.

III. Moses Numbers the Sons of Gershon

Num 4:21 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 4:22 Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families;

Num 4:23 From thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

We find the Lord speaking to Moses again in regards to the Levites. He tells Moses to number the sons of Gershon that were 30 to 50 years of age. This was another of the sons of Levi. I'm sure that Moses did not enjoy all of the census taking that God commanded him to do, but we have no record that he balked or questioned the Lord.

Sometimes our job in the work of God may not be glamorous or fun, but we have a responsibility to continue on and to do it. Last night after I left visiting my dad, I knew I needed to stop and make another visit, but my flesh told me to just go on and wait until another day. If we listen to our flesh, believe me, we won't ever do much for the Lord. By God's grace, I did stop and had a good visit before coming home to work on this lesson. It is crucial to let the Holy Spirit guide you in doing the work God would have us to do. God has specific work set aside for these sons of Gershon who were between 30 and 50.

Num 4:24 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve, and for burdens:

Num 4:25 And they shall bear the curtains of the tabernacle, and the tabernacle of the congregation, his covering, and the covering of the badgers' skins that is above upon it, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:26 And the hangings of the court, and the hanging for the door of the gate of the court, which is by the tabernacle and by the altar round about, and their cords, and all the instruments of their service, and all that is made for them: so shall they serve.

These were sons of Levi given specific duties concerning the tabernacle. Just as the sons of Kohath were to be the ones to move the ark of the testimony, these men had specific jobs to fulfill. They were to bear the curtains of the tabernacle and the covering and the covering of the badgers' skins that were above it. They were also in charge of the hanging for the door of the tabernacle as well as the hangings of the court and the hanging of the door of the gate of the court. Besides this, they were to take care of the cords and the instruments of their service.

Num 4:27 At the appointment of Aaron and his sons shall be all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their burdens, and in all their service: and ye shall appoint unto them in charge all their burdens.

Num 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation: and their charge shall be under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

These sons of Gershon were to be under the charge of Aaron and his sons. These were to be specifically in charge under the hand of Ithamar. Knowing who is in charge and being humble and willing to follow their lead is crucial in

being a good Christian. Bible warns us to be in subjection to those who are in authority over us.

Heb 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

1 Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1 Tim 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1 Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1 Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

IV. Responsibilities of the Sons of Merari

Num 4:29 As for the sons of Merari, thou shalt number them after their families, by the house of their fathers;

Num 4:30 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old shalt thou number them, every one that entereth into the service, to do the work of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 4:31 And this is the charge of their burden, according to all their service in the tabernacle of the congregation; the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and sockets thereof,

Num 4:32 And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords, with all their instruments, and with all their service: and by name ye shall reckon the instruments of the charge of their burden.

Just as Moses was to count the sons of Gershon, he was to count the sons of Merari that were of the age of 30 unto 50. These men were given specific jobs to do. They were to be in charge of the boards of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, and the sockets.

Also, they were to be in charge of the pillars of the court which was round about the tabernacle and their sockets, pins, cords, and all their instruments.

Num 4:33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service, in the tabernacle of the congregation, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

Just as the Gershonites were to be under the charge of the sons of Aaron, so were these sons of Merari. And they too were to be specifically under the charge of Ithamar, Aaron's son.

Matthew Henry had some good comments about the Gershonites and Merarites.

We have here the charge of the other two families of the Levites, which, though not so honourable as the first, yet was necessary, and was to be done regularly. 1. The Gershonites were charged with all the drapery of the tabernacle, the curtains, and hangings, and the coverings of badgers' skins, v. 22–26. These they were to take down when the cloud removed, and the ark and the rest of the holy things were carried away, to pack up and bring with them, and then to set up again, where the cloud rested. Aaron and his sons allotted to them their respective charge: "You shall take care of such a curtain, and you of such a hanging, that every one may know his work, and there may be no confusion," v. 27. Ithamar particularly was to take the oversight of them, v. 28. 2.

The Merarites were charged with the heavy carriage, the boards and bars, the pillars and sockets, the pins and cords, and these were delivered to them by name, v. 31, 32. An inventory was given them of every particular, that it might be forthcoming, and nothing to seek, when the tabernacle was to be set up again. Though these seemed of less importance than the other things pertaining to the sanctuary, yet there was this care taken of them, to teach us with the greatest exactness to preserve pure and entire all divine institutions, and to take care that nothing be lost. It also intimates the care God takes of his church, and every member of it; the good Shepherd *calls his own sheep by name*, Jn. 10:3.

Here were thousands of men employed about these services, though a much less number would have served for the bearing of those burdens; but it was requisite that the tabernacle should be taken down, and set up, with great expedition, and many hands would make quick work, especially when every one knew his work. They had tents of their own to take care of, and to take along with them, but the young men under thirty, and the old men above fifty, might serve for them; nor is there any mention of them, for God's house must always be preferred before our own. **iv**

V. Numbers in Each of the Three Families

Num 4:34 And Moses and Aaron and the chief of the congregation numbered the sons of the Kohathites after their families, and after the house of their fathers, Num 4:35 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation:

ivHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.

Num 4:36 And those that were numbered of them by their families were two thousand seven hundred and fifty.

Num 4:37 These were they that were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, which Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

We go back now to the first of the chapter where God told Moses and Aaron to count the number of men of the sons of Kohath who were 30 to 50 years of age. It says according to their families, there were 2,750 Kohathites. Verse 37 says this was the number who might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation. It truly was an honor to be able to serve in this capacity, just as it is an honor for us to be in work of the Lord today. Just as they were servants to help Aaron's sons, we are to be servants to help the Heavenly Father's son.

Mat 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Mat 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mat 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Num 4:38 And those that were numbered of the sons of Gershon, throughout their families, and by the house of their fathers,

Num 4:39 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:40 Even those that were numbered of them, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers, were two thousand and six hundred and thirty.

Num 4:41 These are they that were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, whom Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD.

The sons of Gershon from 30 to 50 were numbered throughout their families by the house of their father. The number of Gershonites was 2,630. They too were set apart to do service in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 4:42 And those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers,

Num 4:43 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:44 Even those that were numbered of them after their families, were three thousand and two hundred.

Num 4:45 These be those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

As with the sons of Kohath and Gershon, Moses also counted these men of Merari who were 30 to 50 years of age. The total came to 3,200. So each of these three groups were given a specific job.

J. Vernon McGee pointed out that each job is important in our service to the Lord.

When Israel came into camp, the Kohathites would put down the articles of furniture. Then Merari would come in with the boards and the bars and put up his part. Then Gershon would put on the coverings. Finally, the high priest would remove the veil and hang that. What a thrill it must have been to watch Israel come into camp. After forty years of practice they must have been pretty good at it.

As each Levite had his assignment, just so, every Christian has a gift and a job God wants him to do. I believe God will reward you for doing what He wants you to do. We are not to do what we choose to do, but we are to exercise the gifts that He has given us.

Suppose there was a fellow who carried that tent pin for the northwest corner of the tabernacle, and he got weary of his job. One day as he was driving in his pin, he said, "I'm tired of this. For twenty years now I've been carrying that tent pin. I come here in the morning, and loosen it and pull it out of the ground, put it on my shoulder, and take it over on the wagon with my family. Nobody seems to recognize how hard I work. Nobody rewards me for what I do.

Moses never has called me up and given me a medal. I'm tired of this job and I'm going to quit carrying this pin." One morning when they were taking down the tabernacle, his pin was hard to loosen from the ground and he got disgusted and left it there. He thought, "Nobody will pay any attention anyway. My job is not very important. All I do is carry a tent pin; so I think I'll just leave it today."

Can you imagine the problem that next evening? They would try to set up the tabernacle, but the northwest corner pin would not be there. The men would report it to Moses, and they would look up this man who was to carry that pin. Moses would ask, "Where is the tent pin?" and the man would answer, "I left it back there where we camped last night." Then Moses would ask him why he left it, and the man would answer, "I don't think that my job is really important." Moses would say, "Not important! We can't put up the tabernacle without it.

You will have to sit there all night holding that cord yourself because you are responsible for that tent pin!"

My friend, who is to determine who does the most important thing in God's service today? That man had been faithful for twenty years; then all of a sudden he just went haywire, and notice what it did to the setting up of the tabernacle. How many children of God today think their service is unimportant?

God is not going to reward you for the amount of work you have done, but for your faithfulness in doing that which He has called you to do. If you are carrying that tent pin from the northwest corner, don't forget to carry it today. The job the Lord has given you to do is very important to Him. v

Num 4:46 All those that were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chief of Israel numbered, after their families, and after the house of their fathers,

Num 4:47 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that came to do the service of the ministry, and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:48 Even those that were numbered of them, were eight thousand and five hundred and fourscore.

Num 4:49 According to the commandment of the LORD they were numbered by the hand of Moses, every one according to his service, and according to his burden: thus were they numbered of him, as the LORD commanded Moses.

It is interesting how none of these three families were involved in doing the work of the priests, but how important the job of each was. God ordained specific responsibilities for each to do in the tabernacle, and all were of tremendous importance to the children of Israel.

Just as none of these three families were in authority, their jobs were crucial to the function of the tabernacle. All church members are not in jobs of authority, but God has a purpose and reason for each one who is in the church. We all have different talents and abilities, and God uses each of us to accomplish His purposes.

1 Cor 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

1 Cor 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Cor 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

1 Cor 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

1 Cor 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

vJ. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

1 Cor 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.