

**1. Don't neglect your gifts and abilities. (4:13-14)**

- A. Give attention to the public reading of the Bible.
- It has always been the practice of God's people to read the Word of God out loud in the [congregation](#).
  - Yes they read the Bible in small groups (equivalent to our folds) and in catechism classes (equivalent to our Sunday School classes). But in addition to these, it has always been the practice of God's people to listen to the Word of God in the congregation.
- B. Give attention to teaching the people what the Bible [means](#).
- Teaching is providing instruction in either a formal or an informal setting.
  - The process is: read the Bible passage aloud publically so that everyone knows what it says, then teach the congregation what that Bible passage means.
- C. Give attention to exhorting the people to [obey](#) the Bible.
- The term exhort means to encourage someone [toward](#) a particular attitude or action.
  - The process is: read the Bible passage aloud publically so that everyone knows what it says, then teach them what it means and exhort everyone to do what it says.
    - What does it say? reading / [observation](#)
    - What does it mean? teaching / [interpretation](#)
    - What am I going to do about it? exhorting / [application](#)

**POINT: Don't ignore or be careless with your spiritual gifts and abilities. SHAPE**

**2. Use your gifts and abilities for the Lord. (4:15)**

- A. Give careful attention to your spiritual gifts.  
Be absorbed in the [use](#) of your spiritual gifts.
- B. Serving God with your SHAPE should not be an occasional foray into ministry, rather it the [pattern](#) of your life.
- C. "Take pains with" carries the ideas of thinking through beforehand, of planning, of strategizing, or premeditating. Be absorbed in it, totally engulfed, [all in](#).

**3. Watch your life, because others are.**

- A. They will watch you [grow](#).
- B. Watch your life closely, because the people you lead are watching your life.  
You want them to see you progressing spiritually because you want them to [follow](#) your good example.
- C. You'll ensure salvation for yourself and for those who hear you, not in the sense of earning God's forgiveness, rather in the sense of embracing and living the gospel.

Message

God has gifted you to give to others.

So What? Now What? Action Points:

- Write down your SHAPE. \_\_\_\_\_
- How will you give back what God has given you?