
THE GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION: NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS FOR THE VOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

By Donald Senior

Published by Liturgical Press, 200 pages, $21.49. In carrying out his role in leading his parish, a pastor assumes some important administrative responsibilities. Church law, Canon 519, tells us that a pastor’s role includes teaching, sanctifying and governing. Donald Senior’s excellent book The Gift of Administration: New Testament Foundations for the Vocation of Administrative Service, Senior not only extends Nouwen’s work to include all administrative functions but also convincingly supports his line of reasoning by frequent references to New Testament passages. People with the gift of administration plan strategies, organize, coordinate, delegate, and supervise ministry efforts. A position or title isn’t necessary. They would not all be labeled as administrators but nonetheless do administrative work. Lesson to be learned: Let’s be careful we do not pigeon-hole the use of spiritual gifts into positions. A spiritual gift can be used in a paid or volunteer position, full or part-time. A spiritual gift can be used by someone with or without a title, in a recognized ministry position or not. Although the emphasis of this book is on an especially introduction, we have included a brief outline or a summary of each New Testament document, sometimes providing a rationale for the choices we have made. In each case we have provided a brief account of current studies on the book and have indicated something of the theological contribution that each New Testament document makes to the canon. Our ultimate concern is that new generations of theological students will gain a better grasp of the Word of God.
