

Salt Church

Romans 12:6-8

“The Gifts that Keep on Giving”

April 12, 2026

The Greatest Book Ever Written

David and Cindy (June 6-14)

Recap

Romans 12:1-5

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. ³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In five verses Paul, under the power of the Holy Spirit sets the tone for chapter 12.

Here is what we learned:

- To give yourself as a “living and holy sacrifice” means you live as though you are dead.
- Meaning, you put to death those things that lead your heart and mind to sin.
 - And the motivation for all of this is Gods unfailing grace and mercy upon your life.
 - This leads to “true worship” that the Lord finds acceptable.
- We also learned that the greatest form of worship is obedience.
 - This obedience is fueled by **love for the Father** and not begrudging submission, **is the fruit of the child of God.**
- To walk in His grace and mercy compels us to live a life that is a holy sacrifice unto Him.
 - All of this forces change.
 - The change comes through transformation,
 - a renewing of our minds.
 - We spent a great deal of time on that phrase.
 - We discovered it is an essential and ongoing process for every child of God.
 - **The renewing of our mind starts in our heart** for it is our heart that determines the attitude of the mind.
 - Thus, **we concluded that we needed a new heart** that beats for the Lord and His desires and not our own.
 - This new heart is one of the many graces that the Father gives to His children.
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Now we come to today's text

- Paul transitions from the renewal of the mind to the gifts which are given in grace.
- I have never met anyone who has been blessed with all seven gifts, but I have known people that were gifted in some degree of all seven.
 - **Let's look at them together:**

Romans 12:6-21

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

- We need to remember that Paul is talking to Christians
 - Therefore, the grace in which he speaks **is not saving grace** but rather **the love of the Father** who dispenses gifts as He see's fit.
 - It is also important to recognize that God gives all His children gifts.
 - Why?
 - **Because He has not called us to be spectators, He has called us to participators.**
 - All of us have been given something to give and we will find our greatest joy when we get in the game!

Paul continues

So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

prophéteia: Prophecy

Pronunciation: prof-ay-ti'-ah

KJV: prophecy, prophesying

NASB: prophecy, prophecies, prophesying, prophetic utterance,

– properly, what is clarified beforehand; prophecy which involves divinely-empowered forthtelling (asserting the mind of God) or foretelling (prediction).

It is important to understand that this could mean prophecy within the boundaries of the Old Testament prophets **“Thus sayth The Lord”**

- It can also mean “forthtelling”
 - Meaning we can study Matthew 24 and discern from Jesus what the end of time will look like and proclaim it.
 - The same can be said about the book of Revelation.
 - We conclude that at times Bible teachers, preachers, and Sunday School teachers are proclaiming prophecy simply by teaching the Word of God.

***BUT**, if a man or a woman proclaims the Old Testament gifting of prophecy and proclaims wild and unbelievable things, those things should be tested.*

- We are commanded by scripture in:

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

- Those verses reveal a simple truth:

- Not everything that is said in God's name is from Him.
 - Those that are not from God are evil in His sight.
- So, when someone gives you a word from the Lord and it does not come true, they are a liar and it is evil.
 - I have heard a lot of them in recent years:
 - Trump was going to be reinstated as president in March of President Joe Bidens 1st year
 - There was supposed to be a massive food shortage in America a few years ago. (never happened)
 - On and on it goes and sadly all in the name of the Lord.

Because Paul has coupled prophecy with serving, teaching, encouragement, giving, leading, and kindness I am led to believe that Paul is referring to the practical “forthtelling” part of prophecy.

- Teaching Revelation, Daniel, and Matthew 24 etc...
- Paul commands through the power of the Holy Spirit to “***speaking out with as much faith as God has given you.***”

○ **What does that mean?**

- It means as your faith grows you understand scripture more and more each time you study it.
- Paul is saying, speak out with as much faith (**understanding**) that you have.
 - You may not fully understand the rapture of the church, but you can speak to what you do understand.

Why would this be important that we understand?

- If we wait until we have the full and complete knowledge of scripture we would never speak out.
 - **Teach what you know and understand.**
 - Tell people that Jesus is going to call His church home soon.
 - There will be seven years of tribulation in which God is going to unleash both grace and judgment.
 - Use it to call people to repentance.
 - Use it to wake up the sleeping Christian.

There is nothing hocus pocus about this,

- The Lord is calling us to use all that He has given us.

7If your gift is serving others, serve them well.

- “Diakonia” it is the Greek word in which we get deacon.
- It means to serve.
 - Serving takes time
 - The office of deacon was created **so the Apostles could devote themselves to prayer and the teaching of God’s word.**
 - The church cannot survive without deacons and deaconesses.
 - They are the unsung heroes of the church.
 - The clean, visit, pray for and pray with, they fix, build, and encourage.

- They keep everything headed in the right direction so that leaders can hear and teach from the Lord and His Word.
 - More on this in a minute.
- **One last thing about Deacons and Deaconesses**
 - **The Lord sees you.**
 - Every little act of Love is received as an act of love for Him.
 - **He loves you**
 - And your pastor loves you and is very grateful for you and all that you do.

If you are a teacher, teach well.

- There are only two things that separate deacons from elders
 - **Maturity**
 - **The ability to teach**
 - Both are required to be of good character, faithful, devoted to prayer, slow in temper, not given to drunkenness, and eager to serve.
 - But the elder must be able to teach.
- **But not all teachers are elders**
 - **But all elders are to be teachers.**
 - The way we look at deacons here at Salt is this:
 - Deacons are the pool from which the elders come from.
 - Not all deacons will become elders

- But from this point forward all elders will have a history of serving as a deacon.
- Why?
 - At the heart of every deacon and elder is the desire to serve others.

Okay Pastor, what's the difference between the teacher and the prophet?

- **Both must proclaim truth**

- The greatest difference would be the ability to consistently proclaim truth through systematic instruction on a regular basis from God's Word. (**Prophets receive give and move on**)
 - Teachers (on the other hand) are always preparing to teach whereas the prophet may be called into action or may not.
 - Both must be ready but only the teacher leaves one lesson ready to prepare the next.
 - It has been by experience that most teachers are forth-tellers.
 - Meaning there is almost always a little prophecy within their teaching.

Pastors must have the gift of teaching

- If they do not, they will spend much of their time trying to entertain.
 - I have seen this and it's not a pretty thing.
 - It is not good for the churches they pastor.

8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging.

- Some of your Bibles say, “exhort others” and I think that is a better translation.
 - Encouragement can be part of exhortation, but it is not always the focus.
- **The Greek word is parakaleo** (to call someone to your side)
- The Holy Spirit was called (paraklet) which means advocate, comforter, helper) one who comes to your side.
 - From Jesus we understand that the one who exhorts needs the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as to when to be a comfort or a firm word is needed.
 - Whether it be soft or firm the words are always driven from a heart that genially cares for people.
- Barnabas was a natural exhorter and encourager
 - He encouraged almost always
 - But when he and the Apostle Paul disagreed over Mark, he offered firm words to the great Apostle who later admitted that Barnabas was correct.

If it is giving, give generously.

- Normally the Greek word for giving is ***didomi***
 - In this case Paul uses ***meta-didomi***
 - Why?
 - ***It means to give sacrificially of oneself.***
 - John the Baptist called the masses to “***meta-didomi***”

- ***“If you have two coats and someone has none **meta-didomi** (be generous and give them a coat)”***
- ***“If you have plenty of food and your neighbor has none **meta-didomi** (be generous and feed them)”***

(Side note)

- ***In my opinion this is one of the major areas that the Church dropped the ball.***
 - We send people to cold government programs that give food and shelter with no council on how to climb out of the hole.
 - We have missed a real opportunity here.
 - And there are local churches that do have food and clothing banks (**we should help them** and not form our own unless the Lord calls us to that ministry)
- ***By the way there is a Holy Spirit filled balance here.***
 - If you do nothing but give all the time you are not helping, you are hurting.
 - We should couple our giving with encouragement and **solid hope in Jesus Christ** and not the government.
 - While teaching people that it is NOT okay to be lazy.
 - In other words **“helping can hurt”** if we are not careful.

The last thing I would say here as it relates to giving generously is this:

- ***Giving should never come from “begrudging submission.”***

- God is not glorified in begrudging submission.
 - Giving should come from a joy filled heart that wants to be a part of what God is doing.
 - ***Nor should this become an excuse not to give.***
 - In other words when the time comes to give you should not say, ***“I would like to give but it’s just not my gifting.”***
 - Most people who say such things have the gift “taking”
 - They will take all day everyday but when it comes time to give back, suddenly they do not have the gift of giving.

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.

- The Greek word (proistemi) **Pronunciation: pro-IS-tay-mee to stand in front of**
 - In 1 Corinthians 12 the word used for the gift of leadership is ***kubernts*** which means to pilot.
 - In their day it would have meant to pilot a ship.
 - Both point to leading, navigating, or guiding.
- The second part of leadership is ***“take the responsibility seriously.”***
 - Most Bible’s translate this ***“do it with diligence.”***
 - What does that mean?
 - In the Greek the word is
- **spoudé:**

- **Pronunciation:** spoo-DAY

KJV: (earnest) care(-fulness), diligence, forwardness, haste

NASB: earnestness, diligence, hurry, effort

Word Origin: to hurry

- **What we learn from the Greek is this:**
- Leadership should be understood as, “It is a gift from God distributed by the Holy Spirit.”
- The gift of leadership should be executed with “spoude” careful, diligence, and haste.
 - Meaning “*get to it and lead!*”

And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

eleeó: To have mercy, to show compassion, to be merciful.

Pronunciation: el-eh-eh'-o

KJV: have compassion (pity on), have (obtain, receive, show) mercy (on)

Word Origin: mercy

1. to have or show compassion (by word or deed)
2. (specially) by divine grace

hilarotés: Cheerfulness, Joyfulness

Pronunciation: hi-lar-ot'-ace

KJV: cheerfulness

NASB: cheerfulness

Word Origin: cheerful

Paul, through the power of the Holy Spirit is saying that some people have been given the gift of mercy.

- This is not to say that we all are not commanded by God to show mercy because we are.
 - Rather this is saying that some are **especially merciful**.
 - Not only are they especially merciful but they do it with “cheerfulness” within their hearts.

Putting it all together:

Romans 12 (high lights)

I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

- Giving our bodies as a living sacrifice means that there has been a change on the inside that has affected the outside.
- You can see it
 - Others can see it.
 - This is true worship
 - The greatest form of worship is obedience

changing the way you think.

- The renewing of the mind
 - Allowing God’s Word to change the way you process life and everything that comes with it.
 - It changes everything and it is never complete.
 - ***Meaning the renewing process continues until you take your last breath***

Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves,

- Few things are more difficult than being about ourselves
 - For some, pride and false humility are the enemy
 - For others it is the exact opposite
 - Self-loathing, self-pity, and the constant belittling of oneself has become the enemy.
 - **Both are sinful and wrong!**
- This is why we are commanded to be honest with ourselves.

⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

- For those who think they have nothing to offer Paul says, “God has given you different gifts.”
 - How sad it would be for you to be given a gift from God
 - and you to arrive before Him
 - and He ask you what you did with the gift that He gave you and your response be “nothing my Lord”

So, if God has given you the ability to **prophecy**, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

- If God has revealed truth to you through His word “SPEAK OUT!”
 - Teach them truth
 - Teach them what you know

⁷If your gift is **servicing others**, serve them well.

- If serving is your gift then serve

- You're not going to be happy until you do!
 - Why?
 - Because it is what you were created to do.
 - **The happiest people in the world are those that serve others!**

If you are a **teacher**, teach well.

- Teachers teach all the time
 - This what they were created to do
 - This is their area of service
 - Unlike the prophet who comes with what God has given them for a certain moment the teacher never runs out of material.
 - Teachers should teach often and regularly.

⁸If your gift is to **encourage others**, be encouraging.

- Encouragers or exhorters will always be welcome by most everyone
- They speak life into people
- They build up
- They motivate
- They remind us of Gods unfailing love when we need it most.
- They see God's loving hand even in the most difficult days.
 - Everyone needs Barnabas in their life.

If it is giving, give generously.

- Givers are most happy when they give

- They give from a grateful heart
- They give because they understand that everything, we have has been given to us
- They give generously because of God generosity to them

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.

- Leaders lead with joy because it is what they are called to do
- Leadership, like the others is a gift from God
- God's command on leaders is to lead with diligence and with haste
 - In other words, don't sit back and wait, get out there and lead the people God has given you.
 - Be proactive not reactive

And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

- Where would we be without mercy?
 - We all are commanded by God to show mercy
 - But some of us have been given the gift of mercy meaning we have **a double portion of God's goodness as it relates to mercy.**
 - The command on our lives is to show mercy when others refuse
 - Show mercy when others refuse and do it with gladness in your heart.
 - ***Where would the church be without mercy.***