

## Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

Rom 12:1-8

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Rom 3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Who was Paul speaking to? The local church!

He's already told them to be transformed by the renewing of the mind.

**Now Paul is saying that it's time to put that transformation into action.**

The Lord will not leave you in your current state in terms of position.

**Example: the disciples.**

- They were fishermen, at least 7 of the 12 were fishermen.
- Jesus transformed their life.
- They became fishers of men.

**Fishers of men was a term which meant to seek and persuade men and “catch” them with the truth.**

**A fisherman catches living fish then the fish die.**

- However, a Christian catches dead fish
- Then the Lord brings them to life.

**Then he says, don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought to.**

**It would be tempting to become puffed up if God gave you a Spiritual gift that not many have.**

**Remember, we can’t heal anyone, the Lord heals!**

**I think of Simon in the book of Acts (8:20).**

**Acts 8:18-19**

**18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."**

**God’s gifts are freely given to His people**

**In fact,**

- God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

**Notice also that he says to think soberly. This means to**

- use sound judgement (come to a sound conclusions)
- and be self-disciplined.

**When using the same Greek word in:**

- 1 Pet 4:7 (still speaking about serving for God’s glory) Peter uses the term **to be serious and watchful**
- Titus 2:6 uses the term **“sober minded.” He said to exhort the young men to be sober minded. (that is to be of sound mind and self-disciplined)**

**Soberly is used 6 times in the NT. Two of the six times it’s used in the gospels where a demon possessed man was freed of the demons and is sitting at the feet of Jesus and is described as being in his right mind.**

**The only reason we are anything is because**

- God has given us his grace.

**4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,**

**We are all members of one body, but we don't have the same function.**

**Octopus have many members, one body.**

**The human body is much more complex. Then we have the body of Christ. That's you and me, the believer. We each have a function within the body of Christ.**

**The Lord intended there to be an interdependence among ourselves.**

**Do you have the attitude that I could get by without the body of Christ?**

- That wouldn't be the renewed mind.

**This is why the scriptures say that iron sharpens iron. We need each other: Prov 27:17 says that Iron sharpens Iron.**

**As a Christian, we need friends that will be brutally honest with us.**

**Keep in mind, when there are lot of people in the body it's going to get messy.**

**First Corinthians chapters 12 & 14 speak about spiritual gifts and**

- and chapter 13 is about Love and fruit.
- Spiritual gifts go along with love and fruit
- We need the fruit of love.
- It's important that we learn to be members of the body.

**5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.**

**6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;**

**Paul says, "hey," let's use the gifts that the Lord has given us.**

**1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

**Paul talked about speaking and then he talked about ministering or serving.**

**God now expects you to use your gifts to serve Him.**

**So he says in 6b let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;**

**This is a specific faith that He gives us to operate in.**

- Paul says in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14 spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet.

**This means that you couldn't say that**

- I couldn't help it because I was out of control.
- As a spirit filled person you're always in control.

**Think about this when speaking,**

- will this edify the body of Christ,
- Will this promote the body of Christ,
- will this bless the body of Christ?

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

**In Acts 6 people were serving tables and they were ministering the word.**

- **Both serving and ministering** are the same word,
- Greek - diakonia (to serve, to wait upon).

**The Lord is the one that directs the service.**

**He's the one that give those gifts.**

**What is important is that in your relationship to God,**

- ask yourself, how do I serve them?

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation he who gives, with liberality (James 1:5 If anyone lacks wisdom, ask); he who leads, with diligence he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

(Greek - parakaléō, exhortation: whoever calls alongside.)

**Who gives the gifts in Romans? The Father.**

- In Ephesians 4 the gifts come from the Son,
- then in 1 Corinthians the gifts come from the Holy Spirit.

God is the source of all the gifts.

**What is the purpose of the gifts,**

- to edify and build up the body.

**Each of us has a**

- different past and
- a different path that
- we've taken to arrive where we are today.