

Gifted for a Reason

Romans 12:3-11

- In first two messages of our series gifted for a reason we learned what makes us special > that we all have been “**graciously endowed**” and that Webster’s describes an endowment as funds or property donated to an individual, institution, or group, to produce income. So likewise God has given to us spiritual Gifts in order to produce spiritual health and growth within the body of Christ, that will further the Kingdom, which to God is the equivalent of producing income.
- There’s a lot of controversy about the gifts which is why Paul said He didn’t want the church to be ignorant concerning them, I guess that’s why in three different places from Romans, 1Corinthians and Ephesians he spoke about them. In fact in 1Corinthians alone Paul dedicated 3 chapters alone explaining what they are and how to properly use them and yet with all of this detailed instructions we still cannot agree about what Paul meant when he wrote about them.

V3-11

- **V3-5** Romans chapter **12** is all about how God expects believers to conduct themselves as individuals and with each other, woven within the thread of this is a detailed account of believers exercising the spiritual gifts that God has bestowed upon us. The first **2** verses of the chapter refer to **our relationship to God**, the next **14** verses speak to **our relationship to other believers**, and the final **5** verses talk about **our relationship to our enemies**.
- We’re going to focus on what Paul said concerning our relationship with other believers, first Paul wants us to take an honest evaluation and make sure that there isn’t some thought, idea, or opinion that causes us to elevate ourselves above anyone else. Paul understands the temptation we all face even within the church when it comes to spiritual giftedness. I can think of very few things that can destroy an individual, ministry, or move of God faster than someone getting an inflated view of oneself that leads to an attitude that no one can correct them.
- Instead he says lets think “**soberly**” > means sound judgment, it comes from the root term that means to think safely of oneself, basically its telling us in order to have an honest assessment of self we need to remain humble, that we will be teachable in order to avoid embracing the dreaded prideful opinion of oneself that all of us are prone to from time to time.
- **V4-5** this will allow us to be able to enjoy the diversity in the body, and let it bring unity to the body, and not division or separation, as we are all a part of one another. **V6** we went over the gift of Prophecy last week how it’s one of the sign gifts where someone has received direct revelation from God and has transmitted it to others, also it’s not just **foretelling** the **future** but also **forth telling** the **present** which comes from speaking truth straight out of scripture.

- **V7** I like how Paul transitions from being humble and not prideful, with the gift of ministering which is the same as helps in **1Cor 12**. It carries the meaning of filling in where you see a need, whenever you can give assistance lend a hand you do, and especially when you can support the weak or needy. **1Pet 4:11**- Peter said “of any man speak let him speak as the oracles of God, if any man minister (serve) let him do it as of the ability which God gives. You have those with speaking gifts and you have those with serving gifts, each are expected to use them for God.
- **Teaching gift** is the ability to explain clearly and apply effectively the truth of the Word of God; the key is clear, effective, truth. This of course falls into the speaking gifts. **V8** Notice **Exhortation** falls in line right after **teaching**, for teaching has to do with **instruction** while **exhortation encourages** people to practice what they’ve been taught, both is necessary for the body of Christ to mature and live a healthy Christian life. For if you lack the encouragement and have the teaching than the Word can come across as a suggestion and not commandments from the Lord, I hear preachers speak and then apologize for what scripture says
- **V8** the **gift of giving**, all of us are expected to be givers of our time, talents and treasures, but this speaks of someone who has been blessed with both the desire and resources to support projects, ministries, and people. I love how it includes with liberality, or simplicity, that means its without strings attached, they are not guilted into it or forced, but rather this is something their doing without any pretenses, its honest, as they just want to be a blessing.
- The **gift of leadership** or government, notice it says with diligence, leaders must persevere and not give up when things get difficult, also to be Godly leaders they must not seek to be bosses but instead we practice servant leadership. What does that look like? **Mk 10:42-45**- the world does not model this type of leadership, as the goal is to be a boss and not one who serves, but Jesus gives us a different perspective as we shouldn’t seek to be great or lord over others but be servants, this will allow the Lord’s testimony to speak louder into people’s ears and hearts.
- The **gift of mercy** is when disaster hits you can’t help but feel empathy but also has the wherewithal to go and be of assistance to whoever is suffering. Again this gift is not alone but accompanied with cheerfulness, so you have people who come alongside people and help with a need but they also are complaining or bemoaning how they had to do so much, the person with this gift are glad that their able to be used in such a manner and praise God in the midst.
- **V9-11** the last three verses share how were to behave in society, let our love be without hypocrisy, love with hypocrisy isn’t real love anyway, and in order to detest evil one must cling means stick, be glued, to what is good, and that is especially clear in our day and age. **V10 Jn 13:35** Jesus said how we treat and love one another is how the world will know we follow Him. Finally when serving the Lord there should be two things evident > **1st consistency, 2nd Zeal**, there should not be slothfulness when it comes to the Lord, fervent in spirit, means boiling over