

Gifted for a Reason Pt 5

1Peter 4:8-11

V8-11

- We've covered all of the gifts except **3 > Hospitality, Shepherding and Evangelism**, I believe that each one of these gifts opens the door for the other to be exercised. Remember the gifts are given to us for our **Sanctification** – set apart for Christ, **Purification**- made more like Christ, our **Edification**- become strong in Christ and our **Unification**- all linked up to Christ. According to **Ephesians 4** failure to know and use our gifts not only negatively affects the church but will also hinder the lost from hearing the truth that only true believers can share > **Jude 1:3**.
- **Hospitality** - is mentioned in several places like **Rom 12:13**- where its listed after Paul says the saints should rejoice in hope, be patient in trials, continue to consistently pray, give to the needy, be given to hospitality. When thinking of hospitality we often think it's having people over for a meal and yes that can be part of it but definitely not all of it, in fact to exhibit the gift of hospitality one must desire to be involved in people's lives, that means to enter into someone else's feeling other than my own, oh oh, I don't know if I want to go there, as that can be scary!
- **Hospitality** has a lot to do with fellowship, and real fellowship is much more than giving someone a pat on the back or a pound and a handshake, and then saying "**oh I talked with such and such**". It means sharing the burdens and blessings of others and being involved in each other's lives as we grow and glorify the Lord together > **Heb 6:10-12** how we are to show love to one another, and the writer calls the effort needed to show love to each other as labor or work, it's not easy to serve each other or for others to serve us, it takes a lot of effort to get involved.
- **V11** says were to do this not just for a season but it should be a lifestyle just as it was for our Lord Jesus Christ. **V12** the natural tendency is for us to become sluggish in our efforts to serve each other as we get tired, but he says remember the Godly examples we have in scripture and in our lives, those we admire who push us to be better in those seasons when we don't feel like doing better. A great example of this is found in **1Pet 4:8-11**- the Roman Emperor Nero is wreaking havoc on the Christians and people are afraid and discouraged, so Peter writes a letter.
- In **4:8** "**above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins**". In difficult and trying times where people are desperate, hungry and needy, people tend to retreat inward and become selfish and protective of what they have. Those who don't have begin to point the finger at those who do have, and division develops rather quickly, Peter's answer to all the turmoil was love more and be hospitable to each other without complaining. In fact when we share with others we share with Christ > **Math 25:35**, and when we don't we neglect Christ > **Math 25:43**- missing the opportunity to serve Him

- **Lk 14:12-14-** says you don't do it so that someone can return the favor, but you involve yourself in people's lives who may not be able to repay the favor, so you're doing it to be a blessing and not to get something in return. **V10** Peter like Paul says Christian love must result in service as every believer has at least one gift and were expected to use it for the glory of God and the building up of the Church, as Notice he calls us "**stewards of the manifold grace of God**".
- The Grace of God in this instance is God graciously entrusting these gifts to us that we might use them for the benefit and blessing of His church, for in calling us stewards meant He expects us be giving us the spiritual ability to develop our gifts in order to faithfully serve His body. **V11** Peter like Paul acknowledges the diversity of the body and in the special endowments God has given to us, as he illustrates that there are speaking gifts and serving gifts and both are important to the church, in fact the way Peter describes them their equally important.
- If anyone speaks let them do so knowing they are representing the Lord in what they say, this shows the importance God places on our words, and those who serve let them do the very best that they possibly can do relying on the Lord to supply the strength and energy and not they themselves trying to muster it up. By doing so this is how the Lord is glorified as we are edified, and the church is being sanctified as we grow in God's grace and in His love and mercy.
- As I close we see not everyone is a teacher or preacher but were all called to be witnesses for Christ, there are those behind the scenes ministries that help to make the more public ministries possible, as God gives us the gifts, abilities, and the opportunities to use the gifts but He alone must receive the glory. As to God there is no such thing as any ministry or gift more important than the other, for to Him there is no big or small ministry, no better or lesser gift, there is either faithful or unfaithful in the duties that He has called each of His children to serve in period!