



Ready, Set Grow: Serve
1 Peter 4:10, 11

God Commands us to Serve

Mark 10:45 says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." As Jesus humbly and lovingly served, we must do the same. 1 Peter 4:10 and Galatians 5:13 command us to serve one another. Jesus' parables of the talents (Matt 25:14-30) and minas (Luke 19:11-27) teach us God commands us to use the gifts He's given us as we wait for His return.

God Enables us to Serve

1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 4:7-16 and 1 Peter 4:10,11 teach us about spiritual gifts. According to God's will, He has gifted each Christian with at least one spiritual gift when he/she is saved. This is in addition to the natural talents we are born with and the acquired gifts we learn throughout life. No Christian is given all the gifts, and we are given different gifts so that we must work together. As we use our gifts, we build each other up, strengthen the church and advanced God's purposes and kingdom.

Our Service must be motivated by Love

Paul makes it clear in 1 Corinthians 13 that we never use our gifts for selfish reasons. They must always be used in love for others and their benefit. If not, our work is useless.

God Rewards us When we Serve

One day we will each stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10 see also Rom 14:10b-12). We won't be judged for our sins, they've been forgiven. Our service and good works will be judged. Paul teaches some works will be rewarded and other works will not. They'll "be burned up" (1 Cor 3:10-15). Works enabled by God and motivated by love are the ones that will be rewarded. The parables of the talents, minas and vineyard workers (Matthew 20:1-16) also teach God rewards his faithful servants.

We are Most United When we Serve

As Christians, we divide ourselves over how to worship God. We divide ourselves into different theological camps based on how we interpret the Bible. We divide our churches into different denominations. When we gather, we tend to divide ourselves into groups based on common interest and life experiences. Why? Because in these things we tend to think about ourselves and our preferences. But when we serve, we are focused on others and the walls that divide us come down!

Finding a Place to Serve

These are the spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. However, I believe these are examples Paul used. They are not all the gifts.

A Pla	Ephesians 4:11	Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	1 Corinthians 12:27-31
Speaking	Apostles	Prophecy	Wisdom	Apostles
Service	Prophets	Service	Knowledge	Prophets
	Evangelists	Teaching	Faith	Teachers
	Pastors	Encouraging	Healing	Workers of Miracles
	Teachers	Giving to needs	Miraculous Powers	Healing
		Leading	Prophecy	Helping Others
		Showing Mercy	Distinguishing Spirits	Administration
			Speaking in Tongues	Speaking in Tongues
			Interpretation of Tongues	

Although some people are gifted in these areas, **ALL** Christians are commanded to do some of them.

Gifts Given to Some	Commands Given to All
Ministering	Serve one another (Gal 5:13)
Encouraging	Encourage one another (Heb 10:25)
Giving	All give (2 Cor 9:7)
Teaching	Great Commission (Matt 28:19)
Showing Mercy	Be kind (Eph 4:32)
Faith	Walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7)
Evangelism	All Witness (Acts 1:8)

Ask these questions:

What am I good at?

What am I passionate about?

What need do I see in my family, church or community?

How can I use my passion and gifts to meet those needs?

The best way to learn what you are good at is to start serving anywhere! What's more important than what gifts you have is that you're committed to God and willing to serve.

