

**The Way**  
Maturity of the Church  
**Lesson 28: Believers Should Use the Gifts God Has Given Them**

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

### Review (Where We've Been)

In Romans 1-11 we learned what God has done FOR US...

- He's forgiven of all our sins and accepted as perfectly righteous
- He's given us peace with Himself
- He made it so that we no longer have to live as slaves to sin
- He provides help, assurance, and security through the work of Christ

Because of all God has done **FOR US**, what does He expect **FROM US**?

**Romans 12:1 (ESV)** ...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

This surrender and spiritual worship begins in the heart...

**Romans 12:2 (ESV)** ...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

...and then is demonstrated in our behavior toward others.

### BIG Idea

Today we're discussing how offering ourselves to God is demonstrated in our behavior toward the church.

To accomplish this, Paul requires us to imagine the church as a body.

**1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT)** The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

For the church to be fully functional as ONE BODY, all PARTS must be operational.

How do the parts function? By discovering and using their spiritual gift(s).

**What are spiritual gifts?** Divine abilities given by the Holy Spirit to all believers for use in building and benefiting the church body for the glory of God

## Information (What You Need to Know)

### What does Paul teach concerning spiritual gifts?

#### ▪ **Spiritual gifts are to be used with humility**

**Romans 12:3 (ESV)** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

- ✓ Paul's own giftedness and authority was bestowed upon him by God
- ✓ Paul recognized that spiritual gifts can cause pride by thinking that a person's giftedness is more significant than someone else's
- ✓ There is no room for exaggerating our own importance in the body of Christ
- ✓ Realize that God has assigned a gift(s) to you  
"Every believer receives the exact gift and resources he needs to fulfill his role in the body of Christ." – John MacArthur

#### ▪ **Spiritual gifts are to be understood as diverse** (collectively meet needs)

**Romans 12:4 (ESV)** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

*Three truths about spiritual gift togetherness...*

- ✓ There should be *unity* in the church body
- ✓ But there is a *diversity* in the members of the body
- ✓ Unity and diversity should bring about *dependency* on each other  
"Each member profits from what the other members contribute to the whole. Reflection on these truths reduces preoccupation with one's own gift and makes room for appreciation of other people and the gifts they exercise."- The Bible Expositor's Commentary

#### ▪ **Spiritual gifts are to be used**

**Romans 12:6 (ESV)** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- ✓ **Prophecy** (preaching)  
"With the completion of the New Testament, prophesying **changed** from *declaring new revelation to declaring the completed revelation God has already given.*" – Got Questions

✓ **Service**

The ability to serve others with practical actions

**Acts 6:1 (NLT)** But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. **3** And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility.

✓ **Teaching**

This is the ability to clearly instruct the church to understand and obey the Word of God. They help members of the church grow in their understanding of who God is, what He has done for them, and how to live in obedience God.

✓ **Exhortation**

This gift is used to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith. This gift uplifts, motivates, challenges, and rebukes others to nurture spiritual maturity and action.

✓ **Giving**

“These individuals share the overflow of blessings God has given them. They seek out opportunities to help others. They are excellent stewards and willing to adjust their lifestyle in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy.” – Spiritual Gifts Discovery

✓ **Leadership**

“This is the ability which the Holy Spirit gives to some to guide and lead the local church in the work of the Lord. Those who are leaders should do this work with real sincerity, diligence and determination.” – Firm Foundations

✓ **Mercy**

“This individual is patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering. They have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of those who are hurting. They are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process.” – Spiritual Gift Discovery

## Application (What You Need to Do)

### *Steps to Use Your Spiritual Gift(s)...*

- Develop your gift (look for examples in Scripture and use it)
- Practice it anywhere at anytime
- Rejoice in the collective use of spiritual gifts in this church