

## **Gifts of Grace Romans 12:3-8**

**Intro:** Context is key!

- Today we are talking about finding God's will for you in the church.
- When the Holy Spirit filled the church in Acts 2 He came bearing gifts
- So let us be sure that we are living a life worthy of Christ

### **Romans 12:3-8 ESV**

**3 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. 4 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, 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.**

#### **I. Be who God created you to be v.3**

- This part is easy to understand, but sometimes hard to live out.
- Hard to live out because, with good intentions sometimes we want to be someone we are not.
- Be cool with who God made you to be in the church.
- Whatever the role is....it is essential to your church

#### **II. In our spiritual gifts we are all different 4-6a**

- In Faith
  - Some people have a capacity to trust God more than others.
  - Because of that they are able to see God do greater things.
- in Function... This goes back to being good with the gift given you.

#### **III. Use your gift. v.6-8**

Prophecy: Preaching for conviction of sin. Prophets did not mainly tell the future. They delivered God's message which was usually corrective in nature. Prophets have to have thick skin, God's message is not always well received. Lots of rejection.

Service: The queen isn't the queen without all the worker bees doing their thing. In the church we our allotment of leaders. Leaders aren't leading if they don't have people gifted in lifting them up. \*Aaron and Hur

Teaching: Teachers take the complex and make it simple...they have the amazing capacity to take that which is hard to understand and digest...maybe even something a prophet has said...and make it practical and usable.

Exhorting: These are our church cheerleaders. They have the grace of seeing sunshine on the darkest of days. You look forward to seeing them on Sunday and shaking their hand. They bring gladness and cheer wherever they go. They are essential to the morale of the army of God. Personally I think a lot of them end up on the worship team or as greeters.

Contributing: The Lord's work is not done in a vacuum. There were many unnamed people who were in Jesus' entourage. Many of them women. People who gave whatever was needed to support the ministry. To make sure kids went to camp, workers got to the mission field, the poor were fed and clothed. I'm privileged to know who these people who operate in the shadows are. But they single handedly and discreetly keep the church moving forward.

Leading: These people are easy to spot. We've been generously blessed with them. People who are naturally bossy, right? Yeah, but when gifted spiritually, have a humility about them which makes them a joy to serve and follow.

Mercy: Blessed are the merciful! They have an eye and a heart for those who are hurting. Not always apparent to everyone. But these...they can sniff out pain and suffering like a hound dog can smell a hog from a mile away.

## **Conclusion:**

- What a privilege it is to be able to work for the King!
- To be counted worthy of such service, in whatever capacity is an honor.
- AXIOS. In English it's Worthy.

## **Col. 1:9-12 ESV**

**9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

Axios is a term of measurement...weight...scales...equal value to.

- This pleases Him

- This causes us to bear fruit

I pray that when the Lord comes back He would find every one of us Axios. Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.

Going back to last week: If you are willing to find God's will, then you will use your giftedness for the Kingdom of God. Your gift wasn't given to you to be hidden. But to be used for God's glory!