

Transformed

You Are My Gifted Child

“However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly: if prophecy, in proportion to one’s faith; if service, in the act of serving; or the one who teaches, in the act of teaching; or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” -Romans 12:6-8

If there be any comparison, let us compare what we as the Body of Christ can do together rather than without each other.¹ Compare what we can do by faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, rather than in our flesh; Compare what we can do living as the Church, redeemed through Christ as light and salt in this fallen world.

Romans 12 speaks to our hearts about our personal responsibilities in sacrificial living and love. It’s a call to put theology to practice, as God’s unified family, not alone. If one suffers, all suffer.² It’s not an act of the will, but an act of worship. Worship that overflows from a surrendered and grateful heart, trusting His will is better than our will. God knew we needed a way out from the death penalty of sin.³ So, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for each one of us, so that we each may have eternal life by faith in what He has done.⁴ Have you received this gift? Then live led by His Holy Spirit Whom, Jesus promised sealed you at the day of your salvation when you received His gift.⁵ Live for an audience of One. Live loving Him and loving others, whom He created and loves.⁶ The same power that raised Christ from the dead empowers you as a believer... Be encouraged to embrace this in action.⁷ Live, loving as Christ loves us, first, right where we are.⁸

Live loving God and others by employing the Spiritual gifts God entrusted you with.⁹ In Romans 12:6 *Gift* is translated *Charismata*, and *Charis* (Greek) is related to grace. So, these gifts are unmerited gifts of God’s grace. These gifts are not for our own benefit nor as symbols of spiritual power, but for the common good, building up the believers.¹⁰ The Church is edified when each believer employs their gifts and in unity.¹¹ Uncover and utilize them! A jeweler *can* recognize various gems *after* becoming aquatinted with them! Encourage others to use their gifts by being able to recognize the gifts of the Spirit in other believers and point them out! Together Christ’s Church matures.¹² He gives the gifts, and we can take no credit.¹³ While with every gift the Spirit has a sphere of service planned for you, He graciously and sovereignly gifted you.¹⁴ Yet remember, these gifts used with great faith and great sacrifice without love, impact very little.¹⁵ Graciously steward your gifts during your earthly time, for we will have perfection in Eternity.¹⁶

Are you convicted that each day is meant for living a sacrificial, worshipping life by knowing and employing your spiritual gifts? It changes the purpose of your day knowing you are sent forth equipped by the Holy Spirit for everyday ministry!

Embrace the Holy Spirit’s still, small voice through obedience in simple, ordinary ways to use your gifts.¹⁷ Respond in prayerful conviction to use the gifts — Cast out expectations of convenience. Start by identifying heart inclinations that align with natural proficiencies. Do

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fellow believers state they observe a particular gift in you? Does a spiritual gift catch your eye? Maybe God has already given you its possession to discover... Seek to develop understanding of that gift! Notice in Romans 12 God's discussion of spiritual gifts immediately follows His call for a believer's dedication to sacrificial living? Perhaps stewarding spiritual gifts empowers one's sacrificial living. Will not your leg atrophy if you don't use it? So too, we are called to use our gifts.¹⁸ Stewardship of one gift can lead to the discovery of another gift God has given you. Unemployed gifts squander the grace of God. Remember self-discontent of your spiritual gifts might be disguised criticism of how the Spirit employs His Church. Lastly, avoid confusing just attending church as stewarding your gift.¹⁹ Consider what it would look like if attendance always employed your gift(s)? This call to action even embraces new believers (spiritual youth) to step out as 1 Timothy 4:12, 14 charges us to!

- 1) **As a believer in Christ, do you know any of the 19 spiritual gifts (see Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:11)? Which ones have you received?**
- 2) **Try one of these testing sites for some insights on your Spiritual Gifts: [GiftsTest.com](https://www.giftstest.com); [SpiritualGiftsTest.com](https://www.spiritualgiftstest.com); [Lifeway.com](https://www.lifeway.com); [APEST](https://www.apest.org); [FiveFoldMinistry.com](https://www.fivefoldministry.com)**
- 3) **Find three other believers who know you well. Ask do they know any of their spiritual gifts? Speak out what passions and strengths you see in them. Seek out a few passages of Scripture on these gifts. Pray and seek the Lord's confirmation. Hold one another accountable to identify and begin to explore or further develop at least one spiritual gift to serve the Kingdom!**
- 4) **Ask a pastor to preach a series on *all* the Spiritual Gifts to encourage believers in your community! It may help put into action the Saints already filled with godly manpower, edifying the Church.**



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Footnotes: 1) Ephesians 4:11-16, 2) 1 Corinthians 12:26, 3) Romans 3:23, 6:23, 4) John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9, 5) Ephesians 4:30, 6) 1 John 4:12, 19-21, 7) Romans 8:11-13, 8) 1 John 4:19, 9) 1 Corinthians 12:11, 10) 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11) 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-16, 12) Romans 8:6-8, 13) Ephesians 4:7, 1 Corinthians 12:18-20, 14) 1 Corinthians 12:11, 15) 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 16) 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, 17) 1 Timothy 6:20-21, 18) 1 Timothy 4:14-15, 19) 1 Peter 4:10.