

GROWING in Gifts

Becoming more fully alive.

| The glory of God is a man or woman fully alive. — Ignatius

1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The New International Version. (2011). (1 Pe 4:8–11). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Maybe I Don't Have Much to Offer

Psalm 139 is a meditation by King David that God knit him together in his mother's womb. This reflection isn't just true for a king, but for all who are made in his image.

King David asserts that he knows his works, and that they are wonderful. We are his works, and you are wonderful. You have strengths and gifts to offer to the body of Christ.

God wants you to wake up every morning remembering what is right with you. Many times Christianity can overemphasize what is wrong with us without remembering what is right with us. Each has its place, and this morning is a time to wake up and remember that you have things that are right about you and can be developed into strengths.

1 Corinthians 12:7 - 11

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

The New International Version. (2011). (1 Co 12:7–11). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Romans 12:4-8

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The New International Version. (2011). (Ro 12:4–8). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Identifying Gifts



Each of you have gifts. How do you know what they are? You ask the community around you because the community can help you see yourself correctly.

Ask those around you what your gifts are.

Pray for each other to help discern more clarity around your gifts.

You can also learn about this through prophecy and people praying for you.

Faulty thinking

1. Serving is a program
 - a. It's opposite to the gospel to think that serving on Sunday is the one day a week where I use my gifts.
2. Waiting on getting approval for serving people.
 - a. We want to empower you to do what God put in your heart to do.
 - b. Quit waiting on using your gift to serve and bless others.
3. Hospitality is the job of everyone, not just a team.



Using your gifts is a lifestyle, not a program.

When you live in your gifts and breathe your gifts, you become the man or woman that is most fully alive. You have the freedom to use your gifts anywhere and anytime.

- Holy Spirit, who can I welcome to help people feel at home?
- Who can I serve and bless?
- Holy Spirit, would you help me use my gifts to bless? Help me be a contributor, not a consumer.



Could you imagine if we all asked this every day? When you use your gifts to serve people, it will look diverse, from boisterous to subtle, but it will be the body of Christ most fully alive.

The Fear of Getting Burned

We understand the prevalence of church hurt and spiritual abuse in Christian culture. We don't want people to get burned out, but we know it's a challenging reality.

In a culture of safety, where we draw healthy boundaries around service and leaders, there will be room for healing and growth.

We will be serving with people who are at different maturities, cultural backgrounds, and opinions than us. Yes, there is pain and challenge in serving one another.

In the midst of difficulty, Peter reminds us that hurt and challenges don't change who God made us to be. Engaging and loving people means I'm going to encounter sin.

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.

The New International Version. (2011). (1 Pe 4:1). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



When we offer hospitality to one another, we need to realize that will be hard. Serving is an opportunity to get ride of selfishness, pride, fear, broken motives and sin. This is how we grow.

I can't become that fully alive person with all the brokenness unless I offer my gifts to serve others from that place of brokenness. It will bring you more fully alive by killing the things in you that are killing you.

You do that by saying yes to Jesus — offering your gift to those around you to bless them.

Be willing to embrace the challenge and pain that will come from you doing that. You can ask the Holy Spirit and your community to help heal your heart as you grow out of the sinful nature.