

Gifted to serve!

Romans 12:3-8

Big Idea: God gives each of us a gift;
so, use your gift to serve him.

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.

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Gifted to serve!

1. Build your life on grace (v. 3).
2. Different gifts, same body (vv. 4-5).
3. Gifts are given to be used (vv. 6-8).
4. Discover your spiritual gifts.

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Gifts arise from God's grace.

- i. Every believer gets at least one gift (1Co 12; Eph 4).
- ii. Pride keeps us from discovering our spiritual gifts.
- iii. Think accurately about yourself (v. 3).
- iv. Remember the standard of faith you've been given.

Think soberly ...

The gospel teaches us we're helpless and need God.

The gospel teaches us God loves us and has a place for us.

Many people think "measure of faith" means some of us have more faith so we can do more things ... or something like that. That's not correct.

"Paul is saying that God has given all of us the same standard of faith: faith in the finished work of Christ, and that faith makes us profoundly equal in God's eyes." – JD Greare

God saved you to send you into service,
not to sit you on a shelf.

2. Different gifts, same body (vv. 4-5; 1Co 12).

“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 ...”

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1Co 12:7)

Understand Spiritual Gifts

- i. Two basic categories: speaking and serving (1Pt 4:11).
- ii. Gifts are for the good of the body, not the individual.
- iii. We experience spiritual gifts as the church.
- iv. Most gifts are specializations in Christian duties.
- v. There is no exhaustive list of spiritual gifts in the Bible.

Some people would add leading to speaking and serving

Every time we experience generosity, mercy, love ... we are experiencing the spiritual gifts God has given his church.

Because God has chosen to give his church gifts, it is impossible to truly experience God without the church.

3. Gifts are given to be used (vv. 6-8).

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We are all called to do the things Paul lists, but not equally gifted for these things.

Let us use our gifts. Stop thinking about it and start doing it.

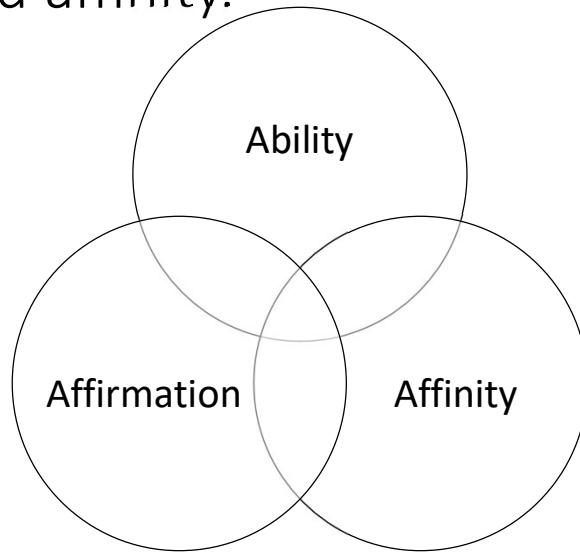
4. Find your gifting (1Co 12).

“¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ ... ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose ... ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

3 points about finding spiritual gifts.

- i. Start serving and let God reveal your gift in the context of ministry.
- ii. Being part of the Body matters more than any specific gift.
- iii. Look at lists in the Bible, but don't fixate on them.

Your gifting is the intersection of ability, affirmation and affinity.



The circle labeled "**ability**" refers to what you are naturally good at; "affinity" to what you feel passionate about; and "affirmation" to ways people have testified that God has used you. (https://www.preceptaustin.org/spiritual_gifts)

The greatest spiritual gift ever is salvation.
God is offering you that gift.