

This transcribed message has been lightly edited and formatted for the Web site. No attempt has been made, however, to alter the basic extemporaneous delivery style, or to produce a grammatically accurate, publication-ready manuscript.

Teaching: Carlon Tschetter
Series: People in Step with the Spirit
Message: Different Gifts for Different People

Transcribed Message
February 10, 2019
Romans 12:3-8

We're going to read some Scripture this morning before we do our study together. We're going to read four different passages and none of them are very long but they all touch on what we're looking at this morning. So you can listen as I read or you can go to these passages as I announce them. We'll begin with Romans 12 and we begin with verse 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. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, to generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

1 Corinthians chapter 12 beginning at verse 7 says: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills."

1 Corinthians 12 and beginning in verse 28: "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? (and he

expects the answer to be no.) Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret.”

Ephesians chapter 4 verse 11 says: “And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers...” to the church. And 1 Peter 4:11 says: “Whoever speaks as one who speaks the oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that any and everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

It was Mark Twain who said the two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why. The first one is pretty obvious. You can't have the second one without the first. We understand the importance of our birth. The second one has however eluded many people. As a child of God by faith in Christ, I think we know the answer to that second question of why it is that we're here. I suppose we can answer it in a lot of different ways. The way I would answer it is we are here to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. To be able to do that, to be able to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, we have to walk in the Spirit as the people of God. When we walk in the Spirit as the people of God, we then do the gifts that God has given us to do by means of His Spirit.

We are in our last major subject with regard to people in step with the Spirit. We're looking at this matter of spiritual gifts and as we do that, we want to see as Paul said last week in our passage, we're not to be uninformed about this. We don't want to be unaware of what the Scriptures teach about this vital area. I don't think we effectively answer the second question of why we're here if we don't walk in the Spirit and we don't do the work that God has called us to do. God meets the needs of the church through spiritual gifts. Every person and every gift is important and vital to a healthy church.

Quick review. Spiritual gifts are given to us by God. We saw that last week. That speaks to the source of where these have come from. We are differentiating in some way that these are simply natural abilities or gifts. These are God-given abilities that we have been given by God.

Secondly, spiritual gifts are a manifestation of the Spirit. That speaks to the essence of this gift. These are the works of the Spirit in our life. We're literally manifesting the work of the Spirit when we are exercising our spiritual gifts.

Thirdly, spiritual gifts are given to build up the church. That speaks to the purpose of these gifts. They are given to equip the body of Christ.

Fourthly, spiritual gifts are given to every believer. That speaks to their importance. Every believer has a spiritual gift. I believe that probably most have more than one gift. You don't have all of the gifts. Nobody has them all because that would break down the very analogy that Paul uses. The body needs each other. So there isn't anybody that has all of the gifts, but most of you, I would think, have more than one. But everybody has one. Whatever it is that God has given to you, He has given it to you to equip and to build up the church. If you're not using it, then what? The church is not where God would want it to be. We're not as well-off as He would have us to be.

So we look this morning at gifts in the body. We begin with the matter of describing these gifts. Remember we talked about four passages: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4. Did anybody get to use that this week? Here's another little tidbit that when you go to Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4, it is 1 Peter 4:11 and Ephesians 4:11. So not only do you have four passages, but you actually have verses in those last two that correspond to each other. What you see when you look at these four passages is that there is no list of gifts that is totally exhaustive. When you look at this chart, and you don't need to write all these down because they are all in your Bible, it is pretty easy to tell right away that not one list listed by these various passages has all of the gifts in that one given passage.

This often leads to the question are these all of the gifts? Could it be that there are other gifts that aren't listed in these various lists that we do have? The answer to that is we don't know. That's the easiest answer. When you go to 1 Corinthians 7, it looks like the gift of marriage and the gift of singleness are mentioned by Paul. Are those spiritual gifts? Perhaps they are. 1 Peter 4:10 talks about the gift of hospitality or it mentions hospitality in the context of gifts. What we do know is this. In this listing of these four passages, we have around 20, 21, 22 depending on how you count these, gifts that we are told about so we can say for sure these are spiritual gifts that God has given to us.

Secondly, the order varies from list to list. So as you look at the lists themselves you quickly realize that they are not in a consistent order. When apostles are listed,

they're always first. Prophets are listed in three of the four lists and they're always very high except one time when they're a little bit lower. But what you do have is in both of the passages where tongues are mentioned, they're always mentioned last. That's probably in part because of what Paul was dealing with in the church of Corinth. They had greatly exaggerated the gift of tongues. Paul, I think, by the Spirit probably purposely puts them at the bottom as he is going to communicate to them what he wants them to know about the various gifts that God has given to the body.

So thirdly, as much as is possible we're going to use a biblical definition for each of these gifts. Now that doesn't mean that we can turn to a passage and say here is the Biblical definition of this gift. But what it does say is some of the gifts that are listed we have examples and illustrations that seem to be pretty clear in Scriptures. Some of the gifts we don't have that at all. In fact, some of the gifts we don't have any other information about, and when we come to those, we will simply acknowledge that there is very little to say about this gift in terms of what the Scriptures specifically speak to.

Let's look at defining the gifts. Defining the gifts themselves. This is not a series on spiritual gifts, so we're not going to be able to take the time to go through each gift with an extensive perspective of what that gift is. Ron Jarrett, one of our pastors, has a wonderful series that he does on all the gifts. Whatever I don't say, he's going to cover. You can invite him to come to your community group and he will do an exhaustive study of the spiritual gifts and correct anything that I say this morning or next Sunday that needs to be corrected. We're going to fly kinda high. As you look at the list, there's 14 gifts on that list this morning. We're going to see how many of those we can get through here before our time is up. If you have this morning the gift of telling time and you think the preacher doesn't have that gift, at about 10:37 or 38 you are free to exercise that gift and say time's up, big guy. We've got to stop. That's a one Sunday dispensation only. We won't do that in the future. What you'll notice as we go through these gifts is that none of them fall into the category of what we call miraculous gifts, or what we understand often understand as sign gifts. We're going to save all of those for next Sunday and you join in praying that Jesus comes back before then and we won't have to get into those details.

Let's look at these four passages that we've read and see what we discover. We begin with 1 Peter chapter 4. When you look at 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 11, Peter most likely is giving us two very broad categories of spiritual gifts. He talks about speaking gifts and serving gifts. He most likely is saying here are two broad categories. You can just take the listing of all of the gifts and you can try to break them into these two categories and say these fall into the category of speaking and these fall into the category of serving. That is most likely what Peter is doing and giving us a broad sweep and looking at it that way.

That takes us to Romans 12. When we come to Romans 12 and verses 3 through 8, we begin a listing of gifts. The first one we're going to deal with is the gift of serving or service. We're going to link with that gift the gift of helping that is listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 28. If they're not the same gift, they are certainly sister gifts or they're very, very closely related. These two gifts are absolutely essential and primary in the life of any church. The gift of serving and service and the gift of helps make a church go. These gifts are absolutely vital to the body of Christ. The word for service is the word *diakonas*. What word do you think we get from *diakonas*? It is the word "deacon". So the idea of a deacon is one who serves. So in a few months when we begin lifting up names for men who want to serve as deacons, one of the things that you might do if you have someone in mind is you might go to them and say do you have the gift of serving. Do you have the gift of helps? And if they say no, I really don't like to serve and I really don't like to help, that's a clue that they probably shouldn't be nominated to be a deacon because in the heart of a deacon is the desire to serve and to help. It is not limited to deacons by no means. Many people in the body of Christ have this gift and it is so vitally important and vitally necessary.

In fact, this idea of serving and helping is fleshed out in so many different ways. You can take the gift of service and helps and it could be manifested in just giving wise counsel. You serve somebody. You help somebody when you give them wise counsel. You may have the capacity, the ability to give counsel in certain specific areas, not just in terms of spiritual things, but maybe you exercise the gift of service and helps in giving legal or medical counsel to somebody. Financially. Some of you are very gifted in finances and you use the gift of serving and helping to help somebody who needs

encouragement in that area. Maybe you love children and you love to serve. God marries that spiritual gift with that desire that you have to serve in that particular area. All of the behind-the-scenes stuff that goes on when we come here on any given Sunday morning or any other occasion, somebody, and most likely a whole bunch of people, have done a lot of things to help us get ready for this to happen. We get to see that week after week. Sometimes it's behind-the-scenes and we don't see it but it's absolutely vital. Paul talks about different people in his life. In Romans 16, the whole chapter is listing out people who ministered to him. You almost get the idea that he's telling us here these people have the gift of serving. These people have the gift of helps. He would never have gotten to where he was in his ministry if they had not been there to do those things.

The second one we list is the gift of teaching. The gift of teaching. The gift of teaching is noted in each of the lists. This spiritual gift is especially prominent in the pastoral letters just as we would expect. Paul is writing to pastors and he is saying here are things that you need to be mindful of and he uses this word teaching an awful lot. In fact, we're familiar with 2 Timothy 4 verse 2 – Preach the word. Teach the word, in season and out. He is just saying it doesn't matter. We always need to be under the teaching of the Word of God. Again, this gift is exercised and used in a whole variety of places and experiences. In some regards, all of us are called upon to teach at different times. Even within our family, we're teaching our children. Some of you have that spiritual gift. Elders are required to have the ability to teach, so an elder, Paul says in Titus, is supposed to be able to teach. The setting in which he does that and the context is going to vary, but an elder needs to have the gift of teaching. Someone said if you have the gift of teaching but no one has the gift of listening, then maybe you don't. o that's true. You know, you go to all these gifts. You get in there and you experiment and find out do I have that God-given capacity? Then is that something that I enjoy and other people affirm?

The next one is exhorting. Exhorting. *Paraklesis* is the word. *Paraklesis* is to come alongside. You're familiar with that word *Paraklete* because it's the idea of encouragement. It's the word that we use for comfort. Barnabas was said to be the son of encouragement. Barnabas must have had the gift of exhortation. He must have had

the gift of encouragement. Broadly understood, the gift of exhortation is used to encourage people to press on in their walk with God. So linked with the gift of teaching, the gift of teaching might be explaining and studying and opening up the Word in that way. Then the exhorter is going to take and he's going to bring his gift set and encourage people in that truth. Sometimes those gifts are together. Sometimes they're not. But here is someone who comes alongside of somebody maybe in the times of distress, maybe in a time of affliction. A great gift in counseling would be the gift of exhortation. It's utilized in one-to-one situations, in small groups, in big groups.

The next one is the gift of giving. The gift of giving. As is true in so many areas, take the gift of service and helps. You see a need and that need needs to be met within the body. Somebody comes and says can you help me with this. We don't get to say I wish I could, but I don't have the gift of serving. I don't have the gift of helping. The same thing is true with giving. You may not have the spiritual gift of giving but you are commanded as a believer to give. You're to give out of a motivation of grace, but you are still commanded to give. There are gifts that God gives to certain people that are also commands that He gives in some sense to all of us. I've said before and it bears repeating that this gift *charismata*, this grace gift of giving is one that all of us exercise.

I say again I have no idea what amount of money anybody gives at Covenant. that is not information I'm privy to or that I want to know. If I asked our bookkeeper, she would just kindly say that is not information that is available to you and that's as it should be. But here's what I have gotten to see. I have seen a collective body of believers who, whether they have the spiritual gift of giving or not, do just as Paul said. Those who have the gift give generously. You are collectively a generous giving body. But this is the other piece I've been able to see. At various times along the way, people have come to me and they have said God has blessed us and we want to bless somebody else, or we want to bless the church, or we want to bless a certain project. They have come and they allowed me to be a conduit, asking either of something that is a need or of somebody who has a need. I have gotten to see the heart of so many people who just give out of their heart of generosity. Sometimes these people have been blessed by God materially and they give extraordinarily to the things that are there on their heart that God has given. But every time, my friends, it's a witness that the

culture that says get all you can and hold on to everything you can, the spiritual gift of giving just pushes against that. This just has an open hand and open heart that says God, this is all Yours anyway. Show me how You want to use it. The gift of giving. Another wonderful gift.

The next ones are leading and administration. Leading and administration. Again, we've just linked together two gifts. The gift of administrating is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 and verse 20 and 28. They're either the same gift again or they're very, very close to each other. Here is someone who knows what needs to be done, knows how to get it done, and then goes for it and leads others in getting it done. It requires managing people at times. It requires the ability to look at a situation and see what it is that needs to be done. It is somebody who has a sense of vision and can bring together that vision with the right people and focus them in the right direction and motivate others to do that. The actual word for administrating here is used of a pilot or the captain of a ship. Such a beautiful word picture. You have a captain of the ship, a pilot, and he is at the rudder. He is steering the ship through all kinds of circumstances and situations. That would be somebody who has the gift of administration and the gift of leading. The church needs people like this. We need people who see what is out there and what needs to be done and then rallies others to join in that cause. This person does so with a lot of zeal and energy and enthusiasm and says we can do this together.

Then the last one that Paul mentions in Romans is the gift of mercy. The gift of mercy. Those who have a special capacity to minister and empathize with people who are hurting, who need encouragement, who might be in pain and sorrow and despair, going through various heartaches of life and disappointments. Somebody with the gift of mercy comes along and God uses that gift to minister maybe with the gift of helps and encouragement and exhortation. This person comes alongside of them. It's a word that is used of our Lord a lot. You can think of some examples in the Gospels where Jesus saw somebody and the Scriptures say He looked on them with mercy. He looked on them and His heart was moved with compassion. I think when He told the story of the good Samaritan, He was giving us an illustration of the spiritual gift of mercy. Everybody's walking by this guy and they all had their reasons for not stopping. But not the good Samaritan. Empowered by God and in the Spirit, God compelled him to stop.

Compassion moves people to action. It is not enough just to feel sorry for somebody. There's a response that is required of those who have the spiritual gift of mercy.

Now we go to 1 Corinthians chapter 12. We have a list in 8 through 10 and we have another list in 28 through 30. We've looked at some of those. The first gift that we look at in this 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians are two of the more difficult to define. According to the English Standard Version, they're the gift of the utterance of wisdom and the utterance of knowledge. You're probably more familiar with these gifts by the phrase word of wisdom or word of knowledge. It is the word *logos* that is used here. The reason these gifts are difficult to define is because this is all that we seem to have by way of these gifts and specific examples of them. So we have six words. Word of wisdom. Word of knowledge. What we are we going to do in our understanding of what this set of gifts is?

Again, I would say this is an example of if you're going through and defining and talking about these lists, this is where you probably would say this is my best understanding. This is my best guess at what this gift is. Because this is it, folks. If you hear a long dissertation about the gift of the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge, then you should know that all you just heard about that gift is their understanding of what that gift is. Which may be right, but there isn't a lot in Scripture to help us at this point. Sometimes people look at these gifts and say this utterance of wisdom and utterance of knowledge is the supernatural ability to understand some things that are going on in somebody's life. Some describe this gift of having the capacity or the ability to know of sin in somebody's life or to know of some problem that they're dealing with that they haven't shared. But the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge gives you an insight into something. Some even suggest that it gives you the ability to discern medical physical issues that this person may have. Again, I would say if that's what this gift is, or a word of wisdom or knowledge about any area that before had not been made known or revealed, if that were the case then I would say that's their understanding of that.

Here's my best guess. Here is my understanding. In all of the lists, the gift of teaching is mentioned except in this first group of verses in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. The gift of teaching doesn't appear here, but these two do. Word of wisdom. Word of

knowledge. In much of Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians and in the book of Romans, the word *logos*, word of wisdom and word of knowledge are linked to statements that Paul makes about the cross, about the gospel, about the work of Christ, about the glory of what God has done for us in Christ. I'm not so sure, and this is just my guess so it's not any better than anybody else's, that this set of gifts is an exercise in relation of some way to teaching. Since Paul doesn't use the word teaching in this list and he does in every other list, maybe he's giving us a clue there that this is his way of bringing together this gift of wisdom and gift of knowledge and the gift of teaching and bringing those things all to bear in sharing the glories of Christ, the glories of the cross, the glories of the gospel and the things that God has prepared for us.

The next gift is the gift of faith. Now the gift of faith can't be saving faith. It can't be faith that results in our eternal life because every believer has that. It can't be a reference to faith in terms of our daily walk. We know that every believer is required to walk by faith and not by sight. The writer of Hebrews says without faith it is impossible to please God. So it can't be faith in relation to salvation and I don't think it can be faith in relation to our daily walk, because every believer is already dealing with both of those realities. I think this faith is a supernatural gift. All of these are *charismata*. All of these are manifestations of the Spirit. We need to remind ourselves often this is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our life exercising whatever gift He has given us. It's not just a certain category of supernatural, miraculous or signed gift as they're sometimes called. It's all of the gifts that are manifesting the Spirit's work in our life. Here is the extraordinary ability to trust and believe God for things that seem impossible. To trust God for the unusual. To trust God for things that nobody else thinks can happen. I think that the person with this gift of faith is able to see things from the perspective because of this gift that enables them to bring that encouragement to the rest of us and say God can do this if we trust Him in this matter and believe Him for it. Often times this is done without seeing the human resources as to how God is going to do it. It is both the ability to see what needs to be done and sometimes be mindful of the fact that it doesn't look like there's any way this is going to happen. The person with the gift of faith calls us to trust God in that regard.

If you just look historically, a lot of people would mention George Mueller who literally cared for hundreds and thousands of orphans for decades of time. He did it, I believe, by exercising the gift of faith because he never told people about his need. The amazing thing about Mueller is he didn't write prayer letters. There's nothing wrong with that. He didn't tell people what the need was this month. He was a man of incredible faith and prayer. Oftentimes, I would think praying and the gift of faith probably go arm in arm.

The next one is distinguishing spirits. Distinguishing spirits. Here is someone with the gift of discernment. They can discern between what's true and what's false. Distinguishing spirits. The word "spirit" is used in the New Testament in at least three different ways. It is used of our human spirit. It's used of demonic spirits. It's used of that which goes on within the spiritual battle and conflict. And it's used of an attribute or disposition of heart. All of those, I think, could be in view here. Here is somebody who has this gift of discernment, this gift of understanding truth and error. It's very important because John says in 1 John 4: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." Listen, we know we live in a world of deception. We know that Satan is the deceiver. He is a liar from the beginning. We live in a world that lives in deception. How vital is this to the body of Christ that we have people who have the gift of discerning and distinguishing the spirits, whether they are true or whether they're false? That could be in the hearing of teaching. It could be in the reading of materials. It could be in just discerning where somebody is in the regard to whether they are telling the truth or telling that which is false. Very, very important.

Paul in Acts 16 is being followed around by a slave girl. This slave girl is announcing things about him, about Christ, about the gospel and these things are true. She was saying things and finally, the text says in Acts 16, that Paul, greatly annoyed, called for the false spirit to come out of her. Paul, probably having this capacity, the spiritual gift of distinguishing of spirits, cast the spirit out of this slave girl. And then the whole uproar took place. But he discerned that what was being said was true but the source of it was demonic.

Then the fourth passage Ephesians chapter 4 and verse 11. We have two gifts here. We have the gift of evangelist. All of us, 1 Peter says, are to be ready to give a reason of the hope that is within us. This is another one of those areas where you don't say I don't have the gift of evangelism so I don't share my faith. I let somebody who's got the gift of evangelism do that. No, we all share our faith. We're all to be ready to give an answer of the reason of the hope that is within us. But here is somebody who's been gifted in that way, to do the work of an evangelist which is to share the gospel. I think in most cases this gift results in this person oftentimes seeing the fruit of the sharing of that gospel. We all are a part of the process. We're all planting seeds by our words and by our life. We're all to be watering and then there's an increase. The evangelist seems to have that capacity and God uses them in all of these ways to bring people to a knowledge of Christ. It's one-on-one. It's small group. It's mass evangelism. It could be through the form of writing, speaking, music. You can see how God links together spiritual giftedness with other things to accomplish His will.

Then pastor-teacher. I'm going to preempt the person with the gift of telling time because I'm closing right in here and I think we're going to make it. Pastor-teacher. This is not two gifts. This is one gift. So pastor and teacher go together. The construction by way of which Paul puts this together indicates to us that this is one gift. Now there's the gift of teaching. You can have the gift of teaching and not have the gift of being a pastor. Obviously a lot of people have the gift of teaching that utilize that gift but they may not have the gift of pastor. If you have the gift of pastor, then you automatically have the gift of teaching because pastor-teacher goes together. Paul speaks to this in Ephesians 4:11 and following when he says what is the pastor-teacher doing? He is equipping the body by means of teaching the Word. He is equipping and building up the body of Christ.

One other note. Just a side note almost of this gift. This is a spiritual gift. I don't see the office of pastor in the New Testament. I don't think that that this idea of a pastor who is organizationally at the head or the top of the church is New Testament ecclesiology. I think that is given to the plurality of elders. God calls a group of men, elders, to do the guiding of the church organizationally in that sense. When you think of a pastor, you should think this is a gift that God has given. This isn't an office that he

serves in and he tells everybody what to do. The gift of pastor-teacher is he is both teaching and pastoring at the same time.

So what do we have? At the end of the day, God meets the needs of His church through spiritual gifts. Every person and every spiritual gift is vitally important and necessary and needs to be exercised for the church to be healthy. The extent to which the church is mobilizing its gift and using its gifts, and people are informed about their giftedness, to that extent the church is healthier. If you have a church of people who aren't using their spiritual gifts, there is no way that church can be healthy. It is going to be deficient just by definition of what God has called us to.

What do we take away? I take this from this teaching this morning. The joy of the Christian life is not in consuming and in receiving. That is the message of our day. Come to church and be a consumer. Come to church and get your needs met and then go on your way. That's never going to bring joy. Some of you are joy deficient and you don't know why. You need to try the other piece of this. That is the joy of the Christian life is in giving and serving. The way that God has wired you and gifted you is a part of the joy that He wants to bring into your life as you serve Him and as you serve the body.

So we have the two most important days of our life. When we were born and why it is that we were born. Part of the equation of why it is that you were born is that you would glorify God and enjoy Him forever. You're only going to glorify God and enjoy Him forever if you're people of the Spirit. If you are people of the Spirit, then you're going to be exercising and using the spiritual gifts that God has given you. There is one caveat to that. To get into the joy of the Lord, you also have to receive something first. You have to receive the gospel. That gospel says that it is not by works and human effort that we're saved. We are saved by the grace of God alone. Faith in what Jesus did is all that God asks of us. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. We are saved by faith, not by works lest any man should boast. If you've been hoping that you do enough good things that God will one day say come in, you made it. You won't make it that way. The Bible tells us that you won't. the Bible tells us that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Nobody comes to the Father but by Him. We would love for you to receive that gift this morning. It's as simple as believing that what Jesus did is all that needed to be done.

Let's pray. Father God, we ask that You would work in all of our hearts this morning. We pray as the people of God that we will pursue after these desires that You have for us to serve and utilize the gifts that You give it to us. So release within the body by Your Spirit, Father, the gifts of Your people so that we can build up and encourage each other in the faith and go from this place and from the opportunities that You give us to use those gifts to do the works of God within the places that You have sent us. Lord God, I pray for anybody that is here this morning who has not yet received this amazing gift that is eternal life that You will open their eyes and give them understanding by Your Spirit that it is simply by faith and trust in Christ that our sins are forgiven and we receive the gift of eternal life. We pray in Jesus's name, amen.