



# Serving Grace

1 Peter 4:10-11; Matt. 24:3;  
25:1,14-30

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## How do we serve in these extraordinary times?

**Introduction:** Of all the things we can do with our lives as followers of Jesus, what should our priorities be? In the extraordinary times in which we live, where should we focus our attention? 1 Peter 4:7-11 introduces us to four priorities: Praying, Loving, Offering Hospitality and Serving. In this study we will focus on the **fourth priority** - serving others with our spiritual gifts.

1. **The RECEPTION of spiritual gifts**—v. 10. Peter indicates we all have “received” gifts—James 1:17-18; John 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3; Eph. 1:3-14; Acts 17:28; 1 Peter 4:10.
2. **The RESPONSIBILITY of spiritual gifts is 3-fold.**
  - a. **To USE them.** *“Each one should USE whatever gift he has received...”* What does that say to us? Do these pictures give us any clues: a beached boat? a boat on a trailer?
  - b. **To SERVE others.** 1 Pet. 4:10—*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to SERVE others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*
    - 1) Gifts are for **SERVICE**—Matt. 20:28; 25:14; 27:55; 2 Cor. 3:3; 1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:18; Philemon 13; Heb. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:2.
    - 2) When we **SERVE**, we are enacting the design of our Creator - GOD!
  - c. **To FAITHFULLY ADMINISTER (SERVE)** God’s grace in its various forms. The picture is of a house manager, a slave, and yet manages all the affairs and accounts of the household—Matt. 25:14-27; Gen. 39:4; 1 Pet. 4:11—*“If anyone SPEAKS, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone SERVES, he should do it with the strength God provides.”*
    - **PARABLE OF THE TALENTS** - Matthew 25
      - A TALENT was worth 20 years of a laborer’s wage.
    - “If anyone **SPEAKS**, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.”
      - Reference to Scripture. God’s Word is complete.
    - “If anyone **SERVES**, he should do it with the strength God provides.”
      - God’s strength is perfected in our weakness - 2 Cor. 12:9.
      - “Our weaknesses are often the platform that God uses for perfecting and demonstrating the Lord’s power.” ESV Study Bible

3. **The REASON for our spiritual gifts.** v. 11—“...SO THAT in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power forever, and ever. Amen.” (By the way, the SO THAT applies to **ALL THE PRIORITIES** listed here.)

### What's the SERVING CHALLENGE?

- **WILL WE RECEIVE** (unwrap) our spiritual gifts with great joy?  
**Challenge: We'll take the time to discover what gifts we have—Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12. We'll fill out the STEPS Profile. (Next week @ Q&A Café.)**
- **Will we take the 3-FOLD RESPONSIBILITY** for our spiritual gifts: to use them, to serve others, to faithfully administer God's grace?  
**Challenge: We'll find or explore a ministry in some way at SCC gathered/scattered with the attitude of Phil. 2:3-5ff.**
- **WILL WE TAKE SERIOUSLY THE REASON** for our spiritual gifts? “...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory...” **Challenge: We'll be motivated to serve so that God will be praised and glorified.**

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- A. **What is the biggest stretch for you in serving others?** Who has been your best model of service to others? Why has this person been a model to you?
- B. **From 1 Peter 4:11, where should our strength for ministry come from? What are the implications when we are tired or very stressed in our service?**
- C. **Read Matthew 25:14-30.** What do you like about this parable?
1. What shocks you about it?
  2. What does it tell you about people?
  3. What does it tell you about God?
  4. What can you apply to your life right now?
  5. As we think about serving others, how do you think we can get a better return for our work?
- D. **Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7.** How does this passage impact our service?
- E. **How does the Serving Challenge impact you?** Using 1 Peter 4:7-11 and 2 Tim. 2:1-7 for some of your answers, what will help you fulfill the challenge?
- F. **What sponsors/creates praise in a church?** When the four priorities are in our boat and they are being expressed in God's strength, how will that impact the worship in our church gatherings, as well as our motivation for any service we might do? (See 1 Peter 4:11b.)
- G. **Take a moment now and write out your prayer for each of these 4 priorities.** After you're through, pray (personally or as a group) that God will enable you to do what we've prioritized and that it will bring Him praise!