



Many Gifts But One Body
“Connected by Grace through Faith”
Part One
Romans 12:4-8

Introduction

Over the past few weeks we have been walking through **Romans 12**.

So far in **Romans 12** we have discovered:

Every follower of Christ is:

Challenged to Live With Purpose.
Called to Live a Transformed Life
Charged to Live and Serve with a Spirit of Unity
Created to Function as One Body

Today we will discover:

Every follower of Christ is:

Connected by Grace through Faith

Scripture

Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function,
5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith;
7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching;
8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness. CSB

Quote Of The Day

“You have inside you the capacity to invest your mental, emotional, and spiritual gifts in a way that glorifies God, impacts the world, and satisfies your own soul.” — David Jeremiah

“God never loses sight of the treasure which He has placed in our earthen vessels.” — Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Every follower of Christ is Connected by Grace through Faith.

We are Connected by grace through faith that leads to:

Salvation

Service

Every follower of Christ is Connected by:

Grace through Faith that leads to Salvation

To comprehend the importance of our Spiritual Gifts we must understand the significance of our Salvation.

The best commentary and the best interpretation of the Bible is the Bible itself.

Ephesians 2:8-10 “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—9 not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

The phrase translated “**saved by grace through faith**” in v.8 comes from the Greek words:

“**Sozo**” meaning to rescue from danger, to prevent from dying, to preserve the human soul from eternal damnation in hell.

What does being saved really look like?

It looks like my dad saving me from burning the bees!

My dad came running like a mad man to save me from my pride, ignorance and certain tragedy!

My dad didn’t leap of the porch, scream bloody murder and race after me to tell me how stupid and ignorant I was— He came to save me!

What does being saved really look like?

It looks like— John 3:16-17 “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” CSB

God did not send His One and Only Son to tell us how sinful and broken we are— He gave His Son to save us from our sin and brokenness.

“Charis” meaning to receive the undeserved and unmerited blessing and favor of God.

Romans 5:6-8 “For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For rarely will someone die for a just person— though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. 8 But **God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**” CSB

Do you know what being saved by grace looks like?

It looks like a thief in South Africa!

In March of 2004 a South African man surprised nine men robbing his home. Eight of the robbers ran away, but the homeowner managed to shove one into his backyard pool. After realizing the robber couldn't swim, the homeowner jumped in to save him. The Cape Times reported that once out of the pool, the wet thief called to his friends to come back. Then he pulled a knife and threatened the man who had just rescued him. The homeowner said "We were still standing near the pool and when I saw the knife I just threw him back in. But he was gasping for air and was drowning. So I rescued him again. The homeowner said— “I thought he had a cheek trying to stab me after I had just saved his life.” Citation: Kashiefa Ajam, "Homeowner Threatened by the Robber He Saved," The Cape Times (3-23-04)

The grace of God is the unmerited, undeserved mercy and love of God that is a gift to all who will receive it.

John Newton, the author of Amazing Grace, as he was nearing the end of his life said this, "**My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior!**"

“Pistis” The whole and steadfast belief in Jesus that leads us to trust Him for salvation, spiritual transformation and service.

James 2:19 “You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe —and they shudder.” CSB

The word translated “**believe**” in v.19 comes from the Greek word “**Pisteuo**” meaning to believe something to be true.

It is possible to believe something is true but yet not accept it or act on it!

John 2:23-25 “While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, **many believed in His name** when they saw the signs He was doing. 24 Jesus, however, would not entrust Himself to them, since He knew them all 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify about man; for He himself knew what was in man.” CSB

I John 2:3-6 “This is how we know that we know Him: if we keep His commands. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and yet doesn’t keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in Him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in Him: 6 **The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.**” CSB

If what we believe about Jesus and the Word of God does not transform our thoughts and behavior we have mental awareness but not saving faith.

Consider obeying traffic control devices and traffic safety laws— red lights, stop signs, rail road warning gates and double yellow lines, etc.

Last year approximately 1,800 people died and 200,000 were injured.

Even though drivers believe traffic control devices and traffic safety laws are in place to keep us safe from danger and death— still people disregard the safety measures and refuse to obey them.

Consider Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs—

Last year, approximately 13,000 people were killed and 300,000 were injured.

Even though drivers believe it is dangerous to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, people disregard the warnings and refuse to obey the law.

Consider drivers who are “unrestrained drivers” people who do not wear their seat belts—

According to the latest statistics approximately 13,000 people died and 300,000 were injured.

Even though drivers and occupants believe it is dangerous to drive or ride in a vehicle without a seat belt on, people still disregard the warnings and refuse to obey the law.

James 2:14-20 “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,” but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder. 20 Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?” CSB

Satan and his demons believe in Jesus:

They believe:

Jesus is the Son of God

Jesus lived a sinless life

Jesus willingly gave Himself on the cross paying the price for sin

Jesus died and rose again

Jesus ascended on a cloud to heaven

Jesus is coming back in great power and glory

Jesus is the Righteous Judge

Jesus will reign on His throne forever . . . **yet they will never trust Jesus and submit their will to Jesus for salvation or serve Jesus in obedience to His Word or His Will.**

Today if you hear His voice do not harden your heart!

Hebrews 10:28-32 “Anyone who disregarded the law of Moses died without mercy, based on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment do you think one will deserve who has trampled on the Son of God, who has regarded as profane the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know the one who has said, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, and again, The Lord will judge his people. 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” CSB

Every follower of Christ is Connect by Grace through Faith that leads to Salvation.