



BAPTIST CHURCH

Many Gifts But One Body
“Connected by Grace through Faith”
Part Three
Romans 12:6-8

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
Connected by Grace through Faith that Leads to
Salvation

Last week we discovered:

Every follower of Christ is:

Connected by Grace through Faith that Leads to
Service v.6

“According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts:” CSB

Spiritual Gifts are gifts graciously and generously given to us by God, we did nothing to earn them or deserve them.

Therefore we must exercise our Spiritual Gifts with:

Honor

Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people” CSB

Humility

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.” CSB

“Pride takes many forms, but spiritual pride is the most grievous. To become proud of spiritual gifts or leadership positions, is to forget that all that all we have is from God, all the position we occupy is God’s appointment.”— Oswald Chambers

Holiness

Hebrews 12:14 “Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it (Holiness) no one will see the Lord.” CSB

In **Romans 12:6-8** Paul identifies seven different gifts that have been given to us according to His grace and the proportion of our faith.

The gifts are:

Prophecy
Service
Teaching
Exhorting
Giving
Leading
Showing Mercy

Scripture

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

“Whether your gift is mighty or humble, whether you exercise it in the marketplace or at the podium, in the executive suite or in the schoolroom, in the office or at home, your main task or gift or ministry is to be a light in a dark world.” — Gigi Graham

The Spiritual Gifts are:

1. Prophecy v.6

“**Propheteia**” Inspired teaching. A person called to speak and communicate God's message by Divine Authority.

The gift of Prophecy **is a High and Holy Calling from God that carries with it Great Responsibility!**

The gift of prophecy has two distinct functions:

While Paul was writing about Spiritual Gifts there was no New Testament.

Paul described the gift of Prophecy from the Old Testament perspective.

1. Forth-telling

Nabi— To bubble up, to declare, one who is stirred up by the Holy Spirit to declare the Word of God.

Forth-telling is preaching the Word of God with the anointing, power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

A Forth-teller is One who speaks for God.

The most common and most transformative way Christians experience the gift of prophecy is through Spirit-empowered preaching and application of the Scriptures. This may be one reason why, in **1 Corinthians 12:28**, Paul lists “**prophets**” ahead of “**teachers**” as gifts to the church. [Citation: Jon Bloom, Desiring God Ministries, Prophecy for Beginners: Ten Frequently Asked Questions, October 20, 2018.](#)

Many times over the years while I have been preaching the Holy Spirit of God has directed me to speak words that need to be said. Those thoughts and words did not come to me while I was preparing and studying the text. They came to me while I was in the moment of preaching.

Many times people have come up to me after preaching and have said, “I needed to hear that” or “Your words spoke to me” or “Your words stepped on my toes.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” CSB

The gift of Prophecy is given to those who are called by God to communicate the message of God in order to instruct, encourage, comfort, challenge, inspire, and equip followers of Christ for every good work.

Hebrews 3:15 says “. . . Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts . . .” CSB

Paul said to Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:15** “Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, **correctly teaching the word of truth.**”

“Correctly teaching the word of truth” refers to the careful study of the Word of God focusing on accurate interpretation, preaching, and application of biblical truth.

2. Foretelling

Roeh— To see or perceive. One who is gifted by God to see through Divine Revelation.

Hoze— Similar to Roeh, with the ability to give wise, biblical counsel, an advisor to people in positions of influence.

The less common way Christians experience prophecy is through receiving revelations, dreams, visions, and what are often called **“prophetic words.”**
[Citation: Jon Bloom, Desiring God Ministries, Prophecy for Beginners: Ten Frequently Asked Questions, October 20, 2018.](#)

Romans 12:6 says, “If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one’s faith.”

Over the years God has given me Divine revelation, God has spoken to me through prophetic words, given me prophetic thoughts, signs, dreams and visions.

We must be very cautious, wise and discerning with this portion of the gift of prophecy.

Thinking we have Divine revelation and vision from God but actually do not is very dangerous and has great potential for harming others—be very careful when we, or others say “God told me . . .”

Many times, in the normal routine and rhythm of life the Holy Spirit of God has spoken to me and given me Divine Revelation.

One example of Divine Revelation:

Frank Tillman

If we think the Holy Spirit is giving us Divine Revelation remember these three words of wisdom:

Prayer— for wisdom, clarity and direction.

Patience— take time to meditate and discern what God is saying.

Faith— trust God and have faith to act by speaking truth and serving others.

Every follower of Christ has unique gifts given to us by God's grace and design for our life. Every person that utilizes their gift makes the Body of Christ stronger, wiser, more equipped and better suited to advance the Kingdom of God in their local setting and beyond.

The gifts are: Prophecy,

Service v.7

“Diakonia” The action or process of serving others on God's behalf.

Every follower of Christ is called to glorify God with our body. Part of glorifying God with our body means demonstrating the love of Christ through compassionate, meaningful, and authentic acts of service.

Matthew 25:34-40 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 “ ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?’ 40 “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ CSB

As we consider serving others remember this:

We pass our life in time but we live our lives in the moment!

When we pass our life focused on time we are focused on what is next. We are looking forward to the next thing, the next event, the next project, the next day, next week, next month, the next season.

When we pass our life in time we think there will be a next time, another project, another opportunity, another day, another week, another month, another year, another cycle or season in life.

Jesus said in **John 9:4** “We must do the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.” CSB

What if we lived our life focusing on the moments, focusing on the opportunities God gives us to serve Him and others?

There are moments in our life that change the course of our life.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE MOMENTS OF OUR LIFE!!!

James 4:13-15 says, “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. 15 Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 **So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.**” CSB

Cherish the time but always seek to Maximize the Moments!

Four steps that help us Maximize the Moments

1. Look for moments to serve God by serving others— We often see what we are looking for!

2. Do not miss the moments to serve God and others— I'm too busy, I'm focused on other things, it's not important right now.

3. Do not reject the moments to serve God and others— I don't have time, I'm exhausted, I've got other things to do. What God is calling me to do makes me uncomfortable, I don't have the resources, I don't have the experience, I just can't do it!

4. Do not mess up the moment— I can do that tomorrow, or next time, or next week or whenever.

What does maximizing the moments in our life really look like?

It looks like Doug Nichols a missionary to India

While serving with Operation Mobilization in India in 1967, tuberculosis forced me into a sanitarium for several months. I did not yet speak the language, but I tried to give Christian literature written in their language to the patients, doctors, and nurses. Everyone politely refused. I sensed many weren't happy about a rich American (to them all Americans are rich) being in a free, government-run sanitarium. (They didn't know I was just as broke as they were!) The first few nights I woke around 2:00 A.M. coughing. One morning during my coughing spell, I noticed one of the older and sicker patients across the aisle trying to get out of bed. He would sit up on the edge of the bed and try to stand, but in weakness would fall back into bed. I didn't understand what he was trying to do. He finally fell back into bed exhausted. I heard him crying softly. The next morning I realized what the man had been trying to do. He had been trying to get up and walk to the bathroom! The stench in our ward was awful. Other patients yelled insults at the man. Angry nurses moved him roughly from side to side as they cleaned up the mess. One nurse even slapped him. The old man curled into a ball and wept. The next night I again woke up coughing. I noticed the man across the aisle sit up and again try to stand. Like the night before, he

fell back whimpering. I don't like bad smells, and I didn't want to become involved, but I got out of bed and went over to him. When I touched his shoulder, his eyes opened wide with fear. I smiled, put my arms under him, and picked him up. He was very light due to old age and advanced TB. I carried him to the washroom, which was just a filthy, small room with a hole in the floor. I stood behind him with my arms under his armpits as he took care of himself. After he finished, I picked him up, and carried him back to his bed. As I laid him down, he kissed me on the cheek, smiled, and said something I couldn't understand. The next morning another patient woke me and handed me a steaming cup of tea. He motioned with his hands that he wanted a tract. As the sun rose, other patients approached and indicated they also wanted the booklets I had tried to distribute before. Throughout the day nurses, interns, and doctors asked for literature. Weeks later an evangelist who spoke the language visited me, and as he talked to others he discovered that several had put their trust in Christ as Savior as a result of reading the literature. What did it take to reach these people with the Good News about Jesus? It wasn't health, the ability to speak their language, or a persuasive talk. I simply took a trip to the bathroom to serve a man in his pitiful condition, who could not help himself. Citation: Doug Nichols, Bothell, Washington. Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 2.

Luke 19:1-10 reveals how Jesus, in the normal rhythm and routine of life served others well.

Six guidelines that help us serve God and others:

- 1. Discernment to recognize people and opportunities to serve them.**
- 2. Look for people and opportunities to serve them**
- 3. See people and opportunities to serve them**
- 4. Speak to people**
- 5. Spend time with people**
- 6. Discernment to understand what the needs are, how to serve them and when to serve them.**

Serving others in the name of Jesus means we understand we are the heart, the mind, the eyes, the ears, the hands and feet of Jesus on the earth. We are called to serve the needs of those around us, whether by helping the poor, serving the sick, comforting the lonely, or sharing the message of hope.