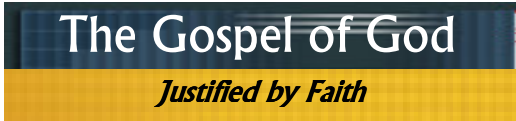


Living Connections Bible Study



Gifted to Serve

Prayer:

Text: Romans 12:3-8

Icebreaker: If you could serve in one ministry in your church, what would you like to do if you knew you could do a good job at it?
What activities of service for the Lord Jesus bring you the greatest joy and satisfaction?

1. What word of warning/caution does Paul give us in verse 3 before he gets into the subject of spiritual gifts?

2. Why is humility so important in the exercise of our spiritual gifts? Verse 3, 6a; Philippians 2:13

3. According to the first part of 1 Peter 4:10 what do all believers share in common?

4. True or False, our spiritual gifts are for our own edification and glorification?
1 Peter 4:10 & 11, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:16

5. From these same verses, why does God give us different spiritual gifts?

6. What metaphor does Christ use for His Church which demonstrates our unity and diversity? What other lessons can we learn from this metaphor? Verse 4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 15-27

In the New Testament we discover four kinds of gifts:

Sign gifts – miracles, healing, tongues, & interpretation of tongues

The sign gifts had special significance in the days of the apostles to authenticate their word and ministries as being God’s special messengers to lay the foundation of the Church. (Hebrews 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Acts 5:12)

Facilitating gifts – faith, wisdom, knowledge, & discernment

The facilitating gifts enable us to more effectively fulfill our ministries and gifts for God.

 **Faith:** this gift enables you to take God at His Word through overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities, and to trust God for great things. Verse 3







 **Wisdom:** this gift enables you to apply God’s truth, to know right from wrong, and to share spiritual insight on what to do in a given situation.

 **Knowledge:** this gift means having a firm grasp and understanding of the facts of Scripture.

 **Discernment:** this gift is the ability to discern which things are from God and which aren’t; to distinguish truth from error.

Speaking gifts – missionary/apostle, prophecy, pastor, teaching, exhortation, & evangelism




Read Ephesians 4:11 & Romans 12:6-8. Then take turns reading the following definitions of the speaking gifts.

-  **Missionary/Apostle:** there are no apostles today in the same sense as those who had personally witnessed the life and ministry of Jesus and were sent out by Him.
Acts 1:21-26, 1 Corinthians 9:1-2
However, there are those who fulfill the apostolic gift of being equipped and sent out as missionaries and church planters to start new churches and new ministries for Christ around the world.
-  **Prophecy:** this is the gift of preaching or proclaiming the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. The prophet *forth tells* or declares the truth of God. Prophecy does not necessarily mean to foretell the future. It is proclaiming “*Thus says the Lord!*”
-  **Evangelism:** this is the gift of winning others to Christ through the proclamation of the gospel.
-  **Pastor/Teacher:** many Bible teachers say that the gift of shepherding God’s flock goes hand-in-hand with teaching. You can have the gift of teaching without being a pastor, but you can’t be a pastor without the gift of teaching or communicating God’s Word effectively. The shepherd must be able to feed and care for God’s flock through the ministry of the Word.
The gift of shepherding (pastoring) God’s flock can belong to more than the senior Pastor of a church and his staff. A man or woman with the gift of pastor is motivated by the love of Christ to care for, feed, and nurture others whether a Sunday School class, youth group, nursery, or other groups large or small.
-  **Teaching:** this gift is the ability to study and gain helpful insights from the Bible, then to communicate it in a clear, interesting, and understandable way to others.
-  **Exhortation:** this is the gift of encouraging and motivating others to please God. This person comes alongside others to comfort them with love, to encourage them to grow spiritually and to make a greater commitment to Jesus Christ.

Serving gifts – mercy, helps, hospitality, giving, and administration. This is not likely an exhaustive list of the serving gifts.

These gifts are found in 1 Peter 4:9, 1 Corinthians 12, and Romans 12 and by examples found throughout the Bible.

Take turns reading the following definitions:

-  **Mercy:** this gift brings joy and fulfillment in ministering to the sick, poor, hurt, handicapped, and others with special needs.
-  **Helps:** this gift brings fulfillment in service to your church and to others. This person enjoys using the talents and work skills God has given them. They may be a jack-of-all-trades.
-  **Hospitality:** this gift enables a person to be relaxed around others and quick to make newcomers feel welcome in the church family. They find satisfaction in entertaining neighbors and those who visit the church, using their home as a tool to attract their neighbors to Christ. They also enjoy opening their homes to traveling evangelists and missionaries.

 **Giving:** this gift belongs to those God has gifted to acquire wealth. They find great joy in advancing the kingdom of God through their generosity, not flaunting it and looking for public recognition, but giving in secret for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

 **Administration:** this gift brings fulfillment in the organization and administration of God's work. They may serve in advisory, organizational, leadership, and secretarial positions in the church.

7. What two groupings of gifts does Peter talk about in 1 Peter 4:11?

Speaking and Serving *“If anyone speaks” - “If anyone ministers”* (serves)

Think about it this week:

- ➔ What ministry would I like to volunteer to become a part in at Burley Bible Church?
- ➔ Ask others to objectively evaluate where they think you are gifted and could effectively serve.
- ➔ Would you pray and ask God to show you what your spiritual gift is?

I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you.

2 Timothy 1:6

Use your gifts for the glory of God!