

Grace

for

Today's Church

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DISCOVER

your gifts!

DEVELOP

them for ministry!

DEDICATE

them to God's Glory!

3. THE GRACE GIFTS OF GOD

1 Peter 4:10-11

Romans 12:3-8

- 3:A These gifts are NOT supernatural in nature in the same sense as those given by the Holy Spirit for the early infant era of the church given only through the hands of the apostles. These are abilities given by God, our Father as part of His gift of grace the work of Christian ministry to be performed and our purpose as saved people to be fulfilled. (See Ephesians 2:8-10)
- 3:B Peter in his letter and Paul to the Romans are referring to the same gifts, Peter referring to their two categories while Paul gives an itemized listing. Both inspired writers refer to these gifts as "gifts of grace". See 1 Peter 1:10. Here Peter says that the exercise of these "spiritual gifts" is a way of "faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms". (Various

forms could certainly be referring to the specific gifts named by Paul in his itemized list.) Paul says we have different "gifts" according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:6)

- 3:C These gifts may be "innate qualities" (talents or abilities) within a person naturally which God activates and sanctifies when we come under His work of grace. Thus, they are identified as gifts of grace, both because they are enhanced and sanctified by God, which is grace indeed AND this sanctification or activation or enhancement takes place upon our receiving God's grace through faith.
- 3:D The Grace Gifts are to be used, according to both writers, in a context of congregational harmony and to promote unity, even though different people will have different abilities.
- 3:E Peter makes it clear in 4:10 that each Christian is responsible for using his/her gift in an unselfish way to serve others. If a person attempts to use their gift(s) to elevate self and make oneself look better than others or be served instead of serving, he/she is certainly abusing the gift(s) they have been blessed with and will probably do harm to the body of Christ. The gifts are to be used in such a way as to bring praise to Jesus, as well as glory and power. If anyone uses any of these grace gifts for their own glory and to gain personal power, they are both unspiritual and in jeopardy of judgment.
- 3:F Paul, in his passage makes it clear that there is ONE body, and the exercise of the gifts must be done harmoniously in order to bring unity and effectiveness to the body of Christ.
- 3:G These gifts may be continually developed, possibly in proportion to our growing faith (R.12:3) and can be enhanced with prayer, Bible Study, training and practice.
- 3:H Please refer to the chart on the following page to see how the gifts are divided and listed.

1 PETER 4:10-11

	SPEAKING	SERVING
R O M A N S	<u>Prophecying</u> V.6 <u>Teaching</u> V.7	<u>Serving</u> V.7 <u>Encouraging</u> V.8 <u>Giving</u> V.8 <u>Leading</u> V.8 <u>Showing</u> <u>Mercy</u> V.8
12: 3-8		

- 3:H When all the gifts are present within the body and functional, the ministry of the church prospers. It is a grave mistake to depend on or cultivate ONLY a couple of the gifts.
- 3:I While many members possess several of the grace gifts, every member possesses at least one. Even if a person has multiple gifts, he/she probably has one or two primary ones.
- 3:J According to a previously studied passage, Ephesians 4: 11-16, it is a PRIMARY tasks of gifted leaders to help each member of the body identify their grace gift(s) and prepare them (each Christian) for significant and spiritual ministry for the kingdom of Christ in the world. Leaders are not to DO all the ministry for the people; rather they are to prepare, call and involve the membership IN ministry. This is the meaning of the "priesthood of all believers" in 1 Peter 2:9.
- 3:K The only difficult "gift" to discern in this list is of course, prophecy. It is my conviction that in this usage, it is not referring to the supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit received through the laying on of the apostles' hands; nor is it the office or specialized ministry of "prophet" as in Ephesians 4:, but rather the word here is being used in its most general sense of "speaking forth the Word of God", the most basic meaning of "prophet, a forth teller, not a foreteller. I cite the following reasons:
1. No other gift in the entire list of Romans 12: is of supernatural nature, but rather related to our innate abilities and talents reclaimed by God at conversion and sanctified for holy purposes.
 2. Paul says in Romans 1:11 that he was "anxious to see them so he could impart (i.e. through laying on of his hands) some spiritual gift to make them strong." These grace gifts in chapter 12 already were in existence in Rome.
 3. It is not inconsistent to find in the New Testament, certain gifts or virtues be identified both as a regular and expected quality of every Christian as well as in a supernatural elevated measures as a special spiritual

gift. For example, Peter speaking to all Christians in 2 Peter 1:5 speaks of faith as a foundation characteristic, but it is also listed as a supernatural gift in 1 Corinthians 12:9 which is undoubtedly a divinely elevated measure of faith. Peter in the same passage speaks of adding knowledge to our list of Christian qualities, while Paul puts knowledge in the list of supernatural, spiritual gifts as one who is divinely blessed with significantly higher levels of knowledge about God's will. So it would not be unreasonable to see another "gift" being used to describe a "natural" ability sanctified by God as well as a "supernatural" measure supplied by the Spirit.

- 3:L Please study now the chart on page 9 to see the grace gifts along with the primary task and basic message conveyed by each. *(This chart is adapted from one developed by Dean Mills of Hillsboro, Ohio called "The Seven Gifts of Grace".)*

THE GRACE GIFTS

Romans 12:3-8

<u>GIFT</u>	<u>TASK</u>	<u>BASIC MESSAGE</u>
Prophesying	Speaking Forth the Word of Life	Jesus saves!
Teaching	Relaying Bible truths in a clear, understandable fashion.	Jesus reveals God's will.
Serving	Assist with the ministry.	Jesus served!
Encouraging	Lifting up others.	Jesus loves!
Giving	Making time and treasure count for God by meeting the needs of others.	Jesus provides!
Leading	Organize and unify the work for effective ministry.	Jesus shepherds!
Showing Mercy	Comfort and assist those hurting!	Jesus cares!

A unit now will follow on each gift, with direction and encouragement for developing it to be most usable for Christ and beneficial to the work of the church.

The Gift of Prophecy/Preaching

Romans 12:6

"Arise and go to Nineveh, that great city and preach to it the preaching that I bid Thee." Jonah 3:2

"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." 1 Timothy 4:13

Jesus, The Greatest Preacher Matthew 4:17

"God had only one Son and He made Him a preacher" Phillips Brooks.
Jesus is THE preacher who sends preachers: Mark 3:14, Acts 10:42,
Romans 10:8-15

Preachers Are People! Acts 14:15

THE BURDEN OF PREACHING!

"If you can do anything but preach, do it!" David Branholm
1 Corinthians 9:16
"I MUST preach..." Jesus. Luke 4:43

THE SUBJECT OR MESSAGE OF PREACHING!

Preach the _____! Mark 1:14, Lk.9:60, Acts 8:12, 20:35, 28:31
Preach the _____! Acts 8:4, 15:35, 2 Tim.4:1ff, Titus 1:3
Preach _____ and Him _____! 1 Cor.1:17-18,23
2 Cor. 4:5 Acts 5:42, 8:35, 9:20
Preach the _____! Mark 16:15, Romans 1:15-16
Preach _____! Acts 10:36

WHAT PREACHING DOES!

Warns Colossians 1:28
Teaches Colossians 1:28
Calls Romans 10:12-15
Corrects 2 Timothy 4:2
Rebukes 2 Timothy 4:2
Encourage 2 Timothy 4:2

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PREACHERS/TEACHERS

James 3:1-2

THE GIFT OF TEACHING

Teaching- The gift of educating others in God's Word with an aim to grounding people in that Word (instruction) and challenging them to live out that Word (application).

Deuteronomy 4:14 Ezra 7:10 Proverbs 13:14

JESUS, THE MASTER TEACHER

Psalms 25:8 Matthew 7:28
Mark 4:1 Mark 6:2 & 34 John 3:2

THE BIBLE TEACHER MUST FIRST BE A BIBLE _____!

Exodus 4:12 24:12
Psalms 27:11
Psalms 86:11

THE SUBJECT OF TEACHING

1 Timothy 1:3
2 Timothy 3:16
Titus 2:1-15
Matthew 15:9
Matthew 28:20
Acts 2:42, 4:2, 5:42, 15:35, 18:11, 28:31

TEACHING THE CHILDREN

Deuteronomy 4:9,10 6:7 11:19

TEACHING IN THE HOMES

Acts 5:42

TEACHING FOR MATURITY--Hebrews 5:13

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE--Titus 2:7-10 2 Timothy 1:13

CAPABLE TEACHERS

1 Timothy 3:2
2 Timothy 2:2, 24
Women Teachers - Titus 2:4
One Restriction- 1 Timothy 2:12-13

ACCOUNTABILITY- James 3:1

**Content of
Teaching or
Doctrine is a
Test for
Fellowship
2 John 9-10
Romans 16:17
1 Timothy 6:3**

**OBEDIENCE
Test of Love
& Discipleship
John 14:23-24**

THE GIFT OF SERVING

SERVING
Assisting in Ministry
Jesus Serves!

Gift Definition: Serving God by meeting peoples' needs and carrying out the church's ministries and duties!

Words for the Servants!

δουλος as in Phil.2:7 slave in obedient service to the master

οικετες (oiketes) as in Luke 16:13 "in the same house, under the same authority"

διακονος-(diakonos)as in John 12:26 an errand runner, on who executes the plans of another, a servant of the king, deacon

ηυπερετες (huperetes)- as in John 18:26 "an underrower"

JESUS, the Servant!

Isaiah 53:11

Matthew 12:18

Mark 10:45

Philippians 2:7

Servanthood, the Measure of Kingdom Greatness!

Matthew 20:27 Matthew 23:11

Matthew 25:21, 30

The spirit/attitude of a servant!

John 12:26 John 13:16

Galatians 5:13

Colossians 3:24

Servants must have a single heart!

Luke 16:13

Leaders are to be servants!

1 Timothy 3:1

1 Timothy 3:10

2 Timothy 2:24

Titus 1:1

James 1:1

2 Peter 1:1

Jude 1:1

Revelation 1:1

Qualities that Enhance the Servant's Life

Being a good planner!

Seeing things through!

Working on projects promptly!

Balance People-task orientation!

Content working behind scenes!

Pitfalls of a servant!

Look down on those who don't do as much!

Get spread too thin!

Become more task oriented than people oriented!

“Serving God by lifting Others
Up, and urging others to pursue
God’s Way for their life”
Jesus Serves!

THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGING

Acts 4:36-37

Jesus, The Greatest Encourager

John 14:1-4, 16-17

Greek Word for Encourager- παρακλητος, (parakletos) term used to describe Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Encourager was the nick-name given to Barnabas.

See Acts 9:26-27, 11:22-30, 14:21-23

TWO SIDES
TO THE COIN
OF PARAKLETOS



Hebrews 10:21-25 Faith + Hope + Love = Encouragement

Characteristics of An Encourager (From Les Hughes SECC)

- 1) People seek you out for counsel or help!
- 2) Have a sensitivity to suffering, troubled and discouraged people.
- 3) Others are motivated to Love and Good Works by those who possess this gift.

Cautions:

- 1) Getting so involved in person’s life that an inappropriate dependency develops.
- 2) Over-simplify complex problems
- 3) Becoming over-extended.

Ways To Encourage:

Listening
Appropriate Touch
Written Messages
Spoken Words
Meeting Needs

**"Making Time and Treasure Count
for God by Meeting The Needs of
The Kingdom and Others."
Jesus Provides!**

THE GIFT OF GIVING

Luke 6:38

God, The Greatest Giver

John 3:16

James 1:5,17

Two Types of Giving:

Regular Giving- Obligations of Stewardship- Malachi 3:10

1 Corinthians 16:2

(Tithe to be a first fruit of our increase!)

Measure- Proportionate- Equality of gifts!

Extraordinary Giving- Opportunities for Sacrifice- 2 Cor. 8:2

**Whether out of abundance or poverty, it is giving above
our proportionate gifts.**

Needs Met in Extraordinary Giving:

Help the Poor Deuteronomy 15:7

Matthew 25:31-40

Meeting the Needs of the Family of God

James 2:14-17

1 John 3:16-18

Galatians 6:9-10

Acts 4:32-37

Evangelize the World

Romans 10:15

Philippians 4: 14-19

The Spirit for Giving:

A willing heart- Exodus 25:2; 35:5,21; 36:2-6

2 Corinthians 8:11-12

A cheerful heart- 2 Corinthians 9:7

See that you excel in this grace of giving!

2 Corinthians 8:7

Organize and unify the work
for effective ministry.
Jesus Shepherds!

The GIFT OF LEADING

The Gift- A person having specific qualities and values, who has a genuine and intimate relationship with Jesus, who knows the way to heaven, and can inspire others to follow; who never loses sight that they are sheep of the flock too, but is gifted and called to help lead the way.

LEADERSHIP IN THE KINGDOM IS NOT ABOUT AUTHORITY, BUT SUBMISSION TO HIS AUTHORITY, IT IS NOT ABOUT MANAGEMENT AS MUCH AS IT IS ABOUT MINISTRY! See Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:22, Colossians 1:15-20

Primary Scripture Passages about Leadership in the New Testament:

Acts 6:1-6 Acts 20:28-31 1 Timothy 3:1-7
1 Timothy 5:17-20 2 Timothy 4:1-5 Titus 1:5-9
Hebrews 13:7-8,17 1 Peter 5:1-4

QUALITIES OF THE BIBLICAL LEADER:

#1 INTEGRITY 1 Timothy 3:2 Titus 1:6

Genuine Faith Life- 1 Timothy 6:11, Acts 6:3

True to Sound Doctrine-Titus 1:9

Godly Family Man- Titus 1:6 1 Timothy 3:4-5

True Understanding of the Lord's Kingdom Business-
Luke 2:49 (KJV) Acts 6:2-4

Can Articulate his personal faith Titus 1:9

Gentle Spirit and Bold Courage- Acts 20:28-31; Matt.10:16

Pure Motives 1 Peter 5:2-3

Leadership VS. Lordship

Mark 10:35-45

Of High Value

Godly spiritual example

Provide tender pastoral care

Guided by Biblical principle

Submission/Service

Fruit of Spirit (Gal.5:22-23)

Man of Prayer & Spiritual Wisdom

Of Lower Value

Talker, one of words alone

Policy making

Bound by Human Rules/By-Laws

Control/Authority

Successful in World

Earthy Wisdom

A Godly leader knows when, where and how to pass the mantle of

responsibility. Newer and younger men are entrusted to carry on. Consider the examples of Moses & Joshua, Elijah & Elisha, and Paul and Timothy. They take great joy in seeing their successor succeed. They plan and work for their success and they hand the torch with dignity and grace and trust.

Comfort and Assist
Those Hurting
"Jesus Cares"

THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY

The Gift- A God-given quality of experiencing empathy (to feel with) and showing sympathy (to feel for) hurting people during periods of distress, fear, confusion, indecision or crisis. A comforter.

What is Mercy? _____

The Lord is MERCIFUL!

Micah 7:18

Hosea 10:12

The Mercy Seat

Exodus 25:17-22

The Throne of Grace Hebrews 4:14-16

THE COMMAND TO SHOW MERCY.....Luke 6:36

Example of Showing Mercy

Luke 10:30-37

Qualities of a Mercy-Shower

(1) Can really hear what people are saying.

(2) Gains an immediate sense of the burden

(3) Drawn to people in distress

(4) Sensitive to words and actions that hurt others

Who Needs to Receive Mercy?

Proverbs 14:21,31 _____

Proverbs 28:13/ Isaiah 55:7/ Luke 18:13 _____

Matthew 9:27/ 20:30 _____

Matthew 15:21-28 _____

Luke 17:11-19 _____

Matthew 25:31-40 _____

1 Timothy 1:13,16 _____

Jude 22 _____

"Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall be shown mercy!" Jesus.