

## Understanding Spiritual Gifts – Romans Gifts (Part 2)

*Romans 12:1-8*

*ROL – July 16, 2017*

### I. Intro.

#### A. *Romans 12*

*1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

*6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (NIV)*

### I. The context of what Paul has been saying

**A. It is all about Unity: Each member of the Body of Christ working together**

**B. These gifts are rooted in the grace of God**

**1. Vs. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us**

**2. Tom Holland in his commentary on Romans: "Romans the Divine Marriage says this: (Quote page 396)**

**3. God wants to create a culture of humility in the Church**

**4. We are designed by God to live and find our destiny in community and in inter-relatedness**

**5. We need to respect each other's uniqueness and give space to their gift and place in the body**

### II. How Are the Seven Motivational Gifts of Romans 12 Unique?

**A. How are they the same as the other gifts?**

1. They are no less supernatural, although they may seem less spectacular than some of the miraculous gifts

1. They are based in God's grace

2. There is some overlap with the other gift lists

**B. *How are these gifts unique?***

1. The language indicates that each believer probably fit into primarily one and maybe more of these motivational gifts.

2. The Romans 12 gifts differ greatly in this way from the 1 Corinthians gifts, which are "divided severally as God wills."

3. The emphasis is that we all fit into and have our place of service in the Body of Christ.

4. This is part of our service or worship as mentioned in Romans 12:1

**C. *Romans 12 - What many call the "motivational gifts"***

1. The implication is that a person will tend to be strongly motivated by one or perhaps a couple of these gifts.

2. These are divine enablings of God's grace at work in us.

3. The focus is on finding these motivating forces God has developed in our life and working together in a complimentary way with the other parts of the Body.

4. Like Ephesians 4, these tend to be lifetime attributes.

5. Unlike Ephesians 4, it appears that every person will have a least one of these motivational gifts.

**D. *They tend to be strongly tied to a person's personality, i.e. mercy or giving (corresponding virtues of compassion and generosity).***

2. Because they are tied to personality, it is often hard to separate the gift from the personality type!

3. The stress here is that we are not private practitioners, but instead connected to one another in a "team effort."

The gifts are not a private and personal thing. See

4. The focus here does not seem to be to give a complete list but to illustrate how the Body of Christ should work!

### **III. Seven Gifts**

**A. *ONE - Prophecy***

a) We have already talked about prophecy extensively – just a couple new items here

b) Let him use it in proportion to his faith.

*(1) We can grow in prophetic gifts by allowing our faith to grow.*

*(2) The need to mentor and protect those with prophetic giftings is crucial.*

**B. *TWO - Serving or Helps***

**1. Definition:**

- a) *Diakonia – The word we get the office of deacon from*
- c) *Supportive acts of service*
- b) *Literally to wait on as a servant*

**2. Examples from Scripture**

a) *Acts 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. (NIV)*

(1)

b) *Acts 9:36\* ¶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.*

c) *37\* About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.*

d) *38\* Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”*

e) *39\* Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes*

*and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.*

**3. Application:**

- a) These people roll up their sleeves and get jobs done that need to be done - often without recognition*
- b) Often, along with this gift goes an intuitive knowledge of what is needed in the church or lives of other disciples in that moment.*
- c) The church would collapse without support of these people!*

**C. THREE - Teaching**

**1. Definition:**

- a) This gift has so many applications*
- b) Some pastors are teachers, others tend to be more prophetic*
- c) The teaching of young is critical*
- d) Paul tells Timothy and Titus - Let the older women and men teach the younger women and men respectively*
- e) 2 Timothy 2:2 Passing on the core values, truths of Jesus and Ways of God*
- f) More than information, this is impartation of life skills, character transformation, and spiritual DNA of Christ*

**g) Examples from Scripture**

- d) Look at the direction Paul gives to Titus about teaching:*
- e) Titus 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to stay busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. 6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example*

*by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. 9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, 10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. 15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. (NIV)*

*h) Notice Paul stresses how the teacher lives as much as what he/she proclaims*

**D. FOUR - Encouraging, or exhortation**

**1. Definition:**

- a) To speak words of encouragement or correction*
- b) This can be what we call counseling*
- c) But, it is also encouraging and comforting*
- d) The word used here can also mean to seek to persuade someone to follow truth*
- e) To come alongside and comfort*

**2. Examples from Scripture**

- i) Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

**E. FIVE - Giving**

**1. Definition:**

- a) Let Him give liberally*

- b) *Shouldn't we all give generously?*
- c) *This GIFT is the ability to allow God to channel great gifts of wealth.*
- d) *These people become conduits of God's provision to accomplish Kingdom purposes*
- e) *Giving above and beyond - with the confidence that God will always provide.*
- f) *You don't need to be wealthy to have and operate in this gifting*

**2. Examples from Scripture**

*a) Acts 4:32-37 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.*

*<sup>36</sup>Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.*

- b) *These givers often have a gift of faith and ability to see things that God wants to do before others do.*
- c) *They are often visionary and sometimes prophetic – seeing need and vision before the rest of the Church body does*

**F. SIX - Leadership or Administration**

**1. Definition:**

- a) *Let him govern diligently*
- b) *Literally, this gift means to stand before and diligently lead*

**2. Examples from Scripture**

- a)
- b) *This would refer to eldership and those given positions of authority to serve the church*
- c) *Not all pastors have this gift of leadership*
- d) *Teaching pastors often need others with leadership gifts to come alongside*

*e) I also believe this is a gift that has application in the in others spheres of life: business, medicine, the arts, sports, education, etc.*

**G. SEVEN - Showing Mercy**

**1. Definition:**

*a) How to do it - If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully*

*b) To comfort the grieving*

*c) Showing compassion*

*d) To patiently listen and give counsel*

*e) The ability to listen and empathize*

**j) Examples from Scripture**

*(1)*

**k) Strong gift for pastors and those in evangelism and prayer ministry**

**II. CONCLUSION:**

**A. How many heard a gift today that they know they have?**

**B. Or, perhaps a gift that you sense God wants to develop in you?**

**C. ACTIVATION OF GIFTS**