

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Grace is the gift that keeps on giving; God's grace not only saves us, it equips us. Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities, empowered by the Holy Spirit, given through grace to serve and strengthen others. Every believer is called to discover, develop, and deploy their gift for the glory of God, the good of others, and the growth of the Church.

MAIN POINTS

1. **Be humble in your faith** (*Romans 12:3*)
 - A renewed mind leads to sober thinking.
 - We should view ourselves according to the measure of faith God has given, avoiding pride and self-reliance.
2. **Be hopeful in your function** (*Romans 12:4-5*)
 - The Church is one body with many members; each part has a unique and vital role.
 - Our differences are not obstacles but God-designed opportunities for unity and mutual dependence.
3. **Be helpful in your fellowship** (*Romans 12:6-8*)
 - God's grace equips us with diverse gifts: prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, and mercy.
 - Gifts are not for storage, but for service: to glorify God (*1 Peter 4:10-11*), to serve others (*Mark 10:45; Galatians 5:13*), and to build up the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-13*).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Why is humility essential when using our spiritual gifts?**
Possible Answer: Humility keeps us dependent on God's grace and prevents comparing ourselves to others. Pride distorts service; humility glorifies God. (*Romans 12:3; Philippians 2:3-4*)
2. **What does it mean to be "one body in Christ" in a practical sense?**
Possible Answer: It means we belong to each other, depend on one another, and work together for God's mission just like organs in a body depend on each other to function. (*Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14*)
3. **How can you identify and develop the spiritual gift God has given you?**
Possible Answer: By prayerfully seeking God, serving in different areas, receiving feedback from others, and aligning your service with biblical truth. (*1 Peter 4:10; 2 Timothy 1:6*) *Take the Spiritual Gifts & Serving class on September 12, 2025, 9:00am, Room 106*
4. **What are some ways spiritual gifts can be misused or neglected, and how can we guard against that?**
Possible Answer: They can be used for self-promotion, ignored out of fear, or confined to church walls. We guard against misuse by keeping our focus on God's glory, not our own. (*Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*)
5. **What step can you take this week to actively serve others with your gift?**
Possible Answer: Volunteer in a ministry area (i.e., Growth Group), encourage someone in need, lead a prayer time, give generously, or show mercy to someone hurting. (*Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 10:24*)

GOSPEL CONNECTION

The greatest gift God has given is His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as spiritual gifts are given by grace, salvation is also a gift of grace which is not earned, but freely given through faith in Jesus (*Ephesians 2:8-10*). Jesus Himself modeled the ultimate use of God-given ability when He came "not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (*Mark 10:45*). Through His death and resurrection, we are not only forgiven but empowered by the Holy Spirit to live new lives of service. Spiritual gifts are a reflection of the gospel and they flow out of the grace we have received, so that others may experience the love, truth, and transforming power of Christ.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday: Humility in Your Faith

Key Verse: *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."* (Romans 12:3)

Reflection: Paul begins his teaching on spiritual gifts with a call to humility. Pride blinds us to God's purposes, but humility opens us to His direction. The "measure of faith" is a reminder that both our salvation and our gifting are from God, not earned or self-generated. Every ability we have is a stewardship of His grace.

Application Question: How does humility change the way you serve others?

Possible Answer: Humility shifts the focus from personal recognition to God's glory, helping us serve with love

Prayer Response: Lord, keep my heart humble and my eyes fixed on You. Remind me daily that every gift I have comes from You and is for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday: Hopeful in Your Function

Key Verse: *"So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."* (Romans 12:5)

Reflection: The church is not a collection of isolated believers; it is one living body, connected in Christ. Just as every organ in the human body has a role, every believer has a God-assigned function. Your role is not a backup plan; it's a vital part of God's design. That truth gives us hope; our contribution matters.

Application Question: What's one way you can embrace your role in the body of Christ this week?

Possible Answer: I can intentionally encourage someone in my growth group or ministry team, knowing my presence and words have purpose.

Prayer Response: Lord, thank You for placing me in the body of Christ. Help me see my role as valuable and my fellow believers as family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday: Helpful in Your Fellowship

Key Verse: *"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..."* (Romans 12:6a)

Reflection: Spiritual gifts are not for display but for service. God's grace manifests uniquely in each believer to meet the needs of others. If we fail to use our gifts, we deprive the body of Christ of what God intended to give through us. Grace moves to us so it can flow through us.

Application Question: How are you currently using your spiritual gift to serve others?

Possible Answer: I'm using my teaching gift by teaching a class at church and teaching my kids the bible.

Prayer Response: Father, stir my heart to serve willingly and joyfully. Show me opportunities to use my gifts for the good of others and the glory of Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thursday: Guarding Against Gift Neglect

Key Verse: *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* (1 Peter 4:10)

Reflection: It is possible to bury our spiritual gifts out of fear, lack of knowledge, insecurity, or distraction. But God calls us to steward our gifts faithfully. Gifts that are unused grow stagnant, like water with no outlet. Serving with our gifts keeps individuals and the church alive and healthy.

Application Question: What might be holding you back from fully using your spiritual gift(s)?

Possible Answer: Fear of failure or thinking others are more qualified can keep me from stepping forward, but God promises to supply the strength I need. I just don't know how in my current circumstances.

Prayer Response: Lord, break down any fear or hesitation in my heart. Help me to be a faithful steward of the grace You've given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday: The Gospel and the Gifts

Key Verse: *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45) Reflection: Jesus is the perfect model of using God-given authority and ability for the good of others. The cross was His ultimate act of service where He laid down His life for our salvation. Our gifts are a reflection of the gospel: given freely, used sacrificially, and intended to point people to Christ.

Application Question: How can you make sure your service points people to Jesus and not to you?

Possible Answer: By giving God the credit, serving without seeking recognition, and keeping the gospel central in every act of service.

Prayer Response: Jesus, thank You for serving me through Your life, death, and resurrection. Help me to serve others in a way that reflects Your heart and draws them to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.