

Romans 12:3-9 “We are Gifted for Service”

- 1) Whatever God has specifically created you to **be** or **do** has been carefully **measured** out to you for your success.
(Ephesians 2:8-10)
- 2) “Faith, however, is **not** a quality, a virtue, or a faculty. It is not something man can produce. It is simply a **trustful response** that is itself **evoked** by the **Holy Spirit**.”
- 3) It is the Holy Spirit who touches—or convicts—our dead spirit. The Spirit “**evokes**” a response: through Creation (or nature), through our conscience, our culture, **and** through the law that God writes on the hearts of mankind...so they are without **excuse**!
- 4) You have a **gift**! It’s different than mine! Even if you and I have the same gift—God has fashioned you; put you together different than me—so that your gift will **minister to one another** different than mine!
(John 13:34-35; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:10)
- 5) These are spiritual gifts – not always learned skills or natural abilities. They’re supernatural enablings—the **natural** use of supernatural capacities!
(Hebrews 2:3-4)
- 6) “God puts into the heart of every Christian at least one specific motivation. It’s an implanted **spiritual tendency** that colors our perspective and pursuits.”
(1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; Galatians 6:9)
- 7) The spiritual gift of **faith** is exhibited by someone with a strong and unshakeable **confidence** in **God**, His **Word**, His **promises**, & the power of **prayer** to effect miracles.
- 8) Faith isn’t a lack of fear, but **obedience** in spite of our fears...

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Jesus, "What about him, Lord?" [22] Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me." [23] So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that isn't what Jesus said at all. He only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

What do you think Jesus' purpose was in telling Peter that he would one day die for his faith?

What might be the dangers of focusing on the calling/gifts of other believers?

What can you do to best fulfill God's personal calling/gifting in your life?

TAKING IT HOME

- 6) Looking back at your notes/homework, what do you most need to remember or apply to your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of March 6, 2022

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) This week we talked about spiritual gifts. If God offered to give you ONE more spiritual gift, natural talent, or ability - what would it be, and why? (Feel free to be spiritual, fun, silly, or practical!)

REVIEW

- 2) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching in Romans 12:3-13, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) Paul tells us the church in Corinth had every spiritual gift (1 Cor. 1:7), yet they struggled when it came to unity. What stands out to you from the following passage?

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 - "[10] Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. [11] For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. [12] Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." [13] Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

What do you think was the major reason the Corinthians were divided?

Why do you think Paul says he pleads with them “by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 10)?

In what way(s) do you see Christians *acting* divided today?

What can you do to be united with another believer whom you may not agree with in every area?

4) Paul continues the First Corinthian passage below. Read through it, again noting any questions or highlights.

1 Corinthians 1:14-17 - [14] *I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, [15] lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. [16] Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. [17] For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.*

Why do you think Paul is glad that he can only remember baptizing a handful of the Corinthian believers?

Paul declares in verse 17 that Christ sent him to preach the gospel, but not baptize. What does this teach us about the role of baptism?

This ties into the reminder from Sunday that we are saved by grace through faith, not of works (Ephesians 2:8-9). Regarding our salvation, in what ways might we be tempted to trust in *our works* instead of *God’s work* on the cross?

If a friend asked you the following question, how would you respond? *“If we’re saved by faith, and not works, why does God command us to do things like love Him, love others, pray, read the Bible, etc?”*

5) This week we saw that God gives us different gifts so that we are all unique parts of the body of Christ - yet we are all united in Him. What stands out to you from the following passage?

John 21:18-23 NLT - “[18] *I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.*” [19] *Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”* [20] *Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved--the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?”* [21] *Peter asked*