

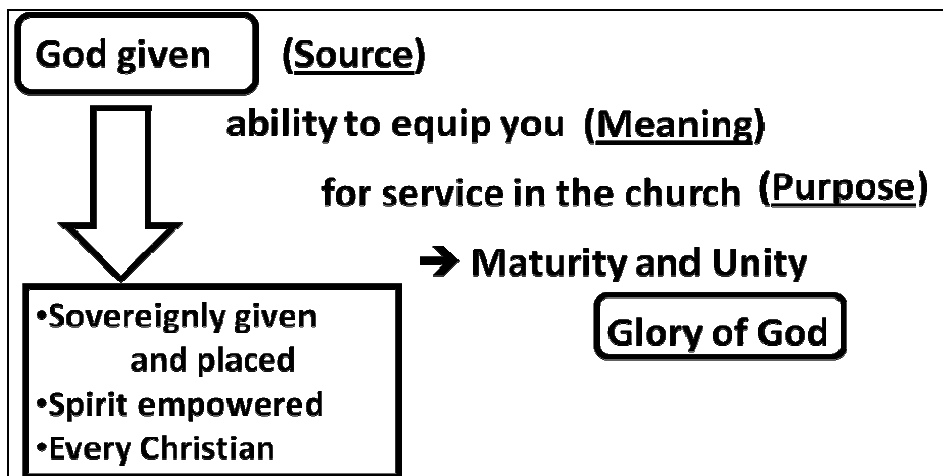
Belonging to Jesus: “Childlike Reliance on Christ”
Romans 12:1-8

Romans 12:6-8

- (6) Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;
- (7) if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;
- (8) or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Use your spiritual gift in the church with _____ on Christ. (Romans 12:3-6)

A Spiritual Gift is:



2. Make it a priority _____ your spiritual gifts in serving the church. (Romans 12:6-8)

- Prophecy**: communicating the revelation God has given for the church’s edification (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 14:3)
- Service**: organize/provide for the financial and material needs of the church (Mark 10:45; Acts 6:1)
- Teaching**: guide the community into the truth and preserve it from error (Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:2)
- Exhortation**: encourage Christians to live out the truth of the gospel (Acts 11:23; 13:15)

- **Giving: contribute to the needs of others (2 Cor. 8:2; 9:13)**
- **Leading: governing, standing before others**
(1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12; 5:17)
- **Showing Mercy: sensitive to the needs of others (sick, suffering, distress, poor, elderly, disabled)**

Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Today let’s “be informed” about the spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. Remember, these lists are representative, and not exhaustive. Read Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11; and, 1 Peter 4:10-11. Identify the various gifts and their broad meaning.
- Let’s also “be willing” before the Lord, to practice one or more of these gifts. As you practice these gifts among the church, where do you find a special sense of “joy” and a special sense of “fruit” from your service?
- Talk this over with a friend or a group and ask the Lord for guidance as you seek to serve Him using the gift(s) He has given you to build up the body of Christ.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Let’s identify the various ways that the term “service”/“ministry” (*diakonia*) is used in the New Testament: Acts 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Mark 10:43-45; Romans 15:25; Ephesians 4:12. It is also used for “deacons” (*diakonos* = servant): Romans 16:1; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8, 10, 12, 13).
- What do you think it means as a “spiritual gift”? What is the difference between the spiritual gift and the character trait (virtue) that every Christian needs to develop?
- If this is your gift, how are you developing it? If this is not your gift, how are you serving the church community? Discuss this issue with a group or a friend, and determine a plan to practice what you’ve learned.
- For other passages, check out: Romans 11:13; 15:8, 25, 31; 1 Corinthians 3:5; 12:5; 16:15; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6-9; 4:1; 5:18; 6:3-4; 8:4, 19; 11:15, 23; Galatians 2:17; Ephesians 3:7; 4:12; 6:21; Colossians 1:7, 23, 25; 4:7, 17; 1 Timothy 1:12; 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:18; 4:5, 11.

Friday-Saturday

- Three of the gifts mentioned (service, giving, showing mercy) are very broad and general in their meaning. Identify one specific act in which you could practice one of these gifts this week. Ask the Lord for help. Share your plans with a friend. Celebrate afterward what the Lord does through your act for Him.