



The Overflow of Grace Week 3 | Gifts

| KEY THOUGHTS

- **If you've said "Yes" to Jesus as your Forgiver and Leader, you have at least one spiritual gift;** many believers have more than one.
- The literal translation is "grace gifts;" gifts that are not deserved or earned, but are freely given by God when He pours out His grace upon us.
- **Using your gift to serve others is more important than putting a name to it.**
- **Each person's gift is vital to the proper functioning of the Church;** our gifts can't function properly if used in isolation.
- Among the dangers in not understanding how all this works: 1) **thinking too highly** of our gifts, or ourselves because of our gifts; 2) **thinking too lowly** of ourselves because our gifts don't seem as important as others'; 3) **jealousy** of the gifts of others we see as flashier, which can cause us to serve in an area where we're not gifted.
- Proper understanding of our spiritual gifts lets us realize **we each have a vital function in the community of Christ;** it frees us from jealousy and allows us to honor and encourage others in the use of their gifts; it enables us to grow in our faith, rely on God, and see people come to faith; when we serve with our individual gifts, we can be energized, not frustrated, as we see God's grace put on full display.
- Peter puts all the many gifts into two categories: speaking gifts, and serving gifts.
- **There are responsibilities to each, but they aren't mutually exclusive;** for example, exercising my speaking gift doesn't mean I don't have to serve in other areas.
- The Greek word translated "manifold" is ποικίλης, *poikilos*, which means "various, of different colors, diverse," like Joseph's beautiful "coat of many colors" in Genesis. In secular writings, it's used to describe the skin of a leopard, the veining in marble, variations in a strain of music.
- **When each person uses his and her gift well, it's a beautiful thing; the world takes notice, people come to faith, and God gets the glory.**

| SCRIPTURE

¹⁰ “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NASB)

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NASB)

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NASB)

¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

1 Corinthians 12:14-22 (NASB)

³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 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.

Romans 12:3-8 (NASB)

| PRACTICAL

- If you are in Christ, you were given one or more unique “grace gifts” when you crossed the line of faith.
- How can you figure out what your gift is?
 - **Read** what God tells us about spiritual gifts in the Bible:
 - Romans 12
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - Ephesians 4
 - 1 Peter 4
 - **Pray** and ask God to show you how He wants you to use your gifts.
 - **Ask** someone you know in the family of God where they may have seen you as particularly effective; that’s probably evidence of your special gift at work.
 - **Serve**. Try out a ministry and find your best fit!

| REFLECT

- What's more important: understanding everything there is to know about spiritual gifts? Putting the right name to the gifts God has given you? Or using those gifts to serve others in the church?
- There is a difference between natural ability (talents we're born with) and spiritual gifts (supernaturally given us at our re-birth). We should be careful to not confuse the two.
- Have you ever received a gift from another person that didn't fit, wasn't appropriate, or was too complicated to figure out? Because God knows us intimately, the spiritual gifts He gives always fit perfectly, are wonderfully appropriate, and are a delight to use.
- God's grace is beautiful, varicolored and intricate; the gifts He gives His people reflect that beauty in exquisite ways that only He could have designed.

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