

### ***Finding Your Ministry To Glorify God*** (Ro 12:3-8)

Next Sunday... God willing... the 20:12 team will offer a Ministry Fair during SS. Just to remind you of a few things: **1)** Go to SS to take roll, **2)** Go from SS to Fellowship Hall, **3)** Either find OR offer yourself to be involved in a ministry, **4)** Till then, ask God to give you direction about His call.

Several things we've said recently are that Jesus came to glorify God by loving us enough to die for our salvation. That God called believers to glorify Him as found in 1 Cor 10:31, "Whatever you do in word or deed do all to the glory of God." C'ians glorify God by being salt & light in the world... which results in others glorifying God (Mt 5:13-16).

But we left a few things undone... particularly how we figure out OUR call from God. This is our call to ministry & is employed both thru the church AND as we live our life day to day.

**Aside:** God's will is for ALL (!) His people to be salt & light. C'ianity is a faith in action. Every believer is to bring glory to God in their daily life!

**Return:** I want you to know today God has given believers 3 things. They are a: 1) Gift, 2) Call, & 3) Passion. The passage from Romans helps us u'stand this concept. Consider Ro 1:3...

**V 3b.** Two points: First, what believers are given is determined by God. We can't & don't choose what we receive... its 100% God's decision as to who gets what.

That's why Paul wrote in 12:3a, *don't think more highly of yourself than you should*. Whatever we are & whatever we have is absolutely, completely, & totally from God! Hear **1 Cor 15:10**...

But by the grace of God I am what I am, & his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, **though it was not I, but the grace of God in me.**

Everything about us (Who we are, the gifts we have) is God's gift. We're put His gift into use for His glory by building His kingdom. When success happens, it isn't b/c of us... but **b/c GOD brought it all about Himself for His own glory!**

As a believer, GOD has given **you** a gift, call, & passion that are to be used to bring HIM glory. This is what it means to be in God's will & to lay up treasures in heaven. **HOWEVER...**

Putting our GCP into practice is important & not something to be overlooked. We know this b/c of the parable of the unwise steward in **Mt 25:24-30**.

He buried what he was given & didn't do anything w/ it. When it was time to settle accounts, he was called wicked & lazy... so what he had was taken... & he was cast into the outer darkness where there will be **weeping & gnashing of teeth**. Sound familiar? **(T'sition back to Romans)**

**12:4.** Not all C'ians have the same function. Everyone is NOT supposed to teach or sing or serve on teams or administrate or 100 other things. But everyone **IS** to be involved in ministry in some way to build up the Body of Christ (Eph 4:12).

**12:6.** After affirming God sovereignly gives gifts to whom He desires, Paul writes simply, **“Let us use them!”** Paul’s point is God has gifted us to APPLY the gift we’ve been given. And not in just any way... **but consistent w/ the gift that is given.** For example...

A person w/ the **gift of mercy** doesn’t need to be the chairman of a committee. They are too concerned w/ everyone agreeing & being affirmed to get anything done. They’re better at helping people who are hurting or struggling w/ problems... like a support group.

**Prophets** do not need to be in charge of benevolence. Everyone they see they’ll be telling, *“If you won’t work you’re not supposed to eat!”* Prophets need to be preaching and/or teaching.

People w/ the **gift of leadership** should be a team leader b/c they are an organizer... they know how to plan & administrate ***to get things done.*** But they would die if asked to just serve on a team that took months to accomplish what they know could’ve been done in two weeks.

People w/ the **gift of service** need to be involved in doing tangible & practical things for others. They could care less about meetings... planning... or organizing. They are hands on people.

People w/ the **gift of teaching** need to teach... ***THE RIGHT GROUP!*** Adult teachers don’t do well in kid’s classes & visa versa. And don’t put a person who wants to teach... *but isn’t gifted to teach...* in any teaching position!!

When a person has the **gift of exhortation** or **encouragement** do well visiting homebound, hospitals, those in crisis or need. But if you ask them to work a budget they’ll get bogged down.

Paul’s point in Ro 12 is every person has a **different gift**. Every person has a different **gift mix** (Everyone is usually strongest in two). Thus each must serve in a capacity ***consistent w/ their gift mix.*** Serving WHERE God would have us to is referred to as God’s Call.

Then there is **God’s Call**. That is the PLACE or OPPORTUNITY God gives to put our gift into service. This can be the most subjective part of Gift, Call, & Passion. But again, ***GOD determines our call... not us!*** (Pause) For example think of **Moses**. God called him to go before Pharaoh.

He couldn’t speak well. He preferred his life as a shepherd... away from all the stress & possible danger of speaking to people who at one time wanted to kill him & were masters over the Hebrews. God didn’t say, *“Oh... well since that’s outside your comfort zone I’ll get someone else”* did He?

Instead God said, **“I’ll be w/ you”** & **“I’ll give you Aaron to speak for you.”** God provided.

God’s call took precedence over Moses’ comfort, safety, & security. Same w/ us...

Then there’s one more element that goes w/ the Gift & Call. It is our **Passion**. Our passion is what we LOVE to do... something we could spend hour upon hour doing & never get bored.

**Prophets** & **teachers** love to study Scripture. **Leaders** love to make charts, graphs, & planning. **Mercy** people love to visit. **Exhorters** love to encourage. **Generous** people love to give.

Passion is the engine that drives people to minister. Their passion is their motivation...

People who serve consistent w/ their Gift, Call, & Passion are the happiest people on earth b/c they're doing what God made & called them to do. And they do it to glorify God! It is their way of reflecting God's mercy, love, & grace to others.

I've had a lot of people tell me either, "*I don't have a gift,*" or "*I don't know what my gift is.*" If you're saved, only the 2<sup>nd</sup> statement is valid. Thus you are to figure out what your gift is. Three Qs...

**Q1:** What gift from Ro 12:6b-8 has God give you. ***Which sounds the most like you?***

**Q2:** What is something you have a passion for doing?

**Q3:** How would God have you marry those two things in ministry for His glory?

Between now & next Sunday... be asking God to reveal those things to you! Be asking Him to lead you to a ministry, or give you a ministry idea, that you can be involved in for His glory!

In **Eph 4:4-8** it is written...

There is one body & one Spirit... just as you were **called** to the one hope that belongs to your **call**... 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God & Father of all, who is over all & thru all & in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, & he gave **gifts** to men."

About salvation Paul writes that being in Christ IS to have been called & gifted. Can I suggest that all who are in Christ feel a tug to serve? A tug to glorify God in life? And if there isn't that tug then maybe you have yet to be saved?!