

“Gifts to Give”

Believe: What Shall I Do? — Part 7
Romans 12:4-6

**What we believe in our hearts will define
how we live and who we become.**

Key Question:

What gifts and skills has God given me to serve others?

Key idea:

***I know my spiritual gifts and
use them to fulfill God’s purposes.***

Key verse:

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...

Romans 12:4-6

God is a gift-giver!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...

John 3:16

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

James 1:17-18

1. What’s so spiritual about your gifts?

- Don’t confuse gifts with natural talents.
- Don’t confuse gifts with developed skills.
- Don’t confuse gifts with the fruit of the Spirit.
- Don’t confuse gifts with Christian roles.
- A spiritual gift is given by the Holy Spirit at conversion.

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

1 Corinthians 12:7

Definition: Spiritual gifts are specific abilities given by God for the purpose of service within the church and to further the Kingdom of God.

2. What's love got to do with it?

Fact: *All four places in the New Testament where spiritual gifts are detailed, they are connected with love.*

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13

...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Ephesians 4:1-7

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

- Be aware of gift projection.
- Don't feel that your gift makes you superior.
- Realize that using my gift without love is worthless.

Conclusion: *Gifts aren't the point, love is! If love isn't the motivation, and the result of gifts, then they are absolutely useless. God gives His people gifts as a way of expressing love to and for one another.*

3. Let's open our gifts.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:11

- **Service gifts:** Administration, pastoring, faith, giving, helps, serving, hospitality and mercy.
- **Speaking gifts:** Wisdom, prophecy, evangelism, exhortation, leadership and teaching.

- **Sign gifts:** Discernment, miracles, healings, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

Did God forget about me?

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given...

1 Corinthians 12:7

4. How do I discover my gifts?

***God is far more concerned about who I am
than what I can do!***

5. You've been given a gift to give it away.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Conclusion: What is your gift? You have at least one, maybe more. And when you know what your gifts are, you can use them to serve the church and serve God in powerful ways. My prayer is that we will use our gifts together so that God can work through us in spiritually powerful ways to the end that we glorify God and build His Kingdom.