

Unity in the Body of Christ Part 4 Romans 12:3-8 (NKJV)

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The Holy Spirit takes up residence in every believer when they are born again and put their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit does many internal works in the believer the rest of their lives.

But one of the greatest things that the Spirit does is to give gifts to the believers so that they may benefit the body of Christ of which they are a part.

There are 19 gifts mention in the New Testament and they fall under three categories; sign gifts, speaking gifts, and serving gifts.

So today we continue with the 7 spiritual gifts Paul describes here in Romans 12.

I. Teaching

- A. The third spiritual gift is that of teaching. Again, the meaning is simple and straightforward. *Didaskon* (teaches) refers to the act of teaching, and *didaskalia* (teaching) can refer to what is taught as well as to the act of teaching it. Both of those meanings are appropriate to this gift. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 172.*
- B. Exhortation and invitation without a background of teaching are empty things. *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Each for All and All for Each (Rom 12:3-8)".*
- C. This is one of the gifts that a pastor needs.
 - 1. Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
 - 2. As we have seen the word teachers here is in such a way that some understand the passage to mean teaching pastors.
 - 3. This seems to be seen in 1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

4. 1 Timothy 2:7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a **teacher** of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
5. 1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, **able to teach**;
6. One of the greatest problems we have in Christianity is the lack of teaching pastors.
7. And what are they to teach? “Especially those who labor in the word and doctrine”
8. The word teaching here in Romans 12 is the same word in 1 Tim 5:17. *διδασκαλία didaskalia*

D. But there are others who have this gift in the Lord’s churches

1. Col 1:28 **Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.** 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.
2. 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
3. 2 Timothy 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, **able to teach**, patient,

E. We live in a world that so badly needs people to step forward to teach the Bible.

1. There is no subject of greater magnitude or that can influence people’s lives more than those who explain the word of God to others.

II. Exhortation

A. The gift of exhortation, therefore, encompasses the ideas of advising, pleading, encouraging, warning, strengthening, and comforting. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 174.*

B. Real exhortation aims not so much at dangling a man over the flames of hell as spurring him on to the joy of life in Christ. *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Each for All and All for Each (Rom 12:3-8)".*

C. Scripture

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves

together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. Acts 15:32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.
3. Acts 20:2 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece
4. 1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
5. Hebrews 13:22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

III. Giving

- A. The fifth category of giftedness is that of giving. The usual Greek verb for giving is *didomi*, but the word here is the intensified *metadidomi*, which carries the additional meanings of sharing and imparting that which is one's own. The one who exercises this gift gives sacrificially of himself. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 175.*
- B. There is a giving which pries into the circumstances of another as it gives, which gives a moral lecture along with the gift, which gives not so much to relieve the need of the other as to pander to its own vanity and self-satisfaction, which gives with a grim sense of duty instead of a radiant sense of joy, which gives always with some ulterior motive and never for the sheer joy of giving. *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Each for All and All for Each (Rom 12:3-8)".*
- C. Scripture
 1. Ephesians 4:28 (NKJV) 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
 2. 2 Corinthians 8:2-5 (NKJV) 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.
 3. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NKJV) 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not

grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

IV. Leadership

- A. Leads is from *proistemi*, which has the basic meaning of "standing before" others and, hence, the idea of leadership. In the New Testament it is never used of governmental rulers but of headship in the family (1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12) and in the church (1 Tim. 5:17). In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul refers to the same gift by a different name, "administrations" (*kubernesis*), which means "to guide." In Acts 27:11 and Revelation 18:17, it is used of a pilot or helmsman, the person who steers, or leads, a ship. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 176.*

V. Mercy

- A. The seventh and last spiritual category mentioned here is that of showing mercy. *Eleeō* (shows mercy) carries the joint idea of actively demonstrating sympathy for someone else and of having the necessary resources to successfully comfort and strengthen that person. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 177.*
- B. It is possible to forgive in such a way that the very forgiveness is an insult. It is possible to forgive and at the same time to demonstrate an attitude of criticism and contempt. If ever we have to forgive a sinner, we must remember that we are fellow sinners. There is a way of forgiving a man which pushes him further into the gutter; and there is a way of forgiving him which lifts him out of the mire. Real forgiveness is always based on love and never on superiority. *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Each for All and All for Each (Rom 12:3-8)".*
- C. Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- D. 2 Thessalonians 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.