

Introduction:

- I Peter 4:10-As each one has received a gift, **minister** it to one another, as good **stewards** of the manifold **grace of God**.
- Review
 - Ro 1: Paul longs to impart/strengthen the church in Rome with his gift and also to be strengthened by their gifts.
 - 1 Cor 12 Spiritual gifts, Ro 12 serving gifts, Eph 4: gifts to equip the church.
 - We also learned that Paul was not trying to get the church moving in the gifts but was trying to steer a church already moving in the gifts.
 - We found that everyone has a spiritual gift(s). Its up to you to discover those gifts.
 - We also saw from the Word of God that spiritual gifts strengthen the local church. They build/encourage the faith of others as the gifts are used.

I. Spiritual Gifts The Divine and Human

- A. In all the gifts of the Holy Spirit there is both a divine and human activity. *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NKJV) *“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT) Manifestation- Gr. phaneros - to shine forth, make visible. A visible expression of...God. The Holy Spirit or gifts (divine activity) is given to each (human aspect).
1. Each gift is a manifestation of the spirit.
 2. Each gift is expressed through human beings.
 3. In the operation of the gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit expresses himself through human activity...people. The spiritual gifts are ‘fluid’ change with people, times, places etc.
- B. The Divine side
1. Since we are dealing with a manifestation of the Holy Spirit (a spiritual gift) the divine aspect/the God activity is primary. Therefore all the gifts are supernatural or extraordinary. So a ‘word of knowledge’ is just as supernatural/extraordinary as a miracle.
 2. The gifts are not natural talents or learned trained abilities. They are not a spiritually infused talent.
 3. They are gifts of the Holy Spirit, endowments not enhancements ...apportionment of the Holy Spirit. A gift is manifested when set free by the Holy Spirit.
 4. A manifestation of the Spirit may occur with someone regardless of background, experience or education. Therefore they may occur through most anyone...anyone who is willing to believe and be used by God.
- C. The human side of the gifts.
1. Human activity is involved in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. *“To each one is given”* signifies that it is a person who is receiving the gift. It is the person who ‘acts’ not the Holy Spirit. Ie. *“On the day of Pentecost”* (Acts 2:4)they began to speak not the Holy Spirit. They Holy Spirit ‘gave them’ to ‘speak out’ but He himself did not speak out.
 2. Nothing was forced by the Holy Spirit, nothing was automatic. The human element was partnering/participating with the Divine. Because of the human side there are things that will end up looking like the ‘flesh’.
 3. They Holy Spirit can use well educated and studied people and He can use unlearned/ unschooled people.
- D. Spiritual Gifts in Community
1. *“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT) This is the importance of the gifts at work in the local church. They are given so that we can strengthen or help each other.

2. The spiritual gifts working at work in the church are Jesus carrying forth His ministry to his body. As we exercise our gifts we build up the body of Christ, His church.
 - a) Whatever the manifestation of the Spirit, its one purpose is the edification of the church or the building up of the church. That is what the Holy Spirit is after. It is one aspect of why Holy Spirit was given to the believer.
 - b) If the end result of the operation of a spiritual gift is not edification it is considered
 - (1) out of order: has to do with timing, and with established protocol.
 - (2) inappropriate
 - (3) or in need of 'fine tuning.'
3. The church in Corinth was eager to move in the gifts and Paul was instructing them to strive for excellence in building up the body with them. The over riding concern for Paul was the edification of the body. Therefore the validity of the gift is not in its expression but in how well it builds the body.
4. And God's design is so wise. He gives each one a gift so that we are not constantly looking to any one person but we are looking to the Lord to manifest himself through His people in ministry to us.
 - a) All have a gift and Paul compares it to a man's body with many parts.
 - b) Each part supplies its portion to the rest of the body.
 - c) This is one of the reasons that small groups are so important to the local church. In the "Temple church" the larger gatherings it is harder to exercise your gifts but in small groups or "house church" there is time and space for the operation of the body to one another.
 - d) Love is the basis for all of this ministry. Without it. It all is meaningless.

II. We Must Use Our Gifts

- A. *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10, NLT) The NKJV says we are to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 1. Each one of us has been given a **gift**
 - a) Everyone has a gift from God that makes you to have a supernatural expression of God's grace and Kingdom.
 - b) *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."* (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)
 - c) That gift is not meant for you it is meant to be given away.
 2. Each one of us are to Use NLT/Minister NKJV Gr diakoneo - deacon/servant.
 - a) *Minister-diakoneo-decon-to be a servant, attendant, domestic; to serve, to wait upon; attend to, anything that may serve another's interests. This is what we do...we serve others with our gifts, with who we are.*
 3. Each one is to **Steward** the gift. You can't steward what you do not know you have. That is why DYMI is important.
 - a) You have to know who you are and what your gifts are.
 - b) Must minister your/God's grace to others. That means you are serving your grace to others.
 - c) You must be faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.* NKJV
 - d) Find the place of increase—grace.
 - e) Don't withhold what God has given you to share.
- B. *"And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God."* (1 Peter 2:5, NLT)
 1. The Greek word for built up is oikodomeo. It means to assemble. To put together as one would build a house, temple, building etc.

2. To use your gift you must be connected. We are talking about being assembled together! Not just gathered. Gathering does not build a church but assembling does. In assembly the grace God has given me is given to you and visa versa. Like a body each part supplies something the rest of the body needs.
 3. Since you are living stones, if you are not connected there is no level of grace pulsating there. **Grace: is God's ability in me to do what I cannot do in and of myself.** When we are connected the water mark of grace around and in us increases. When we are connected we are receiving that pulsating life from each other. When we minister that gift (charismata) grace is given to another!
 4. Heb 10:25 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, NKJV. Pastors for the most part have used this passage to make those who miss church or extra church meetings to feel guilty. But with the understanding of being assembled, the passage takes on a much more significant understanding.
 - a) It really means that we should not forsake staying connected
 - b) Because it is in the staying connected that we give and receive grace (God's ability) from one another. It is God's ability that causes us to overcome.
 5. Genesis 13:3 Abraham settles between Bethel and Ai. Conflict arises between Lot and Abram's servants. Abram gives Lot a choice of what ever lands he wants. He goes east toward Ai and Abram goes west toward Bethel.
 - a) Ai—means pile of rocks
 - b) Bethel—means the assembled house of God.
 - c) Therefore you can come to church and be a rock on the pile or you can become the assembled house of God!
- C. Stay assembled. *“For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”* (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)
1. Bear fruit in the area God has gifted you in.
 2. Mt 25:14 The servants
 - a) Vs. 15 He gave each according to his own ability. Ro. 12:3 measure, proportion.
 - b) Response of servants.
 - (1) 5 and 2 talents went immediately. Went is Gr. Eutheo—at once, immediately.
 - (2) 1 talent 'went' is another Gr. Word which means went off or went away.
 - c) 5 and 2 were excited they produced what the master thought they could do.
 - (1) I have received—they were honored, knew they were trusted.
 - (2) I am responsible—I have ability to respond accordingly with what I have been given. I will maintain my honor, I will use what I am given, I can be trusted with this and more.
 - (3) I will give an account for what I have done with what I have been given.

Conclusion:

- Everyone has a gift.
- Use it to build others up in the body of Christ.
- There are a multitude of places to serve in the House of Freedom.
- Invitation to receive Christ.