

Greater Works Christian Church

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Motivational (Body) Gifts

Romans 12:1-21

v.1-3)

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.
- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- 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.

Our Individual Responsibility:

- Present your bodies
 - ✓ A living sacrifice
 - ✓ Holy
 - ✓ Acceptable to God
(which is your reasonable [logical] service)
- Do not be conformed to this world (aion= age, span of time)
- Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Do these things so that, “*you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*”

- Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think
- Think soberly

Although these are the primary responsibility of the individual, Paul includes it in this letter to the corporate body. This is in part because we are to take responsibility in helping one another overcome the issues that would hold us back from going forward in these areas.

v.4-5)

- 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.

V.4 and 5 shows why we are to take individual responsibility for our life, it is because we are part of something much greater and bigger than ourselves alone. We are part of the body of Christ. It is important for each of us to be as healthy as we possibly can so that the body of Christ is healthy (physically, mentally/emotionally and spiritually). If just one person is not healthy or maturing then the body as a whole suffers or is held back to some degree.

v.6-8)

- 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.

Seven Gifts given to the Body of Christ:

- 1. Prophecy
- 2. Ministry
- 3. Teaching (teacher)
- 4. Exhorter
- 5. Giver
- 6. Leader
- 7. Mercy

From the Spiritual Gift Assessment Test, please write down these gifts and the score (number) in order, from the highest to the lowest (focus on these 7 gifts only).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

This will help you understand which of these gifts are already in operation in your life.

In this next section, for discussion share only your top 2 Gifts from today's list.

Prophecy

Prophecy (Grk. 4394) *propheteia*

1) prophecy

1a) a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; especially by foretelling future events

Proportion (Grk. 356) *analogia*

Proportion

Proportion (Merriam- Webster)

1: harmonious relation of parts to each other or to the whole: balance' symmetry

2 a: a proper or equal share <each did her proportion of work

b: quota, percentage

3: the relation of one part to another or to the whole with respect to the magnitude, quantity, or degree: ratio

4: size, dimension

Those with this gift are to know how to keep their prophecies in proportion to their faith. It can be dangerous to try to prophesy beyond what one believes and gives himself to. It is important to know that this is a "Motivational Gift" not a power gift. This is what drives and motivates a person, not what comes over a person for a time (or season).

Discussion: If you scored high in Prophecy, please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

Ministry**Ministry** (Grk. 1248) *diakonia*

1) service, ministering, especially of those who execute the commands of others

2) of those who by the command of God proclaim and promote religion among men

2a) of the office of Moses

2b) of the office of the apostles and its administration

2c) of the office of prophets, evangelists, elders etc.

3) the ministrations of those who render to others the offices of Christian affection especially those who help meet need by either collecting or distributing of charities

4) the office of the deacon in the church

5) the service of those who prepare and present food

Ministering (Grk. 1248) *diakonia*

Same as above

This word is translated in various ways, each showing the meaning of this word.

- Ministry (NKJV, ASV, KJV, LITV, MKJV, RV)
- Position of Deacon (BBE)
- Office (Geneva)
- Serving (GW)
- Service (NAS77, NASB)
- Ministrations (YLT)

Each of these translations expresses an aspect of this word, thus showing how this gift is to be used. This gift is to be used helping others achieve their goal. Those with this gift are to come

along side of the five-fold (or others in leadership positions) and help them bring about their vision and goals.

This is the work and function of the Deacon.

Deacon (1247) *diakoneo*

One who serves (i.e., supplies food and necessities of life)

Used 2 times in the Bible, 1 timothy 3:10, 13

Deacons (1249) *diakonos*

- A minister
- One who executes the command of another
- One who serves food and drink

This word is used 3 times in the Bible, Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8, 12

Discussion: If you scored high in Ministry (serving), please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

Teacher

Teaches (Grk. 1321) *didasko*

1) to teach

1a) to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses

1b) to be a teacher

1c) to discharge the office of a teacher, conduct one's self as a teacher

2) to teach one

2a) to impart instruction

2b) instill doctrine into one

2c) the thing taught or enjoined

2d) to explain or expound a thing

2f) to teach one something

Teaching (Grk. 1319) *didaskalia*

1) teaching, instruction

2) teaching

2a) that which is taught, doctrine

2b) teachings, precepts

This gift compels one to know such things as details, dates and times, and those facts that others may find insignificant. This gift also compels the possessor to teach others what they have found. Those with this gift are readers and will find pleasure in books and manuals that are more technical in nature.

Discussion: If you scored high in Teaching, please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

Exhorter

Exhorts (Grk. 3870) *parakaleo*

- 1) to call to one's side, call for, summon
- 2) to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.
 - 2a) to admonish, exhort
 - 2b) to beg, entreat, beseech
 - 2b1) to strive to appease by entreaty
 - 2c) to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort
 - 2c1) to receive consolation, be comforted
 - 2d) to encourage, strengthen
 - 2e) exhorting and comforting and encouraging
 - 2f) to instruct, teach

Exhorting (Grk. 3874) *paraklesis*

- 1) a calling near, summons, (especially for help)
- 2) importation, supplication, entreaty
- 3) exhortation, admonition, encouragement
- 4) consolation, comfort, solace; that which affords comfort or refreshment
 - 4a) thus of the Messianic salvation (so the Rabbis call the Messiah the consoler, the comforter)
- 5) persuasive discourse, stirring address
 - 5a) instructive, admonitory, conciliatory, powerful hortatory discourse

In essence an Exhorter is one *that will Strengthen others through Encouragement*. This is a person that seems to always be full of Joy (not momentary happiness), and encourages others with their words and actions.

Discussion: If you scored high in Exhorter, please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

Giver

Gives (Grk. 3330) *metadidomi*

- 1) to impart

Liberality (Grk. 572) *haplotes*

- 1) singleness, simplicity, sincerity, mental honesty
 - 1a) the virtue of one who is free from pretence and hypocrisy

2) not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity

Not only is this gift to be exercised with great generosity, but also without hypocrisy. This gift (when purified) will not only be recognized as extremely generous, but also sincere and honest. There will be no hidden agenda's when this gift is used righteously.

This gift can be misunderstood because of the true nature of this gift. This gift compels those with it to "impart" what is needed for others to grow. This is beyond mere finances; however, it usually includes finances. This gift helps the possessor to see beyond the surface need and to the actual need. Afterward the gift compels to meet the actual need not the surface need.

"Give a man a fish and eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime."

This gift is the funding arm of "fishing School."

Discussion: If you scored high in Giver, please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

*** Please don't give out amounts of money or the names of people you have given to. Doing so could lead to being taken advantage of.

Leader

Leads (Grk. 4291) *proistemi*

- 1) to set or place before
- 1a) to set over
- 1b) to be over, to superintend, preside over
- 1c) to be a protector or guardian
- 1c1) to give aid
- 1d) to care for, give attention to
- 1d1) profess honest occupations

Diligence (Grk. 4710) *spoude*

- 1) haste, with haste
- 2) earnestness, diligence
- 2a) earnestness in accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything
- 2b) to give all diligence, interest one's self most earnestly

This person will not only be a natural leader, but will protect and guard those he/she leads. They will be quick and diligent in their leading (protecting and guarding).

Not only does this gift seek to lead others, but it seeks to protect others and keep them from harm. A perverted form of this gift will cause its possessor to "Lord Over" others; while a

purified form of this gift will cause its possessor to protect and guard others. Since this is a “Motivational Gift” this will come naturally from its possessor. It won’t be forced upon others but will be a natural flow from this one’s life.

Discussion: If you scored high in Leadership, please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

Mercy

Mercy (Grk. 1653) *eleeo*

- 1) to have mercy on
- 2) to help one afflicted or seeking aid
- 3) to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched
- 4) to experience mercy

Diligence (Grk. 2432) *hilarotes*

- 1) cheerfulness, readiness of mind

Not only does this gift show Mercy but is always ready to show Mercy. This gift causes its possessor to help others in time of need. This gift helps others emotionally where the gift of Ministry helps others with their physical needs.

As you can imagine, this gift is in high demand in the church, especially when things are happening that cause others to be hurt and/or misunderstood (i.e. church split, misunderstandings, offences, etc.). This gift can be bogged down with others who refuse to take responsibility of their own life and actions. On the other hand this gift can bring great comfort and healing when used properly and in a purified manner.

Discussion: If you scored high in Mercy, please share with the group how you see this gift working through you.

v.9-21) How the Gifts are to be Used and Perfected

- 9 *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.
- 10 *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
- 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
- 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
- 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
- 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

20 Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Although there are many things we can glean from these verses, it is important to see that Paul had a great deal to say about how we were to treat one another. The gifts listed in v.6-8 are to be used in a manner that builds others up. By building one another up we automatically build the church.

How we are to use our Gifts and treat One Another:

- *Let love be* without hypocrisy
- Abhor what is evil
- Cling to what is good
- *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love
- In honor giving preference to one another
- not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- Rejoicing in hope
- Patient in tribulation
- Continuing steadfastly in prayer
- Distributing to the needs of the saints
- Given to hospitality
- Bless those who persecute you
- Bless and do not curse.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice
- Weep with those who weep
- Be of the same mind toward one another
- Do not set your mind on high things
- Associate with the humble
- Do not be wise in your own opinion
- Repay no one evil for evil
- Have regard for good things in the sight of all men
- Live peaceably with all men (as much as it depends on you)
- Do not avenge yourselves
- Give place to wrath ("VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.)
- IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM
- IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK (FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD)
- Do not be overcome by evil
- Overcome evil with good.

The Gifts that God has given us are to be used in the above manner. The Gifts entrusted to us are not merely for ourselves but for the benefit of everyone around us. As we learn to follow the Holy Spirit and our lives look more like this list we will see the Body of Christ grow and flourish as never before. This will cause those not yet saved to want what we have. They will come running to the Lord seeking salvation.

Question and Discussion: After reading through the later portion of this chapter (v.9-21) what stood out to you the most? Where do you see yourself strong and where do you need help? Ask the group to pray for you after you share your strengths and weaknesses.

Keep in mind, you are in a safe environment.