



# Lecture 1

## Knowing Your God-Given Gifts

Romans 12:6-8 (Wuest translation)

**“Having therefore gifts differing according to the grace given us, whether that of prophecy, prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or serving, exercise that gift within the sphere of service; or teaching, within the sphere of teaching; or he who exhorts, within the sphere of exhortation; the one who distributes of his earthly possessions, in the sphere of an unostentatious simplicity; the one who is placed in a position of authority, with intense eagerness and effort; the one who shows mercy, with a joyous abandon”.**

"Gifts" is a translation of the Greek word "*charisma*," meaning 'free gift' and relates here in Romans 16:6-8, to "gifts denoting extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception [receiving] of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit." (Strong's Concordance)

The Christian receives these gifts by the Grace of God. These gifts operate in the soul of the believer by the Holy Spirit. To operate effectively in the gifts, it is essential that the believer's mind is being renewed day by day.

**GOD'S LOVE IS THE CORE OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS GOD MINISTERING HIS LOVE TO HIS CHILDREN THROUGH BELIEVERS FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH.**

**Prophecy, the ability to expose God's truth by faith with boldness.**

The gift of prophecy has two aspects or elements to it: forth-telling (God-inspired exhortation) and foretelling (anticipating God-revealed events). Both aspects of this gift are demonstrated in Scripture:

In the Old Testament, God prompted the prophets to anticipate future events that would occur according to His will and plan, prophesying what would happen in times to come and confirming and completing other parts of the Bible. The Old Testament prophets very often also demonstrated the 'forth-telling' nature of their God-given gift as they warned, exhorted, instructed, judged and guided both God's Chosen people and the surrounding nations.

In our times, while there are no new prophecies to be added to the Bible, there are times when God will reveal a future work to the believer, for the purpose of affirming ahead of time His plan and purposes for a person or ministry. Prophecy is also God's gift to believers (by inspiration of the Holy Spirit) to warn, exhort, instruct, judge and to guide. This gift is given to edify the church and will always be consistent with Scripture. In Romans 12:6-8 Paul exhorts believers to properly use the gift of prophecy: this gift is not to be used for profiting self, but to bring the pure message to the recipient.

**Serving, the ability to minister to other people's needs with compassion**

*Diakonia* is the Greek word for "service, ministering" and here refers to a person who serves, that is, a servant. The gift of serving is the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by rendering practical help in the environment in which God has placed the believer. The believer with the gift of serving is aware they serve Jesus through their service to others, and is a servant first in their own home among their own family, and then, within the church.

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## Teaching, the ability to expose God's message with clarity

It is obvious that this gift relates to God's Word and principles. The one who is given a teaching gift is to remain in the sphere of this service according to the Holy Spirit. This can be on the pulpit, Sunday School, teaching on the spot (principles, the Word) and other areas in the church

## Exhorting, the ability to encourage those in the church and around us

Exhorting, edifying, being an encouragement to others with love and wisdom as the Holy Spirit leads.

## Leading, the ability to communicate a vision which motivate others

The one with a position of authority, to lead with humility and diligence. The leader is a servant to those under their authority. A godly leader is a shepherd and will protect the flock.

## Giving, the ability to give material goods and finances with joy

The one who gives of their wealth is to do it in humility and simplicity, without any wrong motivation such as self-importance, seeking approval or any gain.

## Mercy, the ability to put your energy in helping those in need

The believer who has the gift of mercy is to meet the needs of others with joy, compassion and cheerfulness; being merciful to others is one of the 'beatitudes' (blessings) Jesus taught in Matthew 5:3-11. The merciful gravitate towards the hurting (physically, spiritually, emotionally, financially). This is God's heart to meet the needs of His children.

## DISCOVERING OUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

These gifts will emerge naturally as the believer submits to the Holy Spirit and is eager to receive spiritual gifts. Here are eight points to help us find our giftings:

- 1) **Know and understand the purpose of the gifts**
- 2) **Obey God's Word and depend on the Holy Spirit**
- 3) **Learn to know what you gravitate to**
- 4) **What ministries do you enjoy?**
- 5) **Who has been blessed by your doings?**
- 6) **What are the areas where you find injustices**
- 7) **Step out in faith, remember, the Holy Spirit is in control. If you make a mistake, it's OK.**
- 8) **Small beginnings will bring you to higher places when you persevere**

There are nine additional spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-13: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, languages (tongues), interpretation of tongues. Interestingly, the gift of prophecy is mentioned in both Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

We will study these gifts in the next lecture. Once we have addressed all sixteen spiritual gifts, we will provide a spiritual survey for you to fill in. This survey will help you to discover your tendencies, your giftings. Operating in the spiritual gifts is exciting and enhances our faith. Putting action to the Word of God always lifts our faith and causes us to grow.

James 1:22 (Wuest translation)

**"Moreover, keep on becoming doers of the Word and stop being hearers only, reasoning yourselves into a false premise and thus deceiving yourselves".**

Remember, **the Holy Spirit in you will cause you to grow as you are diligent and submit to Him.**