

GOD'S PLAN



WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE
FULL SERMON



WEEK 11

UNDERSTANDING AND USING YOUR GIFTS

Romans 12:1-8

In Romans 12:1-8, we encounter a transformative teaching about spiritual gifts that challenges us to move beyond passive Christianity into active, purposeful service. The message begins with a powerful reminder that worship is not confined to Sunday mornings—it's a lifestyle of sacrifice where we present our entire bodies, our physical selves, as living offerings to God. This isn't about dead animals on an altar; we are the sacrifice, daily choosing to live for God's glory rather than our own comfort. What makes this particularly compelling is the framework presented: we each possess at least one of seven primary spiritual gifts—prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, or mercy. These aren't random talents we develop, but divine enablements given at salvation for a specific purpose. The illustration of the restaurant mishap brilliantly demonstrates how different gifts respond to the same situation in completely unique ways. Some of us see problems before they happen, others rush to comfort, some analyze what went wrong, while others immediately start solving the issue. Understanding our gift isn't about pride or comparison—it's about effectiveness in God's kingdom. When we operate in our gifting, we work with divine efficiency rather than struggling with tools we weren't designed to use. The challenge before us is clear: discover which gift God has entrusted to us, stop using our gifts selfishly, and start serving the body of Christ with the unique abilities we've been given.

DAY 1: The Foundation of Worship

Reading:

Romans 12:1-2

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

Devotional:

Before we can effectively use our spiritual gifts, we must first present ourselves as living sacrifices to God. This isn't a one-time decision but a daily commitment to surrender every part of our lives—our plans, words, actions, and thoughts—to His service. True worship costs us something; it requires sacrifice. As you begin your day, consider what areas of your life you're holding back from God. Are you allowing cultural pressures to shape your decisions, or are you being transformed by God's Word? Remember, worship precedes usefulness. When we give God our whole selves in worship, He can use us powerfully for His purposes.

Reflection Question:

What specific area of your life needs to be surrendered to God today as an act of worship?

DAY 2: Created for Good Works**Reading:*****Ephesians 2:8-10***

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Devotional:

You are God's masterpiece, created with intentionality and purpose. Before the foundation of the world, God prepared specific good works for you to walk in. Just as a craftsman designs a tool for a particular function, God has equipped you with the exact gifts needed to accomplish what He's called you to do. You didn't earn these gifts, and you can't manufacture them—they're given by grace. The Creator determines the purpose of His creation. Trust that God knows the path ahead and has given you everything you need to walk it successfully. Your gifts aren't random; they're perfectly matched to your divine assignment.

Reflection Question:

How does knowing God prepared specific works for you change how you view your daily responsibilities?

DAY 3: Many Members, One Body**Reading:*****1 Corinthians 12:12-27***

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And

if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Devotional:

The church functions like a human body—diverse parts working together for a common purpose. Your gift isn't better or worse than another's; it's simply different and necessary. When you compare your gifting to others, you rob the body of what only you can contribute. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you." Similarly, we need each other's gifts to function effectively. Don't despise your gift because it seems less visible or glamorous. Every member matters. When you discover and use your gift, you're not just helping yourself grow—you're enabling the entire body to thrive. Contentment with your gifting brings freedom and fruitfulness.

Reflection Question:

Which gift in someone else have you been envying, and how can you celebrate it instead?

DAY 4: Love as the Motivation

Reading:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Devotional:

Without love, even the most spectacular spiritual gifts become meaningless noise. You can have the gift of prophecy, serve sacrificially, give generously, or teach brilliantly, but if love isn't your motivation, it profits nothing. Love must be the fuel that powers your gifting. When you serve someone, ask yourself: Am I doing this to be seen, to feel important, or because I genuinely love God and His people? Love transforms obligation into joy and duty into delight. The gifts are temporary tools for this life, but love is eternal. Let love be the lens through which you view every opportunity to use your gift for God's glory and others' benefit.

Reflection Question:

Is love or personal recognition driving how you use your gifts?

DAY 5: Discovering and Using Your Gift

Reading:

Romans 12:3-8

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Devotional:

God has given you at least one spiritual gift—either a speaking gift or a serving gift. Your assignment is to discover it and use it faithfully. Don't wait for perfect clarity; step out in trial and error. Serve in different areas, listen to trusted believers who see gifts in you, and pay attention to where you find joy and fruitfulness. When you discover your gift, use it with excellence and humility so that God receives glory. Remember, these gifts aren't for your benefit alone but for building up the church and advancing God's kingdom. The world is waiting for you to step into your divine assignment. What need can you meet today with the gift God has given you?

Reflection Question:

What is one practical step you can take this week to explore or use your spiritual gift?

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for creating me with purpose and equipping me with spiritual gifts. Help me to worship You with my whole life, discover the gifts You've given me, and use them faithfully for Your glory and the benefit of Your church. Fill me with love as my motivation, contentment with what You've given me, and courage to step out in faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.