

Gaining A Greater Grasp On The Gospel of Grace

A Series of Studies From Romans

Graciously Gifted For God's Glory: Collective Contributions & Coordinated Commitments

—Lessons to Learn From Romans 12:4–8 (with help from 1 Peter 4; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; Colossians 3; & Hebrews 10)

“Let us consider how to *stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together*, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”
—Hebrews 10:24–25

“As *each one has received a special gift*, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **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.”
—1 Peter 4:10–11

“Now there are *varieties of gifts*, but the same Spirit. And there are *varieties of ministries*, and the same Lord. There are *varieties of results*, but the same God who works all things in all persons. **But to each one is given the embodiment of the Spirit for the common good.**”
—1 Corinthians 12:4–7

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.... **And He gave gifts to people ... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ**; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” —Ephesians 4:7–13 (selected)

“**Whatever you do, do your work heartily**, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” —Colossians 3:23–24

—Reviewing what's been *emphasized* in Our Recent Studies—

Spiritual Gifts are **GOD–GIVEN ABILITIES** provided **INDIVIDUALLY** to every faithful follower of Christ! They are provided for the **PRIMARY PURPOSE** of enabling us to **BENEFIT & BUILD UP** the **BODY** of Christ for God's glory!

Every faithful follower of the Lord has been gifted by God in a **UNIQUE** way. We will experience (enjoy) an amazing sense of **UNITY** by **UNDERSTANDING** that God has **perfectly DISTRIBUTED** Spiritual gifts throughout the Church!

—Recognizing what's being *emphasized* in Today's Study—

Since God has gifted every faithful follower in a *unique* way,

it's..... that our individual gifts are.....

..... & designed by God for

each one of us to..... exactly what God desires!

—Observing what Romans 12:4–8 says:

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.**”

—Eight essential observations to help us understand this better:

- ① All Scripture is **inspired by God** & is **totally trustworthy/truthful**.
- ② Each of the biblical lists of spiritual gifts is **different** from others.
—Three lists of gifts in the NT: 1 Corinthians 12–14; Romans 12; & Ephesians 4.
- ③ There’s an **overlap** within each of the lists provided.
- ④ It appears that these lists **reveal general categories** of gifts.
- ⑤ There seems to be **three specific types of gifts**:
 - Sign gifts
 - Speaking gifts
 - Serving gifts
- ⑥ We should **recognize the time frame** for each list of gifts.
 - 1 Corinthians 12–14 written by Paul in A.D. 54.
 - Romans 12 written by Paul in A.D. 58.
 - Ephesians 4 written by Paul in A.D. 60.
- ⑦ God’s infinite & sovereign wisdom determines how we’re gifted.
- ⑧ Because these lists are not identical, we should assume that they are intended to be more **exemplary** rather than being **exact**. God has graciously provided for every one of His followers in a precise & personal way to enable us to fulfill His will for our lives!

Identifying how COLLECTIVE COORDINATION should connect us:

- 1— **Everyone** is **expected** to **employ** their gifts **E**..... !
- 2— Seven ministries are **R**..... in Romans 12:4–8.
 - Three involve the **ability** to **R**..... **God’s Word & His will!**
 - Four involve the **availability** to **R**..... **to areas of need!**
- 3— Our gifts are **F**..... **& F**..... !
 - Three recommendations from Romans 12:
 - ① **Start with S**..... **S**.....
& **S**.....
 - ② **S**..... the **S**..... to **S**..... **God’s will!**
 - ③ **S**..... needs & **S**..... where needed!