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THE PRACTICE OF THE GIFTS

Five Areas of Faithful Discovery and Service

ROMANS 12:3 KJV

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:11 KJV

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

The Practice of the Gifts

must remain under the authority of Scripture and the lordship of Christ. The Holy Spirit distributes gifts as He wills, so believers do not manufacture a gift or claim one merely for status. They faithfully steward what God supplies for the benefit of others.

SCRIPTURE • SERVICE • BODY



FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

INVESTIGATION

requires studying Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 through 14, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Believers should learn what Scripture actually teaches before adopting labels, practices, or claims. The Spirit of truth is honored when His word is handled faithfully.

INVOLVEMENT

means serving where genuine needs exist. Gifts often become clearer through faithful participation in the local church. Ordinary obedience and consistent service are better than waiting for a dramatic experience while refusing available opportunities to help others.

INTEREST

involves recognizing the forms of ministry toward which a sustained, godly concern draws the believer. Interest alone does not prove a gift, but Spirit-shaped desire may help direct a believer toward an area of useful and fruitful service.

INTROSPECTION

calls for sober examination of motives, abilities, fruit, faithfulness, and character. Romans 12 warns believers not to think more highly of themselves than they ought. Honest self-examination asks whether a ministry agrees with Scripture, benefits others, and glorifies Christ.

INTERACTION

means receiving confirmation, correction, counsel, and encouragement from mature believers and church leadership. Gifts are given for the body and are normally recognized within the body. Christian service must not become self-appointed independence without accountability.