

GIFTED — PART ONE: DISCOVER

Week 2: “Many Gifts, One Body”

Romans 12:3–8

“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.”

— Romans 12:6

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, You have gathered us together and gifted each of us according to Your grace. As we study Your Word, help us recognize the gifts You have placed within us and appreciate the gifts You have placed in others. Show us how we can use them together to serve You and our neighbors. Amen.

Theme: God did not accidentally make us different. The Church needs people who teach and people who serve, people who lead and people who encourage, people who organize and people who show mercy. Our differences are not obstacles to overcome; they are part of how God designed the Body of Christ.

Spiritual gifts are not awards for especially faithful Christians. They are expressions of God's grace given for the benefit of others. Discovering our gifts, therefore, is less about finding a label for ourselves and more about discovering where God may already be working through us.

Secular Quote: *“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”*
— Helen Keller

Consider that statement alongside Paul's image of the Church as a body. Christian community is not simply a collection of individuals worshipping in the same place. We depend upon one another.

Starter Question: Think about a group, team, workplace, family, or organization you have been part of. What was something another person could do well that you could not—and how did their ability make the whole group better?

Digging Deeper Questions:
Read **Romans 12:3–8** together.

Paul begins his discussion of spiritual gifts by warning people not to think too highly of themselves. Why do you think humility is so important when talking about our gifts? How might spiritual gifts become unhealthy if we begin using them as measures of status or importance?

Paul says that our gifts “differ according to the grace given to us.” What changes when we begin thinking about our abilities as expressions of God's grace rather than accomplishments we earned?

Look at the gifts Paul names: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership, and mercy. Which of these gifts do you immediately understand? Which ones would you like to understand better?

Now read **1 Corinthians 12:12–27**. Why do you think Paul chose the human body as his picture of the Church? What does this image teach us about independence and dependence within Christian community?

Paul imagines one part of the body essentially saying, “Because I am not like that other part, I don't belong.” Where do you see comparison happening in churches today? Have you ever assumed that someone else's gift was more valuable than yours because their gift was more visible?

Consider this week's key line: **“The Church doesn't need everyone to do everything. The Church needs everyone to do something.”** What might change in a congregation if people truly believed this?

Think beyond Sunday morning. Where might gifts such as mercy, encouragement, hospitality, leadership, giving, discernment, teaching, or service appear in your family, workplace, neighborhood, school, or community?

Actionable of the Week: Pay Attention to the Patterns

This week, don't pressure yourself to definitively identify your spiritual gifts. Instead, **pay attention**.

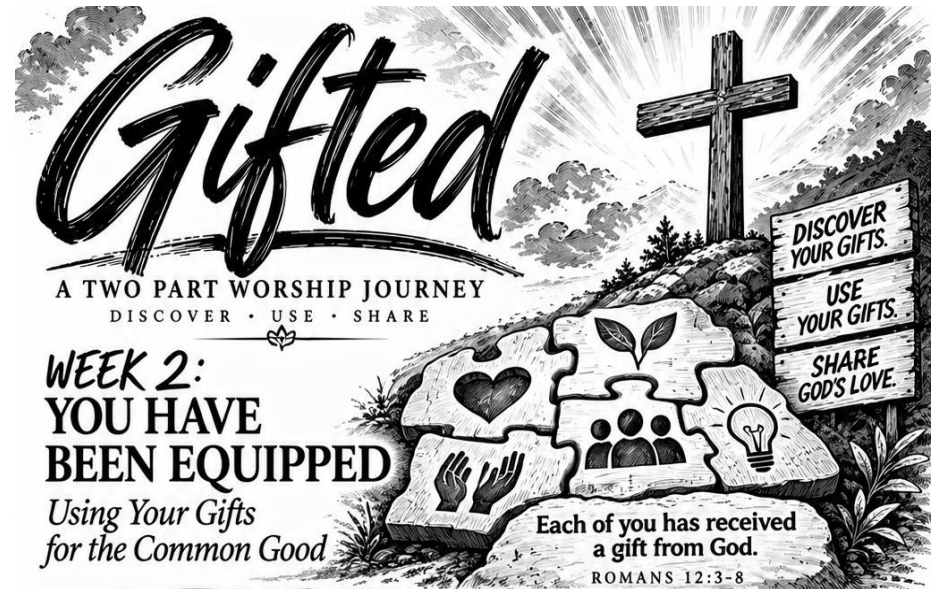
As you move through the week, notice the situations that naturally get your attention. When do you find yourself wanting to help? What needs do you notice that others sometimes overlook? What kind of service gives you energy? What do people regularly ask you to help them with? When have you sensed that God used something you said or did to make a difference for another person?

Then ask someone who knows you well: **“Where do you see God working through me?”** Listen carefully to their answer.

Finally, using your Spiritual Gifts Discovery Guide, circle **three to five gifts** that seem to describe how God frequently works through you. Don't worry about getting the answer exactly right. This is the beginning of discovery, not the end.

Before next week's gathering, intentionally use **one** of those possible gifts to serve another person.

Closing Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You for the gifts You have given us. Free us from comparing ourselves with others and help us discover where You are already working through our lives. Show us someone we can serve this week, and give us the courage to use what You have given us. Make our many gifts one offering for Your Kingdom. Amen.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

A WEEK OF REFLECTION, DISCOVERY, AND ACTION

MONDAY OCT 12	TUESDAY OCT 13	WEDNESDAY OCT 14	THURSDAY OCT 15	FRIDAY OCT 16	SATURDAY OCT 17
					
ROMANS 12:3-8	1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27	1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11	EPHESIANS 4:7-16	1 PETER 4:8-11	MATTHEW 25:31-40
Gifts of Grace	One Body, Many Parts	The Spirit Chooses	Equipped for Ministry	Use Whatever Gift You Have Received	Gifts Beyond the Church Walls
Each of us has received grace and gifts from God for the common good. Our gifts aren't about being better than others, but about serving together.	Every member is necessary. The Church is strongest when every gift is valued and used together.	Gifts differ, but they come from the same Spirit and are given for the common good.	Spiritual gifts equip the whole Body to grow toward maturity in Christ.	Use your gifts to serve others and glorify God.	Feeding, welcoming, clothing, visiting, and caring for those in need become acts of service to Christ himself.
Reflect: Which gifts in this passage do I recognize in myself or others?	Reflect: Whose gifts have I overlooked or undervalued?	Reflect: How could what God has given me benefit someone else?	Reflect: Where might God be asking me to grow from receiving ministry into participating in ministry?	Reflect: What gift can I intentionally put into practice today?	Reflect: Who around me needs something God has equipped me to offer?

Prayer to Carry Through the Week

"Lord, thank You for the gifts You have given me. Help me to recognize them, use them, and share them so that Your Church and Your world may be blessed. Guide me to live for the common good. Amen."