

Thursday, October 12

Read Ephesians 4:1-13. Yesterday we focused on how your gifts equip others to utilize their gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. Hopefully you were able to make those connections – how your ministry – using your gifts – can enable (equip) others to use their gifts.

For today, let's look at the other side of that equation if you will. How have the giftedness of others inspired you to use your gifts? How has the ministry of others impacted your life and motivated you toward using your gifts for God's greatest purposes? Write the names and gifts of others who have inspired your ministry. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for those people who have made a difference in your ministry and your life!

Friday, October 13

Read Romans 12:1-8 and Ephesians 4:1-13. We have considered the concept of spiritual gifts listed by the Apostle Paul and our individual giftedness that is designed for the building up of the body of Christ. Today, consider the first verse of the Ephesians passage: "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Do you feel called by God to utilize your gifts for God's purposes? How does God communicate with you? Through the study of scripture? Through others who have encouraged you? Meditate upon the idea that God has called you to share your gifts. God equips the call upon your life with the gifts you possess. Give thanks to our God who loves you and calls you to participate in God's mission of love, mercy, forgiveness and wholeness! Write any reflections you have about your giftedness here.

Notes from the Message – October 8, 2023

*Team Spirit Means A Spirited Team**

- I. Teamwork means working together toward a common _____ and implies covering flexibility so that individual's _____ can be maximized and _____ or growth areas can be fortified.
 - A. In order for a team to work together, you have to be _____ on your common goals and the way in which you intend to achieve those goals.
 1. A _____ is shared knowledge on how goals should be obtained and defines the different responsibilities of each team player.
 2. For those who follow Christ, that playbook is our _____ – the Bible provides us with _____, goals, and the means for accomplishing those goals.
 - B. Our scripture lesson from today is but one reference to the _____ of Christ language, which the Apostle Paul was fond of using.
 1. Each member of Christ's body has a _____ and a call that is essential to the body.
 2. We are all _____ to the body
- II. As God's word proclaims it, that we are all _____ in some way for the ministry to be done in Jesus' name.
 - A. Two things have to be brought forth for us to understand the _____ of Paul's body of Christ language and viewing the church as a team.
 1. First, it is the purpose of the pastor and the teacher to _____ God's people for works of service.
 2. Second, for the believer to become _____, they must participate in those acts of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

* Romans 12:1-8

- B. We have to become a church in which we embrace the idea that all are called to ministry – that we are a priesthood of all _____.
1. We have to stop calling people of God _____ and begin calling them what the Bible calls them: _____, servants, and saints.
 2. I believe the church is to follow the work of the _____ is reviving the priesthood of believers in a way that calls pastors and parishioners to serve side by side.
 - a. We've got team spirit – an _____ in the air and ability to accomplish great things.
 - b. You simply have to be willing to present yourself as a living sacrifice to God – _____, gifted and equipped.

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, October 9

Read Romans 12:1-8. Have you ever been part of a sports team – even as a small child? Being on a team teaches us many valuable lessons from working with others to offering excellence in all we do individually. You may be aware of some experiences of being part of a team that were not positive. Sometime you mess up and others on your team are not supportive and encouraging.

What have your experiences been as part of a team? What are the greatest lessons you've learned from being on a team? What were some of the disappointment you experienced? Write your thoughts here and ask God to transform your experiences with teamwork – the good and the not-so-good – into that which blesses you.

Tuesday, October 10

Read again Romans 12:1-8. Paul lists many different Spiritual Gifts: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhorting, generosity, leadership, in diligence and compassion. Paul offers several different lists of spiritual gifts. These lists are not meant to be exhaustive and all-inclusive. In fact, there are many gifts that are not included in Paul's lists. Romans 12:6 tells us that these gifts are given to us as a means of God's grace – God's unmerited love – for each of us. Many of our gifts and talents can be identified as spiritual gifts if employed for God's purposes. For example, a person who is a gifted cook can offer that gift as a means of compassion.

What are your gifts? What gifts do you believe God has given you for God's work on earth? Write your thoughts here and thank God for the gifts and talents you possess!

Wednesday, October 11

Read Ephesians 4:1-13. This passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians is another list of Spiritual Gifts: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Verse 4:11). The purpose of these gifts is "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Verse 4:12) The purpose of these gifts Paul listed is to equip the saints – that is the church – for the work of ministry.

Look over the gifts you listed during yesterday's devotion. How can your gifts be used to equip people for ministry? How does your giftedness allow others to use their gifts for God's purposes? Write your thoughts here and ask God to show you pathways through which others are supported and inspired by your gifts.