

Readings

Scripture

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- 1 Peter 4:10-11 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

The life of Jesus Christ creates unique communities of disciples rooted in grace that worship their risen Lord and find themselves compelled to give that life away.

A disciple is someone who gets the life of Christ, experiences the life of Christ with others, and obeys Jesus' command to give the life away.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Romans 12:3-8 (*English Standard Version*)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

How Can I Make the Most of My Life? Pt. 2 *The Rooted Experience*
1 Peter 4:10-11 Brad Anderson

Spiritual gifts are a testimony to God's varied grace... (1 Peter 4:10-11)

How does the Spirit bear witness to Jesus Christ as we steward these gifts of grace?

Through the personal nature of each gift, given to help build the body... (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Through the practical nature of each gift, given to help build the body... (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Through the powerful nature of each gift, given to help build the body... (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Describe a present you received at some point that was truly given to you for the benefit of others. One that you enjoyed very much, but that was closely related to the use of that gift for the enjoyment of others. Have you ever given such a gift?
- Each person who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ has at least one spiritual gift. No one person has them all, except Jesus. What spiritual gift or gifts has God given you? Ask those close to you what they observe, if you are not sure. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you have been gifted. It may be helpful for you to consider how God has used the gift or gifts in your life and in the lives of others.
- Are there gifts you feel the Spirit nudging you to develop?
- Spiritual gifts are indicators of the unique way you are called to express God's grace to the body of Christ, so don't be surprised if your greatest needs and insecurities are closely related to your spiritual gifts. Our God is a great gift giver. His power is made perfect in weakness. Describe how you have been both blessed by the spiritual gifts of others and a blessing to others through the spiritual gifts you have received.