

"Grace & Peace to You"

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 79 PART ONE: "A" MEASURE OF FAITH

ROM 12:3-6A *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 [a] measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

⁶ *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us... if prophecy, in proportion to our faith.*

IF we, as Believers, are to make proof of the "WILL OF GOD" through our lives, we need to understand the necessity of taking our place in the Body of Christ. We must accept our abilities and our limitations. NO ONE is equipped to function without the rest of the members of the Body of Christ. Every Believer has received a "grace" (*Divine ability*) from God and "a measure of faith" by which we draw from that gift. **BUT: that gift is not FOR us... it to be used BY us.** We need the presence of the other Believers to complete God's purpose for the Church.

All the "gifts of grace" are by God's design, and by His empowerment, and they are all designed for the overall good of the Body of Christ, both Local and Universal.

EACH ACCORDING TO "A" MEASURE OF FAITH

ROM 12:3 *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think with sober thinking, each [one] according to [a] measure of faith that God has assigned."*

Breaking this verse into the individual phrases we can see Paul's progress of instruction / correction.

➤ *According to [a] measure of faith ...*

- Often this "measure of faith" is applied to the "faith we received in order to be saved" – Everyone has received it SO everyone CAN believe and be Saved – "Everyone has the same measure"
- But that is NEITHER the subject of Paul's instruction NOR the context of the passage
- It is "A" measure of faith – NOT "the" measure of faith
 - The presence of the Greek Article "ho" would indicate a singular specific "measure" that would be present for everyone
 - It is "absent", indicating each one has received "a measure" that they have been assigned
 - This measure was determined by God
- EACH one has "a measure" necessary to access the "grace-gifting" that has been given to them
- THIS "measure" is further defined by the next phrase...

➤ *God has assigned (to them) ...*

- *Has assigned* – “Merizo” – *to divide among / to distribute to each / separate into different parts...*
- The verb form used indicates that this is a completed work – it HAS been done...
1 COR 12:12-13 indicates this was completed when we were “baptized into Christ” – Saved...
¹² *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.* ¹³ *For “BY” one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*
- The parallel passage in 1 COR 12:12-31 enlarges greatly upon this subject
- When we were “Saved by faith in Jesus Christ” we were “Baptized – immersed / placed within” the Body of Christ and assigned a *function* as God determined
- This function included the “*grace (the ability) to fulfill our function*”
- Then we were given “*a measure of faith*” needed to draw from the grace that was given”

ROMANS LESSON 79 PART TWO: “A” MEASURE OF FAITH

ONE BUT DIFFERENT

ROM 12:4-5 *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

I heard a teacher one time make the following application of ROM 12:3-6A and 1 COR 12:12-31

You are gifted to be YOU... You can't be someone else...

God has created you to be unique – one of a kind. If you try to be “someone else” ... you can't be. God already has “one of those.” But when you don't want to be the “YOU” that God created, you rob God and others of the uniquely gifted person God made YOU to be.

- *In one body... many members... –*
 - As Paul had already covered this in detail in his 1ST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS (*written 2-3yrs prior*), it is probable the Roman Believers had heard these principles – Especially as there were several in Rome who were from Corinth (*including Priscilla & Aquilla*)...
 - It is a simple and easy to understand illustrated point...
- *Do NOT all have the same function... –*
 - *Function... – “Praxis” – practical usefulness / business*
 - The “*parts*” do not ALL have the same function... SO they are *ONLY ENABLED to do THEIR function* – they are only useful when they are functioning according to design
 - IN THE SAME MANNER... Not every Believer is “*graced with the same ability*”
 - NOR does every member have the same “*faith*” to access the “*grace*” given them...
- *Though many... are ONE... members of one another... –*
 - TOGETHER they make ONE...
 - EACH using their “*grace gifting*” to serve the OTHER MEMBERS...

IT IS GOD'S DESIGN

ROM 12:6A *Having [therefore] gifts that differ according to the grace given to us... [Let us use them...]*

"Thinking soberly" means *thinking responsibly in HOW I may use MY grace-gifts to SERVE the others in the Body.* Notice the multiplication of the generosity of our Lord: **"Gifts... Given... by Grace"**

- **Having... gifts...** – "Having" – to "hold / have as a reality or possession"
 - Without any qualifying words, Paul openly states that these gifts ARE in YOUR possession / authority / **realm of usability**...
 - The **Verb form** says they are yours NOW... nothing that must YET be obtained...
 - **NOT "Charismata"** – Operations of grace... – Not the **"Gifts of the Spirit"** [1 Cor 12:4-11]–
 - THESE **"Gifts of grace"** are to identify your place in the Body and to be used to fulfill your **"role"**
- **That differ...** – "Diaphoros" – to differ by separation – distinct from one another by purpose / design
 - The difference is intended... Drawing from the "body" analogy **the parts of the Body CANNOT all be the same**... They MUST be different... yet enabled by the other members
- **According to...** – "Kata" – "under the influence of..."
 - Something is having direct influence over the distinction of the Gifts each one has received...
 - There is NO provision for the Believer to **"choose"** or **"fashion"** their **"Gift of Grace"**
- **The grace given...** –
 - It is **THE LORD** who is the source of the **"Giving"** –
 - Therefore, it is **THE LORD** who has determined **"What Grace"** each one should have.
 - The **"Gifting"** comes with the **"grace"** to access it through the **"faith"** which accompanies it...

As the Believers are **"Transformed"** by the **"Renewal of the Mind"** they are able to **"Make Demonstration"** of God's Will... "Serving ONE ANOTHER" through the **"Grace-Giftings"** that have been given...

GIFTS OF GRACE

One of the issues that often confuses Believers is the different groups that are listed as **"GIFTS"** to the Body of Christ. **There are 3 Groupings**... and each one has a different purpose.

<u>1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11 GIFTS</u>	<u>ROMANS 12:6-8 GIFTS</u>	<u>EPHESIANS 4:11-12 GIFTS</u>
<p>9 Varieties of "Charismata" Manifestations of the Spirit or "GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Utterance of Wisdom • An Utterance of Knowledge • Faith • Healings • The Working of Miracles • Prophecy • The Discerning of spirits-unholy • Various Kinds of Tongues • Interpretation of Tongues <p>Given by the Holy Spirit for "the common good"</p>	<p>7 Gifts of Function IN the Body "Motivation or BODY GIFTINGS" (SEE ALSO 1 COR 12:12-27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophecy • Service • Teaching • Exhortation • "Over-Giving" • Leadership • Showing Mercy <p>Not all members have the same "function" in the Body. They are "under the influence of a measure of faith that has been assigned to them"</p>	<p>5 Gifts of Ministry TO the Body "FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY GIFTS" or the "Pulpit Gifts"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostle • Prophet • Evangelist • Pastor-Teacher • Teacher (1 COR 12:28) <p>Given to the "entire Body" of Christ following His Ascension. Given to "perfect the Saints"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Mend / Heal • To Repair • To "Finish-out" <p>Their purpose is "perfecting the Saints" SO THAT the Saints can</p>

<p>ALL are <i>"empowered by the Spirit who divides to each one individually according to His will."</i></p> <p>Believers are to <i>"zealously desire the 'best / greatest' GIFT."</i></p>	<p>Our <i>"giftings"</i> differs <i>"according to the grace that has been given"</i> to us by God's design.</p>	<p>do the <i>"works of service"</i> that are assigned to them (ROM 12:6-8)</p>
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NOTICE: These *"Giftings of Grace"* are **not identical**... neither are the meant to be combined into "1" List. They are each a separate listing of *"graces"* for a specific dimension of use, and together they *"cooperate"* in bringing forth the full plan of God in Body of Christ.

ALL "3" members of the Godhead are involved in these **"GRACE-GIFTINGS"**

1 COR 12:4-6 *Now there are varieties of [graces-actions], but the same SPIRIT;*⁵ *and there are varieties of service, but the same LORD;*⁶ *and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same GOD who empowers them all in everyone.*

There IS a Place for YOU!

A WORD ABOUT "GRACE AND FAITH" IN RELATION TO THIS PASSAGE:

- Grace is *"Christ's power given to 'overwhelm' our weakness / inability"*
- Faith is the gift of God given to *"draw from that grace"*
- What GOD offers by Grace...
- WE receive by Faith...

Next Session: **"A PLACE FOR YOU"**