

"Grace & Peace to You"

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia
Bible Class Instructor: *Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member*

ROMANS LESSON 8o PART ONE: "ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN"

ROM 12:6-8 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us... if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; ⁸ 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.

God desires Believers to make demonstration of "the Will of God" through their lives. As Paul progresses through numerous applications of "practical Christianity," he begins with our "corporate" responsibility as Members of the Body of Christ.

Everyone has a part to play in this ministry one to another, SO everyone receives a "grace-gifting" to be enabled to fulfill that function.

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11 GIFTS	ROMANS 12:6-8 GIFTS	EPHESIANS 4:11-12 GIFTS
9 Varieties of "Charismata" Manifestations of the Spirit or "GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT" - 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 Given by the Holy Spirit for "the common good" [12:7] ALL are "empowered by the Spirit who divides to each one individually according to His will." [12:11] Believers are to "zealously desire the 'best / greatest' GIFT." [12:31]	7 Gifts of Function IN the Body "Motivation or BODY GIFTINGS" (SEE ALSO 1 COR 12:12-27) - Prophecy - Service - Teaching - Exhortation "Over-Giving" - Leadership - Showing Mercy Not all members have the same "function" in the Body. [12:3] They are "under the influence of a measure of faith that has been assigned to them" [12:6] Our "giftings" differs "according to the grace that has been given" to us by God's design. [12:6]	5 Gifts of Ministry TO the Body "FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY GIFTS" or the "Pulpit Gifts" - Apostle - Prophet - Evangelist - Pastor-Teacher - Teacher (1 COR 12:28) Given to the "entire Body" of Christ following His Ascension. [4:8; 11] Given to "perfect the Saints" [4:12] - To Mend / Heal - To Repair - To "Finish-out" Their purpose is "perfecting the Saints" SO THAT the Saints can do the "works of service" that are assigned to them [4:12] (as seen in ROM 12:6-8)

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.*

PETER’S HELP

When we look at this list from **ROMANS 12**, we are informed there are “7” of these Giftings. Our “mega-detailed brain” wants to know HOW can everyone fit into these “7” ... *it doesn’t seem to make sense.*

1 PET 4:10-11 *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:¹¹ whoever 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.*

Peter speaks to this same subject, but he does so from a different perspective. Instead of using the analogy of the “Body,” Peter uses the principle of a “Steward.”

A **Steward / Trustee** was one who managed what belonged to someone else. He had full power over it’s use, and whatever he did was the same as if the “Master” had done so.

This forms a very effective analogy, and much less complex than Paul’s.

THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE: 1 PETER 4:10-11

Just as each one of you has received a special gift [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving [deacon it / minister it] one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God's multi-faceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favor].¹¹ Whoever speaks [to the congregation], is to do so as one who speaks the oracles (utterances, the very words) of God. Whoever serves [the congregation] is to do so as one who serves by the strength which God [abundantly] supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified [honored and magnified] through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ROMANS LESSON 8o PART TWO: “ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN”

- As **each one** of you has **received a gift** ... [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God] ...
- **employ it in serving** one to another ... [deacon it / minister it] -
- **as (is appropriate for) good stewards** ... [faithful trustees] ...
- of God's **many-faceted / multi-colored grace** [of the **extremely diverse powers and gifts** / **granted to all** by God's unmerited favor (and the abilities He is **working through you**)].
 - If **anyone** speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...
 - If **anyone** ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies...
- that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ...

Whereas Paul used “7” divisions, Peter uses “2”.

Peter is “painting with a bigger brush ... using a more limited palette of colors.”

MULTI-COLORED...

The Greek word used in **VS10** by **PETER** is also used by **PAUL** in other places.

Poikilos – *multi-colored / variegated / diverse – it is something that has many varied colors, or appears as multiple-colored.*

It is the word used by **JAMES [1:2]** and **1ST PETER [1:6]** to describe the trials from the World or the Enemy that come against Believers to try to break us.

PAUL uses this on occasions to describe the “false or corrupt doctrines” that assault the Truth...

The “Visible Spectrum” of light has “7” colors – *Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet...*

The Primary Colors are “3” – *Red, Blue, Yellow...*

Your computer can display **16,777,216** (24-bit) colors – the Human eye can perceive **10 million...**

IF we consider the “**grace-giftings**” to the Body of Christ AS colors then we can understand that Believers are NOT limited to “2” or “7” BUT TO **Millions** of variations, shades, and hues...

How a certain “**gifting**” appears in one person will not be that same as that same “**gifting**” in another...

As Paul presents this “list” we must understand that these are NOT definitive, but categorical...

The Presentation of the “**gifting**” will “*follow this trend*”

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU

ROM 12:6-8 *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us... if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith;⁷ if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching;⁸ 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.*

In **VERSES 6-8**, Paul lists the **7 Grace-Giftings** to the Body. I like to refer to this as “**the Anointing Power of God THROUGH**” (*that’s His Grace*) each Believer.

“Demonstration”

With each **Gifting** Paul also adds a phrase that seems to speak to a desirable motive that stands behind the demonstration of the gifting.

- **If Prophecy** – **Propheteia** - This is NOT, the “Ministry of The PROPHET {Eph 4:11} NOR is it an ability to see or predict the future. Prophecy in the Bible means to “speak from / for God” – this was most clearly seen through the OT Prophets who continually declared what God HAD Said... They were like warning signs to the people of the day... their words never changed until there had been change in the people.

This Gifting would apply to those who are very clear on what is **right... proper... just**. They may seem harsh or abrupt, and are unyielding. *AND, they are usually right ... which doesn’t help*

*In **Proportion** to our faith... – “Analogia” – Drawing from a proper relationship... – this application indicates that the more they aware of their grace from God the more they will be able to use this Gifting properly ... It may also apply to the person’s understanding of the Word.*

- **If Service**... – **“Diakonia”** – **Deacon** – *to serve the needs* – A Gifting that causes recipients to be attentive to the needs of the Master and His guests – *the CHURCH, and the functions of Local Body...*

*In their Serving... – “Diakonia” – the repetition would indicate that this Service is to be dedicated and undistracted... It is about the GOOD of the other one... “THE DEACONS OF **ACTS 6:1-8**”*

- *The one who Teaches... – “Didaskos” – To Teach- to make mastery of...” – The Gifting here is not the same as the “5-Fold” Gift of EPHESIANS 4:11 – This is a generalized drive to help others to learn what you know... to bring them to mastery – everything becomes an occasion to Teach / Learn...*
In their Teaching... – “Didaskalia” – As above, the repetition reinforces the importance of “staying with it” ... even when others draw back or don’t respond
The HEBREW RABBIS said: “If you didn’t learn... then I didn’t teach”
- *The one who Exhorts... – “Parakaleo” – To speak from the side... to encourage... to COACH – The Gifting is recognized by the ever-present desire to help others succeed / recover / find strength... – It may be to one who is close, or to a relative stranger...*
In Their Exhortation... – Again, this repetition signifies that this is to be nurtured and used as much as possible... This is a common word for “Preaching” ... It may be in words that build-up, but also words that correct, and direct...
- *The one who gives... – “Metadidomi” – to give away / distribute among those in need... – The word implies one who has the resources to supply what is needed... This is not the common word for “giving” which ALL believers are directed to do... – These are “gifted to be givers”*
In generosity... – “(H)Aplotēs” – without ulterior motive ... singleness of heart... liberality that seeks nothing in return... The one who has this Gifting will be looking for opportunities for this IS their driving motive within the Church
- *the one who leads... – “Proistemi” – To stand before as to lead / rule... - with zeal... – “Spoudē” – Earnestness -*
- *The One who does Acts of Mercy... – “Eleeo” - To have compassion or mercy on a person in tragic... painful... unhappy circumstances... – by making a verb form of the word Paul indicates one who actively looks for and engages those who are in need of Mercy / Compassion...*
In their Cheerfulness... – “(H)ilerotes... - The word denotes a happy, glad or cheerful state of mind and not one “put-off” with the grief, pain, or tragedy of others... – They recognize the need and seek to bring hope and healing – Although our word for “hilarious” is derived from this it does NOT reflect the depth and graciousness of THIS word.