

“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 81 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.*

In our last Session, we began looking at the “7” **Function Gifts / Graces** that Paul lists in **ROM 12:6-8**. These gifts are “**distributed**” to Every Believer. All have “**one**”, but the Body of the Church needs them “**all**”. When the Apostle Peter mentions this same subject, he divides them into “2” categories: Gifts for “**speaking**” and gifts for “**serving**” [**1 PETER 4:10-11**]. Peter uses the words “**Diverse and Graces**” to describe them. Diverse means “**multi-colored**” and that provides a great analogy. There are “**millions of shades and hues**” of colors, just as there are millions of believers EACH with a differing shade or hue of the grace given to them by God.

Being able to identify our “**grace-gifting**” is necessary in order for us to “**make demonstration of the will of God**” through our lives.

GIFTS OF GRACE

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*. Peter helps us with this in his Letter:

1PET 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.

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

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.*

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.

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 ... 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... In their Serving... – "Diakonia" – Deacon – to serve the needs - "hasten to the wine" – A Gifting that causes recipients to be attentive to the needs of the Master and His guests... Serving the Local CHURCH, and the functions of Local Body in "multi-colored ways" ... [ACTS 6:1-7; 1 TIM 3:8-13]*
- *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...*

This gift by its nature demands the Teacher be a "student" first in order to rise to Mastery...

- *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"*
 - There are numerous passages that admonish the Teacher to adhere to Biblically confirmed teachings (The Doctrine "Didaskalia") - referred to by "4" cooperative words:
 - The Word – "Logos" – the full expression of what has come from God -
 - The Truth – "(Aletheia)" – that which is verifiable – the unveiled reality of a thing
 - The Doctrine – "Didaskalia" – what is to be "taught" ... handed-down to others
 - The Faith – "Pistis" – that which is "to be believed" - accepted w/o external proof
 - Each word is preceded by the article "(H)o" – "the" - indicating a specific class or group
 - We NEED teachers... BUT we need Teachers of The Word, The Truth, and The Faith...
 - The "5-Fold Ministry" Gift of "TEACHER" is one whose full function is to instruct Believers through the Word / Truth / Faith
 - 5-FOLD TEACHERS may have different "Grace-giftings" (Motivations) and their ministry may "sound / be presented" different(ly)...*
 - A Prophetically-motivated Teacher's delivery will not appear the same as one who is "Teaching", "Encouragement", or "Mercy" motivated.*

ROMANS LESSON 81 PART TWO: "ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN"

- *The one who **Exhorts**... – "Parakaleo" – To speak from the side... to encourage... to COACH* – This **Gifting** is recognized by the ever-present desire to help others succeed / recover / find strength...
– This **"encouragement"** may be to one who is close... or to a relative stranger... or to a group
 - *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 best Biblical "picture" of the **Exhorter/Encourager** is in **2 COR 1:3-7**
 - The Word **"Parakaleo"** is found **10x's** in these "5" verses... *both as a noun and a verb*
 - Translated as **"Comfort"** it loses the power of the word... our idea of comfort is "to soothe"
In fact, the English word, **"Comfort"** was created by John Wycliffe when he was making the 1st ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE. He drew from the Latin words **"com"** and **"fortis"** which together mean **"to be with strength"**. To him the idea of **"comforting"** was to **"cause someone to be with strength – to en-strengthen them"** by your words.
 - The **"Encourager"** uses their experience of drawing from God's power to **"call others to faith"** or to **"challenge"** someone to stand and look for victory, relief, release...
 - **"Parakaleo"** is the Word that Jesus chose to describe the **PERSON & MINISTRY** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** in the life of the Believer
 - This is one of the most common words used in the NT for communication one to another and is the basic word for **"Preaching"**
 - **"Parakaleo"** is used to refer to the work of The **Father**, The **Son**, The **Holy Spirit**, The **Word** of God, and the **Believers**...
- *The one who **gives**... – "Metadidomi" – to give away / give over / 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)Aplotes" – without ulterior motive ... singleness of heart... liberality that seeks nothing in return...*
 - The one who has this **Gifting** will be looking for opportunities to distribute to the causes that are **"from the heart"** - for this IS their driving motive within the Church
 - *There is NO expectation of repayment... Nor use of their **"gift"** to influence...*
 - *They are simply and honestly **"looking to the good"** their benevolence can accomplish...*
- *the one who **leads**... – "Proistemi" – To **stand before** so as to lead / rule...* – although it can carry the idea of **"rule or governance"** that is not the major place it occupies in NT Writing – the **"Rule"** is to be seen as the direct result of Leading others...
 - *with **zeal**... – "Spoude" – Earnestness – **"haste"** in the sense that these Leaders will not allow anything to deter them... they are willing to **"run to the front"** when a vacuum of need arises...*

- Our Families... The Church... our Culture... our World NEEDS LEADERS –
 - God has called all of us to a place of Leadership, to a certain degree
 - But the Lord has also placed within the Church SOME who are “*graced with the gifting*” of **Leadership** ... “*Ready to fill the need and stand before others who can follow*”
 - This gifting is usually known/recognized even before they know “*how*” to use it for the Lord’s purpose
 - The more they mature in the Word of God and Faith, the more they will arise to find places to fulfill this “*drive*” that is within....
 - Some may realize this in a 5-Fold Office of **PASTOR** or **PROPHET** or **TEACHER**
 - Other’s will find this realized in overseeing functions within the Local Church: **BISHOP / ELDER / TEAM LEADER**
 - Still others will find this in carrying the “*work of ministry*” outside the Local Body through various “**para-Church**” organizations
 - The prevalent characteristic is that THEY are willing to “*run to the front*” and others are ready to “*follow their Lead*”
- **The One who does Acts of Mercy... – “Eleeg”** - *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...*
 - Helping those in tragic circumstances often demands we face or encounter disgusting and gut-wrenching realities... some are not prepared to handle these situations
- In fact, the word “*have compassion*” (**Splangnos**) means “*from the guts*” – which often accompanies “*Showing Mercy*”
- Biblical narratives mention many situations where Jesus and the Apostles “**walked into**” these very conditions:
The Leper / The Pool of Bethesda / The Crowd at Peter’s House / The Man with Dropsy (*Kidney Failure*) / The Man at the Gate Beautiful / The Demoniac of Gadara... etc.
 - Those “*graced with the gifting of Showing Mercy*” are NOT “**put-off**” or prone to avoid these...
 - People may NOT wish to join them... BUT when these step-out SOME of the others will be inspired to follow...
 - 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.*

You will notice that most of these “**giftings**” are also characteristics ALL Believers are called upon to exhibit to some degree in their lives.

Those “**gifted**” find these to be a “*driving force or desire*” and often will then serve as examples for others who are not “**gifted as they are**” to follow