

Sermon Title: The Transformed Life Is A Model Of Supernatural Service

Sermon Text: Romans 12:6-8

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to perform their God empowered and ordained purpose in the body of Christ.

Sermon Proposition: There are 7 types of gifts found in Romans 12:6-8.

- I. The 1st supernatural spiritual body building gift is **prophecy**. V.6b
- II. The 2nd supernatural spiritual body building gift is **service**. V.7a
- III. The 3rd supernatural spiritual body building gift is **teaching**. V.7b
- IV. The 4th supernatural spiritual body building gift is **exhortation**. V.8a
- V. The 5th supernatural spiritual body building gift is **giving**. V.8b
- VI. The 6th supernatural spiritual body building gift is **leadership**. V.8c
- VII. The 7th supernatural spiritual body building gift is **mercy**. V.8d

Introduction: Paul is describing the way in which God in His grace has distributed different gifts to His people as a means of building the unity of the body. The spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament are found mainly in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11-16, typically are found in three categories: signs, speaking, and serving gifts. Sign gifts (**2 Corinthians 2:12**) use to authenticate the message of the Apostles (**Hebrews 2:3-4**); **Mark 16:20**.

First Corinthians was written about A.D. 54 and Romans some four years later. It is important to note that none of the sign gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:9-10 namely the gifts of healing, miracles, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues is found in Romans 12. The other two New Testament passages that mention spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:7, 11; 1 Peter 4:10-11) were written several years after Romans and, like that epistle, make no mention of sign gifts. Peter specially mentions the categories of speaking and serving gifts (“whoever speaks” and “whoever serves” v.11) [John MacArthur New Testament Commentary Romans 9-16, pp.168-169]

- I. The 1st supernatural spiritual body building gift is **prophecy**. V.6b

The gift of prophecy does not pertain to the content but rather to the means of proclamation. In our day, it is active enablement to proclaim God’s Word already written in Scripture.

Propheteia (prophecy) has the literal meaning of speaking forth, with no connotation of prediction or other supernatural or mystical significance. God used many Old and New Testament prophets to foretell future events, but that was never an indispensable part of prophetic ministry. (Exodus 4:10, 14-15; 2 Timothy 4:2)

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

1 Peter 4:11 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, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. **25** And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- II. The 2nd supernatural spiritual body building gift is **service**. V.7a

This word ministry is a general term for service. Service translates diakonia from where we get deacon and deaconess – those who serve. The generic term “those who serve tables.” This type of service is broad in its application. It is the gift of helps in 1 Corinthians 12:28. The gift of service is manifested in every sort of practiced help that Christians can give one another in Jesus’ name. (Peter’s mother raised, and she served them [diakonia]).

III. The 3rd supernatural spiritual body building gift is teaching. V.7b

Didaskon (teaches) refers to the act of teaching, and didaskalia (teaching) can refer to what is taught as well as to the act of teaching it. The function of systematically teaching people, taking them from one point to another.

The Christian who teaches is divinely gifted with special ability to interrupt and present God's truth understandably (2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20).

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2 Timothy 1:11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Acts 15:35 Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Acts 18:24-25 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Luke 24:27, 32 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**32** And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Regular, systematic teaching of the Word of God is the primary function of the pastor-teacher.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

IV. The 4th supernatural spiritual body building gift is exhortation. V.8a

The idea of exhortation is broad. Both the verb parakaleo (exhorts) and the noun paraklesis (exhortation) are compounds of the same two Greek words (para and kaleo) and have the literal meaning of calling someone to one's side. The idea is closely related to the Holy Spirit the paraklitos (advocate, comforter, helper).

The gift of exhortation, therefore, encompasses the idea of advising, pleading, encouraging, warning, strengthening, and comforting.

1. Can be used to persuade a believer to turn from a sin or bad habit and at a later time to encourage the same person to maintain his corrected behavior.
2. The gift may be used to admonish the church as a whole to obedience to the Word.
3. May be used to comfort a brother or sister in the Lord who is facing trouble or is suffering physically or emotionally.
4. May be used to encourage and undergird a weak believer facing a trial or difficult situation or carrying a heavy burden. (**Acts 14:21-22; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 10:24-25**)

V. The 5th supernatural spiritual body building gift is giving. V.8b

This is the idea of sharing one's goods. "Simplicity" translates haplotes, a word that means "singleness" (of purpose; hence 'simplicity'; cf. **2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22**). "Generosity," that is, a giving that displays a singleness of heart and intent. (**2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:11, 13**). [Silva, "New Lexical Semitisms", pp.253-254]

It carries the idea of sincere, heartfelt giving that is untainted by affection or ulterior motives.

Give for the sake of the receiver and for the glory of God. (**Acts 5:1-10**)

Negative attitude - **Matthew 6:2** "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Positive attitude - **2 Corinthians 8:2-5** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. **3** For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, **4** imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. **5** And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

VI. The 6th supernatural spiritual body building gift is leadership. V.8c

Ho proistamenos, this word denotes a person who presides, provides oversight over something or a person who comes to the aid of others. May apply to anyone who leads from a position of leadership, whether in government, home, or the church. It is used of a pilot or helmsman, the person who steers, or leads a ship.

Effective leadership must be done with diligence with earnestness and zeal. Spoude (diligence) can carry also the idea of haste. True biblical leadership avoids procrastination and idleness. The gift of leadership must be exercised with faithfulness, fervency, and faith.

Diligence

Christ Example of

Mark 1:35 – Dependency in Prayer

Luke 2:49 – Focused in Mission/Urgent in Performance

Pursuing Sanctification

Proverbs 4:23

2 Peter 1:5

2 Peter 1:10

Labor of Love

1 Timothy 5:10 – Service toward others

Hebrews 6:10-12 – Service toward others

Service for God

1 Corinthians 15:58 – overcoming frustrations

Exodus 15:26 – overcoming evil

Colossians 1:28-29 – overcoming laziness

1 Thessalonians 2:9 – overcoming obstacles

2 Corinthians 8:22

Nehemiah 4:6

Diligent labor is modeled by serious effort. Henry Martyn, the missionary to India, exclaimed, “Now let me burn out for God.” David Brainerd missionary to the American Indians, was dead before he reached thirty. Leaders of God are engaged in an eternal work, with the destiny of men’s souls at stake.

The urgency of the work of service draws them on through weariness, loneliness, and struggle. J. Oswald Sanders wrote, “If he is unwilling to pay the price of fatigue for his leadership, it will always be mediocre ... True leadership always exacts a heavy toll on the whole man, and the more effective the leadership is, the higher the price to be paid.” (Spiritual Leadership, 175, 169)

Galatians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 9:16-17, 26-27

VII. The 7th supernatural spiritual body building gift is mercy. V.8d

Paul speaks of the gift of showing mercy. May refer to providing care or materially for the poor [**Matthew 6:3** "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,]. We can understand the service as providing acts of mercy toward others, such as visiting the sick, caring for the elderly or disabled, and providing for the poor.

The attitude which this is to be done is cheerfulness. Avoid a guiding or downcast attitude.

Conclusion: “The profile Puritan John Owens wrote that spiritual gifts are that without which the church cannot subsist in the world, nor can believers be useful to one another and the rest of mankind to the glory of Christ as they ought to be. They are of the powers of the world to come, those effectual operations of the power of Christ whereby His kingdom was erected and is preserved.” (see The Holy Spirit [Grand Rapids: Kregel n.d.]) [John MacArthur, New Testament Commentary Romans 9-16, pp.178]