

Romans 12:6-8 “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” How would you describe your present spiritual condition? Do you feel close to the Lord? Have you been experiencing the fullness of His Grace and Holy Spirit? Can you say that you are growing in your experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ? If you’ve been bitten with the venomous bite of apathy and spiritual lethargy, the antidote is in our text. The medication you need is this, “Just Do It!” If you’ve been born-again, God has gifted you with special abilities through which His supernatural life will flow! You will get to know Jesus Christ more fully and intimately, if you will just it! Our text lists 7 spiritual gifts. Each Christian here has been blessed with at least one of these gifts.

I. PROPHECY “if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith” “In our day, it is the active enablement to proclaim God’s Word already written in Scripture” (MacArthur). This gift is simply the gift of preaching. “in proportion to our faith” means the preacher must be careful to preach in accordance to the gospel revealed by the apostles. If God has given you the ability to preach, then preach the Word! Just do it!

II. MINISTRY “or ministry, let us use it in our ministering” **Diakonia** = ministry = serving. Our word for deacon and deaconess comes from this word. This gift is broad in its application and it “seems to carry a meaning similar to that of the gift of helps mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12:28**. “The gift of service is manifested in every sort of practical help that Christians can give one another in Jesus name.” Is this your gift? Just do it!

III. TEACHING “he who teaches, in teaching” “The primary difference between teaching and prophesying (preaching) is not in content but in the distinction between the ability to proclaim and the ability to give systematic and regular instruction in God’s Word” (MacArthur). The apostle Paul had both of these spiritual gifts. In **1 Timothy 1:11** “Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.” Jesus was a great teacher teaching before and after His resurrection. He commissioned His church commanding her to make disciples, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. The gift of teaching is one of the qualifications for a pastor.

IV. EXHORTATION “he who exhorts, in exhortation” “**Parakaleo and paraklesis**” = Both the noun and the verb are compounds of the same two Greek words (*para* and *Kaleo*) and have the literal meaning of calling someone to one’s side. They are closely related to *parakletos* (advocate, comforter, helper), a title Jesus used of himself and the Holy Spirit (**John 14:16, 26**). “The gift of exhortation encompasses the ideas of advising, pleading, encouraging, warning, strengthening, and comforting.” **Acts 4:36** *And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement)*, Barnabas had this spiritual gift. He encouraged Paul and John Mark.

V. GIVING “he who gives, with liberality” “The usual Greek verb for giving is ‘*didomi*,’ but the word here is the intensified ‘*metadidomi*,’ which carries the additional meanings of sharing and imparting that which is one’s own. The one who exercises this gift gives sacrificially of himself. *Liberality* = “*haplotes*” which is the root meaning of singleness and came to connote simplicity, single mindedness, open heartedness, and then generosity.

VI. LEADING *he who leads, with diligence*

VII. SHOWING MERCY *he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Eleeo = mercy = “to help one afflicted or seeking aid, to bring help to the wretched” “cheerfulness” = *Hilarotes* = “cheerfulness, readiness of mind” Hilarious comes from...