

How to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

Part III

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Good morning, Lighthouse!

Today we continue with Part III of our series on how to discover your spiritual gifts.

This message series is about how that YOU; who are born again, believing, children of God, can actually discover your real spiritual gifts and actually practice those gifts to become exactly what God intended you to be.

Our text for this series began in Romans 11:29 where we read: **Romans 11:29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Our text continues all the way through to near the end of chapter 12, where we read **Romans 12:6** that we have gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...

It is within these twelve verses in the middle that we will discover our spiritual gifts.

We have learned that both our gifts and our calling of God are irrevocable.

We have learned that both our calling and our gifts are “of Jesus,” “through Jesus” and

ultimately “to Jesus;” making all of this **about Jesus** and NOT about us!

I shared with you last week that in our text are three specific sections of scripture that reveal to us the plan, purpose and the process of discovering our spiritual gifts.

[Section 1; The Plan.]

Romans 11:29-12:8

- 29 For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.
- 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:
- 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.
- 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.
- 33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?
- 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

[Section 2; The Purpose.]

Romans 11:36 For **of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things:** to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

[Section 3; The Process.]

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
- 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
- 5 So we, *being many*, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
- 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;
- 7 Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. .

In Part I we began to see God's plan for us; our calling; for the fulfilling of which God provides the necessary spiritual gifts. We saw in part II the purpose for which we are called and gifted;

that is to bring Jesus glory; and today we get to examine the process by which our gifts are discovered.

III. The Process of Discovering your Spiritual Gifts.

*A. Step one of this process is: **Present yourself to God.***

1. **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

2. The pre-qualification for this is obvious and noted in the context. These to which Paul is writing are saved, baptized and thus members of the Church at Rome.

3. They are as verse 5 states: **Romans 12:5** *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

4. I understand that there may be those, like Jonah, whom God calls and they proceed to run from their calling; these Christians are not perfect and need to fix some things but they do not appear to be running (kind of like most of you.)

5. Thus, to those who are already where the Lord wants them to be; members of the Body

who are faithfully worshipping and growing in the Lord; Paul invites them; (begs them actually) to present their bodies, their “soma” Gr.; their whole selves unto the Lord for a living sacrifice.

6. I believe this is talking about a time and place; a specific unforgettable event when you turn yourself over to the Lord to do with whatever He desires in your life.

7. Just like that servant in Exodus 21 who loved his master and had his ear bored through at the door post and became his masters’ servant forever.

*B. Step two of this process is: **Prepare yourself for service.***

1. Just like trust in Jesus begins with a single act of actually putting your trust in Jesus to save you; then you trust Him for all kinds of things after that; presenting yourself, giving yourself, surrendering yourself to the Lord also begins with a single act as well.

2. There comes a time in the life of every believer when we settle it once and for all who we are going to live for:

a. This commitment means we separate ourselves from the world UNTO the Lord; constantly being renewed and nourished by the Word.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...

b. This also means that we embrace our place as a small part of something much bigger than us. From this day on, Jesus becomes the star and we must fade into the background.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

3. This is the day the vacillating back and forth between the Lord and the world stops!

4. This is the day that gives birth to all kinds of changes in your life:

5. Sundays belong to the Jesus now.

6. My tongue belongs to Jesus now; it is now used to bless instead of curse.

7. My feet take orders from Jesus now; they take me to Church a lot.

8. My hands obey Jesus now.

a. They are instruments of love now, not tools of anger.

b. They are guided by completely new standards now: *One of our new believers came out recently to “hang out” and was helping me put together the side of a metal building for someone. Along the way I noticed we had gotten one of the overlaps backward; not a big deal, no one would have probably noticed, it would not have leaked...but we took it all apart and fixed it anyway because that’s not how doing things “as unto the Lord” works.*

9. My talents belong to the Lord now. I remember when my guitar became exclusively the Lord’s; I haven’t played for the world since; (no regrets.)

C. Step three of this process is: Prove your calling.

1. Let me say on the outset of this that for years, preachers have violated [Romans 12:3](#) by acting and preaching like being called to preach was the only calling of God there is.

2. This has confused a lot of believers; they sense the call of God on their lives and are conditioned to think their calling must be to preach; when in fact most of the time it is not.

3. The calling of God is stated in [Romans 11:29](#); it is defined in [Romans 12:2](#):

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

4. What is your calling? It is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God for your life.

5. How do you discover what that is? You test it!

6. You get saved...you get baptized and become a part of the Church where God places you. Following the commands of your Lord, you turn away from the world and you present yourself to the Lord.

7. Then as you are being transformed by the Word of God, you test the opportunities God places before you.

8. "may prove" = Gr. dokimazō

dok-im-ad'-zo

From [G1384](#); **to test** (literally or figuratively); by implication to *approve*: - allow, discern, examine, X like, (ap-) prove, **try**.

9. There are several determining factors to this testing process:

(1). First you should be sure you understand **the difference between a calling and the gifts themselves.**

a. **Romans 12:6-8**

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, [this grace that is given to us is our calling; the gifts will be different based on what that is] whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering*: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity*; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. .

b. These listed here are various callings. For example you may want to try your hand at playing an instrument in the praise band. The calling is exhortation; the various gifts to fulfill it may be playing guitar or drums or voice or something that hasn't even been invented yet.

c. It is your calling you are out to discover; once that is accomplished, the gifts will reveal themselves.

(2). You should probably start with what you've got. Remember, the Lord has known your calling since before the world began and has long since been preparing you for it.

(3). Another real factor that, because of our own deceitful hearts, can sometimes deceive us, is **desire**.

a. **1 Timothy 3:1** This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

b. What do you think in your heart of hearts that you would really like to do for the Lord's glory with your life?

(4). You should make sure that what you are trying and testing is in agreement with scripture;

a. Like being in, through and under the authority of your Church.

b. Like ladies who are called to prophecy or preaching.

c. Are ladies ever called to preach; I am sure they are, but never to be placed in authority over men.

In Conclusion:

Your calling is likely going to be one or more than one that is listed here in Chapter 12.

Some are called to extravagant giving to the Lord; some of you have that calling and you know it. My, isn't it fun watching God replenish the supply!

Some are called to exceptional mercy.

Some are called to extreme love and can love the most unlovable under the most unlovely circumstances.

Some are called to hospitality; what might be a gift God would send to supply that calling?

Will this be the day you settle it once and for all who you are going to live for; will you present your body to the Lord today?

**Present yourself to the Lord from your heart and don't back down.
Prepare yourself to serve...and then go test your calling; this is the fun part!**

Finding and fulfilling your calling is more fun than an antelope with night vision goggles! (ref: Geico tv commercial)