"Knowing And Using Your Spiritual Gifts"
Romans 12:1-10

Message by Michael J. Barnard August 9, 2026

Teaching Aim: To encourage each Christian to discover his or her spiritual gifts and then use them for the glory of God. To understand every believer is given at least one spiritual gift at the moment of regeneration (meaning new birth), nobody receives all the spiritual gifts. To recognize God distributed spiritual gifts for the purpose of building up the body of Christ (the Church*)* to the fullness of Christian maturity.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD *(BIBLE STUDY)*

Part I: Do not be conformed any longer to the ways of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom. 12:1-2)

1. What did Paul urge the Roman believers to do in **verse 1**? Why should *"the mercies of God"* motivate us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to Him? What, if any, difference is there between *"a dead sacrifice"* and *"a living sacrifice?"* What are some ways that a Christian be a living sacrifice today? Can you think of any devout Christians who have offered their bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord? How has their sacrifice affected the world?

2. What is required if our bodies are to be considered *"holy"* (**vs. 1**)? How does God expect His children to live today? (See **Lev. 11:45; 1 Pet. 1:16**) Why? What are some practical steps you can take to become more like Jesus? The word *"reasonable"* in **verse 1** comes from the same Greek word as *"logic."* Why should offering your body to God as a living sacrifice be the logical thing to do after coming to faith in Jesus? What are some ways that you are offering your body as a living sacrifice today?

3. Have you ever experienced *"peer pressure"* causing people to *"conform"* to the ways of the world (**vs. 2**)? If so, where and when? The world wants us to *"conform us"* to its values, should we? What does God want us to do? (See **Gen. 1:26; 1 Cor. 11:1**) How can the Word of God help us to transform our minds and our bodies into becoming more like Jesus? How much time do you spend in God's Word every day? What should the purpose of every Christian be as we spend time in God's Word and prayer each day?

4. How does a transformed life in Jesus Christ prove *"what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* (**vs. 2**)? Do things go better for you when you have a close walk with God or when you don't? Why do you think it is so difficult for Christians to consistently live a holy lifestyle? (See **Rom. 3:23; 7:14-20**) What major changes have taken place in your life since coming to faith in Jesus?

Part II: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought (Rom. 12:3-5)

1. How would you define the word *"grace"* (**vs. 3**)? Why is God's grace so important to every Christian (**vs. 3**)? (See **Eph. 2:8-9**) People often err in one of two extremes; either they think too highly of themselves (pride), or they think too lowly of themselves (not realizing they are made in the image of God). Why is it wrong for us to see ourselves in either one of these two extremes? According to **verse 3**, how should we as believers in Jesus view ourselves? What does it mean for a person to think of himself or herself soberly? Why is it important for the Christian to always remain humble? (See **Matt. 5:5; 11:29-30; Jam. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5-6**)

2. What did Paul mean when he said, "*God has dealt to each one a measure of faith"* (**vs. 3**)? Each Christian is at a different place spiritually. What are some practical steps that you can take to improve your own spiritual growth?

3. Why is the human body such a great illustration in demonstrating the unity and diversity of the body of Christ - meaning the church (**vv. 4-5**)? (See **1 Cor. 12:12-31**) How does one part of the body not working affect the whole? What do we mean when we call somebody *"handicapped?"* Does the local church become handicapped when its members do not use their spiritual gifts? If so, how? Is it a sin for you as a Christian not to use the spiritual gifts God has gifted you with? Why or why not? What, if any, difference is there between *"natural abilities"* and *"spiritual gifts?"*

4. God has designed the church in such a way that believers are interdependent upon each other (**vs. 5**). Why is this important? Do you think that a church is healthier when it is *"a one man show,"* or *"a team effort?"* (See **Acts 6:1-4; 15:2-6; 20:17-18**) In sports, why is a *"team effort"* always better than the lone *"superstar?"* How does the sports illustration compare to the local church? What are some of the advantages to having many people involved in ministry at the local church?

Part III: Discovering and using your spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6-10)

1. Do all Christians have the exact same spiritual gifts (**vs. 6**)? Why or why not? Do any Christians have all the spiritual gifts? Why? Who is the giver of spiritual gifts? (See **Jam. 1:17; 1 Pet. 4:7-12**) According to **verse 6**, what are Christians to do with their spiritual gifts? Are you using your spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ? If so, how? If not, aren't you? What are some areas of ministry that you would like to get involved in?

2. What two ways do we find the gift of prophecy being used in Scripture (**vs. 6**)? What is the difference between *"forth-telling"* and *"foretelling?"* How do we most often see the modern pastor exercising the gift of prophecy from the pulpit today? What did Paul mean when he encouraged those with the gift of prophecy to use their gift in proportion to their faith? Is this good advice for each of us in the use of any spiritual gift today?

3. The Greek word for *"ministry"* is the same Greek word used for *"deacon"* or *"deaconess,"* meaning those who serve (**vs. 7**). Do only deacons have the spiritual gift of *"ministry"* or is this something that every Christian might have? What is another name for this gift as recorded in **1 Cor. 12:28**? What are some ways that a Christian with the gift of *"ministry"* (or *"helps")* can use their spiritual gift today?

4. Is there a difference between *"teaching"* and *"preaching"* (**vs. 7**)? If so, what is it? Why is the gift of teaching so important to the health of the local church? Do you feel like your spiritual walk has been strengthened through the teaching of God's Word at your church? What are some ways that you have been challenged and blessed as God's Word has been taught? What promise did God make to those who faithfully teach His Word? (See **Isa. 55:11; Psa. 119:105**) Should congregation members examine the words that their pastors are teaching them, or just take them for granted? Why? (See **Acts 17:10-12**)

5. The fourth spiritual gift mentioned in **Romans chapter 12** is the gift of *"exhortation"* (**vs. 8**). What is the meaning of the word *"exhortation?"* (See Dictionary) What is the more common name used for this gift? What are some ways that Christians can encourage one another today?

6. How would you describe someone with the spiritual gift of *"giving"* (**vs. 8**)? Do you know of anyone with the spiritual gift of giving? What are some ways that we see this gift in use today? Is this gift limited to financial giving, or does it also include our time and our very lives? What are some ways that you've seen the spiritual gift of *"leadership"* functioning in the local church today? According to **verse 8**, how are people with this spiritual gift to use it in the local church setting or in parachurch organizations? What is a parachurch organization? What other name is used for the spiritual gift of leadership in **1 Cor. 12:28**?

7. What would be a good definition of the word *"mercy"* (**vs. 8**). (See Dictionary) What are some ways that we see this spiritual gift being used today? Describe the lifestyle of a Christian who has the gift of mercy. According to **verse 8b**, how should we administer this spiritual gift? Why?

8. What is the glue that holds the body of Christ together (**vs. 9**)? Why is *"love"* perhaps the greatest of all spiritual gifts? What are some ways that you've seen this kind of love in action? Who gave us the ultimate example? What can we learn about Christian love from **verse 9**? How should Christians feel towards evil? Do you feel this way when you see evil running rampant in our society today?

9. Love should be the mark of every true Christian (**vs. 10**). How should we treat others according to **verse 10**? Why is it important for us to demonstrate this kind of love by giving preference to the *"genuine"* needs of others, at times, even over ourselves? (See **Mark 10:44-45**)

10. The New Testament lists a variety of spiritual gifts, none of these lists are considered exhaustive. Take a moment to look through the following biblical lists of spiritual gifts and see if you can identify your own gifts.
    - **Rom. 12:6-8** ~ Prophecy; ministry; teaching; exhortation; giving; leadership; mercy.
    - **1 Cor. 12:4-11,28-31** ~ The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; faith; healings; miracles; prophecy discernment; tongues; interpretation of tongues; apostles; prophets; teachers; helps; administrations.
    - **Eph. 4:11-13** ~ Apostles; prophets; evangelists; pastors and teachers.
    - **1 Pet. 4:7-12** ~ Hospitality; exhortation; ministry.

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Every Christian is to live his or her life as *"a living sacrifice,"* putting the genuine needs of others before themselves and serving God with their whole life.
- The world wants us to *"conform"* to its image, but God wants us to be *"transformed"* by renewing our mind into the image of Jesus Christ.
- Christians should not look at themselves more highly or lowly than they ought, they should see themselves as God sees them, forgiven in Christ and co-heirs together with Jesus.
- Each Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift at the moment of salvation (or new birth); however, most have been given more than one spiritual gift.
- No Christian has been given all the spiritual gifts; God has purposely designed the body of Christ to be interdependent upon one another.
- It is God's will that we use our spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ (the church) and for bringing glory to Him.

Online *"Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tests":*

- https://uniquelyyou.org/ (There is a small fee online to take this assessment.)
- https://s7d9.scene7.com/is/content/LifeWayChristianResources/Spiritual_Gifts_Assessmentpdf.pdf (This assessment if free.)

Note: If you take a spiritual gifts assessment, try to be as honest and accurate in the scoring as you can. Just answer the question and don't think about the gift.