Grace Baptist /First Baptist Yucaipa/Crossroads Int’l Church/ CIC again Dr. Rick Griffith

21 Feb 99/ 31 Oct 99/ 14 Sep 08/ 23 Mar 13 Message 18 of 24

NIV 35 Minutes

**The Serving Gifts**

Title

***1 Pet. 4:11b; 1 Cor. 12:9, 28; Rom. 12:7-8***

**Topic:** Spiritual Gifts

**Subject:** If you have a serving gift

**Complement:** then serve others in God’s strength.

**Purpose:** The listeners will not rely on their own strength to use their serving gifts.

**Attribute:** We worship our God who serves

# Introduction

### Interest: Let’s play the fun game of “tell me the first word that comes to mind.” Tell the person next to you the first thing that comes to mind when I say… “feet”? [Get responses]

Feet

### In 1 Corinthians the Apostle Paul compared the different people in the Church to different parts of a human body.

Body

#### Some are an ear. Others are an eye. Still others might be a hand or a foot.

#### He doesn’t actually say which body parts symbolize which gifts, but I have a hunch I know what he meant when he talked about the feet.

### So what did *you* think of when I said, “What’s the first thing that comes to mind when I say ‘feet’”? How many thought of something positive? How many were neutral? How many thought of something negative?

Unenvy

### The Corinthians saw feet negatively. We’ll see later in this letter that they were caught up in showy gifts, so behind-the-scenes gifts that were unseen hardly caught their eye.

Black

### Need: How different life would be if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their jobs.

#### For one, you wouldn’t even be able to hear me ‘cuz the mics wouldn’t be set up.

#### Or even if it *was* set up, without someone in the sound booth controlling the mic, it would be of little use.

#### You wouldn’t have a sermon outline in your hands without someone photocopying it.

#### How many of you even know the *name* of the person running the sound—or who copied your notes—or who constructed this building?

### My point? Many people serve Christ “behind the scenes” out of the public eye.

#### These folks would hate to be up here on the platform, yet their ministries are vital to the functioning of this church. That’s why Paul said that the head can’t say to the feet, “I have no need of you!”

#### These people typically have what 1 Peter 4:11 calls “the serving gifts.” So who are they? And what are these serving gifts?

### Turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 4:11 to review the two major categories of spiritual gifts, or abilities God has granted to each believer in Christ.

1 Pet 4

### In my last message we studied at least four speaking gifts to speak “the very words of God” (1 Pet. 4:10-11a).

Categories

• arrow

#### *Teachers* teach the content of God’s Word—Many here are gifted teachers.

Speaking Contrasted

#### *Evangelists* equip the church to reach the lost––our study showed those among us strong in evangelism being Singpu, Desiree, Albina.

#### *Pastor-teachers* equip the church to reach each other.

#### *Encouragers* exhort others to apply God’s Word.

### MI: But today we’ll focus on this second group of gifts: the serving gifts. Here’s Peter’s point: *Those with a serving gift should serve in God’s strength for God’s glory* (11b).

Serve Arrow

Main Idea

### Developmental Ques. #1 (Explain): But how do they do this? How do those with serving gifts *serve in God’s strength* to help our church body?

• How?

### Let’s unwrap the five feet gifts in your outline. Inspect each one to see if God gave it to you on your birthday—your *spiritual* birthday! Serving gift #1 is administrations.

Feet gifts

# I. Those gifted in administrations meet our organization needs (1 Cor. 12:28).

MP

#  [This gift has lots of alternate names—and is probably also called leadership in Romans 12:8c as this person leads the body to help us work together to pursue common goals.]

## What is this administrations gift? Note that it’s plural!

Steersman

### Swindoll notes, “In 1 Corinthians 12:28, 'Administrations' is taken from the term **kubernesis**, meaning the work of serving as a steersman or pilot of a ship. The **kubernetes** steered the ship through rocks and shoals safely to the harbor.” Acts 27:11.

### He continues, “The one who has this gift has the unique ability to organize and administer with great ease and efficiency. This person [has] the ability to organize and direct toward certain goals… The gift is usually accompanied with a good measure of common, practical sense and tact in dealing with others, along with personal zeal and an intense concern that matters be handled 'properly and in an orderly manner' (1 Cor. 14:40).”

Messy Office

• Clean Office

### In Romans 12:8 it’s called “leadership.” The word literally means, “to stand before” in the sense of directing or managing. It probably is the same as “administrations.”

2 Gifts or 1?
• Admin

### How many of you like to lead committees? This person can do it well—when I lead a meeting it generally goes beyond midnight!

Late mtg

### Yet the administrator has an ability to know what needs to be delegated and then can do it to bring others into ministry.

Black

### He or she can see the overall picture and clarify long-range goals.

## Who has administration ability here at Crossroads?

### Most of us would be terrified to manage the hundreds of people needed to build a petroleum plant on Jurong Island, but Dean Parker seems not to get stressed about it at all.

### I remember one of my first encounters with an administrator at a Campus Crusade summer project in Japan. Jerry Sharpless was actually a sharp guy. He organized over 100 people in several different student ministries at various locations. I asked him one day how he could do it. He said, “I have a philosophy: Anything worth doing, is worth doing poorly!” “Excuse me,” I asked, “Isn’t that supposed to be ‘Anything worth doing, is worth doing well”? “No,” he said, “In a given day I often have 10 major projects that need to be done—and I have a choice to get 3 done well and 7 not done at all, or 10 done poorly. But if they all have to be done, then I have to settle for a lower standard.”

### I learned that day from Jerry that good administrators can see the overall picture and even endure criticism from others, yet they are faithful to see the pieces come together and find joy at seeing others enjoy the finished product. Jerry got the job done but also was skilled at knowing what people could do and liked to do.

(So we’ve seen administrations is a key serving gift. Now look at verse 9 to see that…)

# II. Those gifted in faith meet our vision needs (1 Cor. 12:9).

MP

#  [This gift of vision can look ahead and help us trust God for new things.]

#  [The gift of faith helps us see what isn’t yet here.]

## What is faith?

What’s faith?

### It’s been said, "Faith is believing that something *is* so, when it *isn't* so, so it will *be* so!"

### We all exercise faith in order to trust Christ, but that’s not what’s referred to here.

## So what is the *gift* of faith? What are this person’s characteristics?

### One gifted in this area continues to trust God increasingly to be a blessing to us all.

### He has an ability to dream dreams and tackle tasks for God.

### An ignorance of (or unconcern with) details necessary to attain the task dreamed about.

• Trust

• Dream

• Details

• Prayer

Traits

### A high priority placed on believing prayer.

### This gift is rare—God has mercifully given this gift sparsely! Why? Because then we’d have too many chiefs trying to set the direction for the church and chaos would result!

## Who’s gifted in faith among us?

Who?

### This church is filled with pioneers who are able to see what isn’t there yet:

#### Dr Joe Beeson has helped build International Community School from a struggling school of 100 students to over 420 now.

#### The Navigator ministry at NTU was virtually dead, but God brought Shannon Sandquist to trust God to help the Navs reach many for Christ.

### Others have the gift of faith too—and we need you to lead us in trusting God for expansion of our ministries in missions, men’s ministry, and other ways not even dreamed about yet!

(Let’s move on from the gifts of administrations and faith. Now for the last three serving gifts today we need to turn from 1 Corinthians back to Romans 12:8. Gift number 3…)

# III. Those gifted in giving meet material needs (Rom. 12:8b).

MP

#  [Contributors to the needs of others help them pay for life’s necessities.]

Rom 12:8

## What’s this kind of giver like?

### This person is alert to valid needs sometimes overlooked by others.

Black

### He or she contributes generously and sacrificially—doesn’t just give *excess* wealth.

### He generally scorns public attention for gifts.

### The one with the gift of giving experiences great joy in doing it—especially when the gift is an answer to specific prayer.

### He may be wealthy (but most are not), yet does not *love* money (1 Tim. 6:10).

organ

## Who has the gift of giving among us?

### You all want to know, don’t you? I’m not a great preacher on giving!

underwear

### I don’t know who gives what here, so this time I’m not going to give names—just thanks!

#### As one who has lived on the gifts of God’s people for 30 years, let me say a hearty “THANKS” to all of you—especially to those who exercise their gift of giving.

Black

#### Thanks to you who give to promote God’s work through missions. There’s no way we could give nearly 20% of our offerings to missions apart from your faithfulness!

#### Thanks to others who contribute to the ICS financial aid program so my kids and yours can go to a great Christian school.

#### The thanks could go on and on…

(But I need to address another gift. Whereas those gifted in giving meet *material* needs…)

# IV. Those gifted in service meet practical needs (Rom. 12:7).

MP

#  [This gift is also called “helps” in 1 Corinthians 12:28 because these servants help with thousands of day-to-day tasks in the body.]

## What are people with the gift of service like?

### Just look at Onesiphorus, Stephanus, Fortunatus, & Achaicus! You say, “Who?” I said, “Onesiphorus, Stephanus, Fortunatus, & Achaicus!” Never heard of them, have you? That’s my point—these people aren’t in the limelight but are vital to the church!

Black

#### Paul praised Onesiphorus in 2 Tim. 1:16-18 [read]. He may have even brought Paul the parchments so he could use them to write the Bible. Isn’t *that* a key role?

2 Tim 1

#### Paul praised the other guys in 1 Corinthians 16:17-18…

1 Cor 16

### Swindoll says of these service ministries, “These ministries, though often missed by the public eye, form the *backbone* of an effective local church. They guard the public declaration of the Word from interruption, delay and unnecessary demands. It is to be noted that *all* Christians are to be available to help and assist, but not all are able to do it with unending joy, ease, and efficiency. Most often, these folk are very observant, able to notice needs and take care of them without others having to call their attention to them. They usually loathe the limelight!”

Swindoll
1

Swindoll
2

## Who has the gift of service or helps in our midst?

### For me, this is easy—all I have to do is look across the table! I have known for years that Susan has the gift of service.

Susan

#### She is always volunteering to do art, cooking, decorations, and other practical things for people—so much so that she’s often been abused!

#### A weakness that comes with this gift is difficulty delegating. The administrator has great joy being in charge of a project as he or she gets everyone involved, but the servant feels guilty asking others to help. So when Susan is in charge of an event, she typically does most of it herself.

Bulletins

### Other servants among us help significantly in the area of practical areas. If you ask them whether they thought they had the gift of service and they’d probably say, “Well, I don't know. I’m just trying to meet a need!”

How & Who?

### Many here have the service gift and joyfully help in many ways— music, hospitality, artwork, assisting teachers, prayer, preparing the Lord’s supper elements, tear down and clean up, flowers, secretarial, food ministry, and *many* more! My optometrist, chiropractor and dentist are all believers gifted in service. My dentist crowned me with many crowns, my eye surgeon gave me free Lasik surgery last year. I see great now.

Black

### We don’t even know most of their names—but the Lord does and He will reward each of them as they serve in His strength.

(OK, one last gift. Givers meet *material* needs; servers meet *practical* needs; but…)

# V. Those gifted in mercy meet emotional needs (Rom. 12:8d).

MP

#  [These friends can *feel* with people better than most of us.]

## What are these with the mercy gift like?

### When you walk into the dining hall, who do you look for to talk with? If you’re like most of us, you gravitate towards your friends. Not so with the one gifted in mercy. He or she has an eye for and is actually attracted to that person feeling lonely, miserable or depressed.

abstract

### One author says, “Many people shrink from the ill and weak; they consign these people to an institution. … Mercy is a rare virtue. Wherever a person has this gift, he is a great hope for sick and neglected people.”

## Who has this compassionate touch among us?

Black

### Many do. Some help those among us in difficult transitions—family, job, etc.

### Mercy also reminds me of one of the deacons in a former church in Singapore named KY Leong, in charge of Prison Aftercare. Most people have little desire to follow-up former prisoners, but KY was a channel of God’s concerns.

### Romans 12:8 encourages these folks to show compassion with cheerfulness—and they do!

Cheerfully Rom 12:8

#### Some of us are like Job’s counselors when we visit those in emotional and physical pain—sit for seven days without saying a word—and then blame and criticize!

#### But those with the gift of showing mercy are sensitive to *what* to say, *how* to say it, and how to *bring cheer* to those who need it most!

# Conclusion

### Well, let me end where I began—with 1 Peter 4:11—and repeat Peter’s admonition to serve in God’s strength.

1 Pet 4

### What is God telling us in these texts today? If you have a serving gift then serve in God’s strength for God’s glory (MI). Do you rely on your own resources to use your gift? You need the Spirit’s help to really serve others!

MI

### Well, in these past two messages on speaking and serving gifts, did we unwrap your gift? Take a moment to complete this sentence in your notes: “I think my gift is…”

Categories

### If yours is a serving gift, you’re on the chart in your notes so…

#### Administrators, organize us in God’s strength.

Serving Contrasted

#### Those with the gift of faith, give us vision through God’s enabling.

#### Givers, trust God to meet your needs as you sacrificially contribute your possessions.

#### You who give your abilities in service, serve based on His resources—not your own.

#### Those with the gift of mercy, ask God for strength to genuinely show His concern.

### Now finish the next sentence: “God wants me to…”

Puzzle

### But what if you don’t have the gift of administrations, faith, giving, service, or mercy?

Black

#### Still come to ask how you can help! We need more people all the time as we grow.

#### When you see a need, be one of the first to volunteer to meet it. Take that impulse as from the Lord. You might discover that you’ve unwrapped your gift without even thinking about it.

### Prayer

Grace Baptist Church Dr. Rick Griffith

21 February 1999 Message #18

NIV 30 Minutes

**The Serving Gifts**

***1 Pet. 4:11b; 1 Cor. 12:9, 28; Rom. 12:7-8***

**Topic:** Spiritual Gifts

**Subject:** If you have a serving gift

**Complement:** then serve others in God’s strength.

**Purpose:** The listeners will not rely on their own strength to use their serving gifts.

# Introduction

### Interest: [Mouthing the words] I want you to think how different life would be if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their jobs.

#### For one, you wouldn’t even be able to hear me ‘cuz the mics wouldn’t be set up.

#### Or even if they *were* set up, without someone in the sound room controlling them, they would be of little use.

### Need: Can you hear me now? Oh, you couldn’t hear me before? I said I want you to think how different life would be if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their jobs.

#### For one, you wouldn’t even be able to hear me ‘cuz the mics wouldn’t be set up.

#### Or even if they *were* set up, without someone in the sound room controlling them, they would be of little use.

#### We’d have hot auditorium this morning if no one came an hour ago and turned on the air conditioning.

#### How many of you even know the *name* of those running the sound—or cooling the room—or who stuffed your bulletin—or who constructed this building?

### My point? Many people serve Christ “behind the scenes” out of the public eye.

#### These folks would hate to be up here on the platform, yet their ministries are vital to the functioning of this church.

#### These people typically have what 1 Peter 4:11 calls “the serving gifts.”

#### So who are they? And what are these serving gifts?

### Turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 4:11 to review the two major categories of spiritual gifts, or abilities God has granted to each believer in Christ.

### Last time we saw four speaking gifts to speak “the very words of God” (1 Pet. 4:11a).

#### *Teachers* teach the content of God’s Word. (Ric Poolman and I both scored highest on teaching when I conducted my Spiritual Gifts Inventory recently with the staff.)

#### *Evangelists* equip the church to reach the lost. (Grace Wong scored highest here.)

#### *Encouragers* exhort others to apply God’s Word.

#### *Pastor-teachers* equip the church to reach each other.

### MI: Today we’ll focus on this second group of gifts: the serving gifts. Here’s Peter’s point: those with a serving gift should serve in God’s strength for His glory (11b).

### Developmental Question #1 (Explain): How do the serving gifts help the church body?

### Let’s unwrap the five serving gifts in your bulletin outline—and you inspect each one to see if God gave it to you on your birthday—your *spiritual* birthday, that is! The first serving gift is faith.

# I. Those gifted in faith help us see what isn’t yet here (1 Cor. 12:9).

#  [This gift of vision can look ahead and help us trust God for new things.]

## What is this gift of faith?

### Someone has said, "Faith is believing that something *is* so, when it *isn't* so, so that is will *be* so!"

### This is a trait that we all must exercise in order to trust Christ, but those especially gifted in this area continue to trust God increasingly to be a blessing to us all.

## What’s this person’s characteristics?

### An ability to dream dreams and tackle tasks for God.

### An ignorance of (or unconcern with) details necessary to attain the task dreamed about.

### A high priority placed on believing prayer.

### This gift is rare—God has mercifully not given the church many people with this gift! Why not? Because then we’d have too many people trying to set the direction for the church and chaos would result!

## Who’s gifted in faith among us?

### Pastor Ric Poolman scored high in this area on the inventory. And his commitment to prayer has been a blessing to us all.

### I wonder if Bernard Yeo has the gift of faith too. He has provided leadership for the SEC that has really helped the congregation to be forward-looking.

### Perhaps George Kwek may have this gift as well—we have seen him trust God in recent years in his Myanmar ministry, which has expanded into China now through OC.

### Seng Chuan certainly is gifted in faith—always trusting God through difficult circumstances, always looking for the next challenge!

### And there are others too—and we need you to lead us in trusting God for expansion of our ministries to youth, MacPherson Estate, and other ways not even dreamed about yet!

(Moving on from the gift of faith is the next serving gift noted in verse 28…)

# II. Those gifted in administrations help us work together well (1 Cor. 12:28).

#  [This gift is also called leadership in Romans 12:8c as this person leads the body to pursue common goals.]

## What is this administration gift?

### Swindoll notes, “In 1 Corinthians 12:28, 'Administrations' is taken from the term **kubernesis**, meaning the work of serving as a steersman or pilot of a ship. The **kubernetes** steered the ship through rocks and shoals safely to the harbor.”

### “The one who has this gift has the unique ability to organize and administer with great ease and efficiency. This person [has] the ability to organize and direct toward certain goals… The gift is usually accompanied with a good measure of common, practical sense and tact in dealing with others, along with personal zeal and an intense concern that matters be handled 'properly and in an orderly manner' (1 Cor. 14:40).”

### How many of you feel able to lead committees? This person can do it well—when I lead a meeting it generally goes beyond midnight!

### Yet the administrator has an ability to know what needs to be delegated and then can do it to bring others into ministry.

### He or she can see the overall picture and clarify long-range goals.

## Who has administration ability here at GBC?

### Among our staff the ones who scored highest here were Grace Oey and Justin Soh. Both of them have demonstrated an ability to get ministries up and going and recruit people for involvement.

### I remember one of my first encounters with an administrator at a Campus Crusade summer project in Japan. Jerry organized over 100 people in several different ministries at various locations. I asked him one day how he could do it. He said, “I have a philosophy: Anything worth doing, is worth doing poorly!” “Excuse me,” I asked, “Isn’t that supposed to be ‘Anything worth doing, is worth doing well”? “No,” he said, “In a given day I often have 10 major projects that need to be done—and I have a choice to get 3 done well and 7 not done at all, or 10 done poorly. But if they all have to be done, then I have to settle for a lower standard.”

### I learned that day from Jerry that good administrators can see the overall picture and even endure criticism from others, yet they are faithful to see the pieces come together and find joy at seeing others enjoy the finished product.

(So we’ve seen faith and administration. Now for our third serving gift today—in Romans 12:8…)

# III. Those gifted in giving meet material needs (Rom. 12:8b).

#  [Contributors to the needs of others help them pay for life’s necessities.]

## What’s this kind of giver like?

### This person is alert to valid needs sometimes overlooked by others.

### He or she contributes generously and sacrificially—doesn’t just give *excess* wealth.

### He generally scorns public attention for gifts.

### The one with the gift of giving experiences great joy in doing it—especially when the gift is an answer to specific prayer.

### He may be wealthy (but most are not), yet does not *love* money (1 Tim. 6:10).

## Who has the gift of giving among us?

### Now you’re all really interested to know, aren’t you?

### This time I’m not going to give names—just thanks!

#### As one who has lived on the gifts of God’s people for 20 years, let me say a hearty “THANKS” to all of you—especially to those who exercise their gift of giving.

#### Thanks to you who give—sometimes anonymously and sometimes not—to help promote God’s work through missionaries in our midst. There’s no way GBC could give nearly $28,000 monthly to missions apart from your faithfulness!

#### Thanks to one of you who offered my family use of a home for whatever price I could afford.

#### Thanks to another who put $400 in the offering a few months back for me to pass on to some students who needed it more than me.

#### Thanks to another who paid for our family to go to church camp last time.

#### The thanks could go on and on…

(But I need to address another gift. Whereas those gifted in giving meet *material* needs…)

# IV. Those gifted in service meet practical needs (Rom. 12:7).

#  [This gift is also called “helps” in 1 Corinthians 12:28 because these servants help with thousands of day-to-day tasks in the body.]

## What are people with the gift of service like?

### Just look at Onesiphorus, Stephanus, Fortunatus, & Achaicus! You say, “Who?” I said, “Onesiphorus, Stephanus, Fortunatus, & Achaicus!” Never heard of them, have you? That makes my point—these people hate the limelight but are vital to the church!

#### Paul said in 2 Tim. 1:16-18 about Onesiphorus…

#### Paul also noted the other guys in 1 Corinthians 16:15…

### One writer says of these ministries of services, “These ministries, though often missed by the public eye, form the *backbone* of an effective local church. They guard the public declaration of the Word from interruption, delay and unnecessary demands. It is to be noted that *all* Christians are to be available to help and assist, but not all are able to do it with unending joy, ease, and efficiency. Most often, these folk are very observant, able to notice needs and take care of them without others having to call their attention to them. They usually loathe the limelight!”

## Who has the gift of service or helps in our midst?

### For me, this is easy—all I have to do is look across the table! I have known for years that Susan has the gift of service.

#### She is always volunteering to do art, cooking, decorations, and other practical things for people—so much so that she’s often been abused!

#### A weakness that comes with this gift is difficulty delegating. The administrator has great joy being in charge of a project as he or she gets everyone involved, but the servant feels guilty asking others to help. So when Susan is in charge of an event, she typically does most of it herself.

### Other servants among us who have helped significantly in the area of practical, construction issues are Poh Gee and Mike Manning. I’ve asked each of them whether they thought they had the gift of service and they each said, “Well, I don't know. I just was trying to meet a need!”

#### Poh Gee has helped us all in one very practical way by replacing the Annexe folding door with something which really is sound proof—no longer at GBS do we compete with the Chinese service!

#### Mike also shows great sensitivity to renovation concerns.

### Hundreds more at GBC are gifted here and joyfully help in many ways— music, hospitality, craftsmanship, artwork, assisting teachers, private intercession, letter-writing, preparing the Lord’s supper elements, deacons, church custodian, flowers, secretarial, kitchen ministry, and *many* more!

### We didn’t even know their most of their names until seeing the dedication list last week.

(OK, one last gift. Givers meet *material* needs, servants meet *practical* needs, but…)

# V. Those gifted in mercy meet emotional needs (Rom. 12:8d).

#  [These friends can *feel* with people better than most of us.]

## What are these with the mercy gift like?

### When you walk into a room or the void deck, who do you look for to talk with? If you’re like most of us, you gravitate towards your friends. Not so with the one gifted in mercy. He or she has an eye for and is actually attracted to that person feeling lonely, miserable or depressed.

### One author says, “Many people shrink from the ill and weak; they consign these people to an institution. … Mercy is a rare virtue. Wherever a person has this gift, he is a great hope for sick and neglected people. … Merciful people are quickly besieged by those in need [so] it is important for all who have this talent to use it.”

## Who has this compassionate touch among us?

### Many do. But I think of Pat Chan and Esther Cher, who regularly visit old folks.

### I think of deacon KY Leong, in charge of Changi Prison Aftercare. Most people have little desire to follow-up former prisoners, but KY is a channel of God’s compassion.

### Romans 12:8 encourages these folks to demonstrate compassion with cheerfulness—and they do! Some of us are like Job’s counselors when we visit those in emotional and physical pain, but those with the gift of showing mercy are sensitive to what to say, how to say it, and how to bring cheer to those who need it most!

# Conclusion

### Let me end where I began—with 1 Peter 4:11—and repeat Peter’s admonition to serve in God’s strength.

### If you have a serving gift then serve others in God’s strength (MI). Do you rely on your own resources to use your gift? You need the Spirit’s help to really serve others!

#### Administrators, organize us in God’s strength.

#### Those with the gift of faith, inspire us through God’s enabling.

#### Givers, trust God to provide your needs as you sacrificially contribute.

#### Those gifted in service, serve based on His resources rather than your own.

#### Those with the gift of mercy, ask God for strength to genuinely show His compassion.

### But what if you don’t have the gift of faith, administrations, giving, service, or mercy?

#### Still come to MacPherson Estate with us this afternoon to distribute food at 1 PM!

#### When you see a need, be one of the first to volunteer to meet it. Take that impulse as from the Lord. You might just discover that you’ve just unwrapped your gift without even thinking about it

### “My Turn in the Nursery” poem

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

If you have a serving gift then serve others in God’s strength

# Possible Illustrations

## Who’s gifted in faith among us at First Baptist?

### One example is Paul and Carolyn Raney, who just left us to serve in Sri Lanka. I wonder how many of us have the faith to bring two young boys like theirs to a strange country without even having a job lined up there.

### In wonder if Pastor George is gifted in faith—when I first heard that the church of 700 was putting on a Christmas production that required 500 people I thought it was ridiculous! But God has honored BMP for many years now.

## When someone homeless comes to the church office, do you know whom he is referred to? Jim Hair—because of his sensitive heart and listening ear.

**The Serving Gifts**

***1 Pet. 4:11b; 1 Cor. 12:9, 28; Rom. 12:7-8***

**Exegetical Outlines**

# 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Exegetical Idea: One evidence of the Spirit’s work in the life of each Christian is that person’s spiritual gift(s).

# I. (7) The purpose of spiritual gifts is to benefit the body of Christ.

## (7a) One evidence of the Spirit’s work in a believer’s life is a spiritual gift.

## (7b) The purpose of a spiritual gift is to benefit the body of Christ.

# II. (8-11a) The source of the various gifts is the Holy Spirit.

## (8a) The gift of message of wisdom comes from the Spirit.

## (8b) The gift of message of knowledge comes from the Spirit.

## (9a) The gift of faith comes from the Spirit.

## (9b) The gifts of healing come from the Spirit.

## (10a) The gift of miracles comes from the Spirit.

## (10b) The gift of prophecy comes from the Spirit.

## (10c) The gift of distinguishing of spirits comes from the Spirit.

## (10d) The gift of tongues comes from the Spirit.

## (10e) The gift of interpretation of tongues comes from the Spirit.

# III. (11) The one who determines which spiritual gift each believer receives is the Spirit.

## (11a) Each believer has received a spiritual gift from the Spirit.

## (11b) The Spirit decides which gift each believer receives.

# 1 Peter 4:10-11 Exegetical Idea: The way a believer should use his/her gifts is by speaking for God or serving in His strength.

# I. (10) The way a spiritually-gifted believer should serve other Christians is as a good manager of God’s grace-gifts.

## (10a) The purpose of using one’s gifts is to serve others rather than self.

## (10b) The analogy to properly using one’s spiritual gift is to a manager skillfully benefiting the business by wise use of the owner’s various assets.

# II. (11) The way those with speaking or serving gifts should minister is for God and through His strength.

## (11a) The one with a speaking gift should talk as God’s mouthpiece.

## (11b) The one with a serving gift should serve in God’s strength for His glory.

# Romans 12:6-8 Exegetical Idea: The reason believers have different gifts is because each gift shows God’s grace in a unique way.

# I. (6a) The reason believers have different gifts is because God’s grace is given differently to each person.

# II. (6b-8) Each gift should be used in its unique manner.

## (6b) Those gifted in prophecy should prophesy as much as he has grown in his faith.

## (7a) Those gifted in service should serve.

## (7b) Those gifted in teaching should teach.

## (8a) Those gifted in encouraging should encourage.

## (8b) Those gifted in giving should give generously.

## (8c) Those gifted in leadership should lead diligently.

## (8d) Those gifted in showing mercy should show mercy cheerfully.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical deductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest/Need: Think how different life would be if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their job.

### Review: Last time we saw four speaking gifts to use as “one speaking the very words of God” (1 Pet. 4:11a).

### Main Idea: Today we’ll see that those with a serving gift should serve in God’s strength for His glory (11b).

### How do the serving gifts help the church body?

# I. Those gifted in faith help us see what isn’t yet here (1 Cor. 12:9).

# II. Those gifted in administrations help us work together well (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:8c).

# III. Those gifted in giving meet material needs (Rom. 12:8b).

# IV. Those gifted in service meet practical needs (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28).

# V. Those gifted in mercy meet emotional needs (Rom. 12:8d).

# Conclusion

### If you have a serving gift then serve others in God’s strength (MI).

# Introduction

### What if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their job?

### How do the serving gifts help the church body?

# I. Those gifted in faith help us see what isn’t yet here (1 Cor. 12:9).

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# Conclusion

### If you have a serving gift then serve others in God’s strength (Main Idea).

# Introduction

### What if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their job?

### How do the serving gifts help the church body?

# I. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ help us see what isn’t yet here (1 Cor. 12:9).

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# IV. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet practical needs (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28).

# V. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet emotional needs (Rom. 12:8d).

# Conclusion

### If you have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gift then serve others in God’s strength (Main Idea).

# *The Serving Gifts* ❖ 1 Peter 4:10-11

# 🕮 How do those with serving gifts help our church body?

# Those gifted in…

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ help meet organizational needs (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:8).

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet vision needs (1 Cor. 12:9).

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet material needs (Rom. 12:8).

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet practical needs (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28).

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet emotional needs (Rom. 12:8).

# Main Idea:

If you have a serving gift then serve others in God’s strength!

* I think my gift is…
* God wants me to…

October 31, 1999  Dr. Rick Griffith

*A series on releasing the saints for ministry through their spiritual gifts*

🕮🖐🟓

🖐 What if the “behind the scenes” people didn’t do their jobs?

**Rick Griffith**

24 March 2013

*Message 18 of 24 in “Becoming Who We Are” 1 Corinthians Series*

**The Serving Gifts**

**1 Cor. 12:9, 28; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rom. 12:7-8**

**Introduction**

1. God has made our “feet” in more than one way.

 2. Question for Today: How do those with serving gifts help our church body?

# I. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ help meet organizational needs (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:8).

# II. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet vision needs (1 Cor. 12:9).

# III. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet material needs (Rom. 12:8).

# IV. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet practical needs (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28).

# V. Those gifted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet emotional needs (Rom. 12:8).

**Conclusion**

 1. If you have a serving gift then serve others in God’s strength (Main Idea).

1. I think my gift is…

 3. God wants me to…

Serving Gifts Comparison Chart

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Administrations** | **Faith** | **Giving** | **Service** | **Mercy** |
| **Shares...** | Organizational Ability | Vision | Possessions | Abilities | Concern |
| **Need Met...** | Leadership | Belief | Monetary | Assistance | Understanding |
| **Sensitive to Needs…** | Managerially | Visually | Materially | Practically | Emotionally |
| **Ministers to Those Needing…** | Structure | Hope | Finances & Material Things | Aid in Everyday Tasks | Comfort |
| **General Trait:** | Orderliness | Confidence in God | Generosity | Availability | Compassion |

**Thought Questions**

1. What other comparisons between the five gifts can you make in the chart above?

They are all behind-the-scenes

1. Name one person you know for each of the five serving gifts.