

Charismata (gifts)

Romans 12:6-8

“Charismata is based on the word grace (charis) and actually means “a grace gift.” It is something given to the people of God by God or, as can also be said, by Jesus Christ. Since grace is God’s unmerited favor, the word indicates that spiritual gifts are dispensed by God according to his pleasure and that the gifts will differ. Every Christian has at least one gift, like the people who received talents in Christ’s parables. Moreover, since these are given by God, they are to be used for his glory and according to his plans rather than to enhance our own glory or further our plans. This is where the thrust toward unity comes in. Each member is to work toward the well-being of the whole so that when one member does well all the others do well and when one member suffers the entire body suffers.

Another way of saying this is to say that we not only belong to Christ, we also belong to one another. John Murray says of Christians, ‘They have property in one another and therefore in one another’s gifts and graces.’ It would be correct to add that you, as a Christian, have a right to the gifts the other members of the body have been given, and they have a right to your gift. You cheat them if you do not use it, and you are poorer if you do not depend on them.” Boice

2 Tim. 1:6 *Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you.”*

- I. Upon salvation, every believer receives a special manifestation of the Spirit to be used to bless the body of Christ. God, through the Spirit, uses his gifts in different ways to administer his grace as we serve one another. Our gifts support the body to help it grow and build itself up **in love**, as each one of us does the work Jesus has designated us to do.

Rom. 12:6
 1 Cor. 12:7
 1 Cor. 12:11
 Eph. 4:7
 1 Cor. 12:1
 Rom. 12:4-6
 1 Peter 4:10

Eph. 4:15-16 *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

- II. A spiritual gift is a God-given ability to function effectively and meaningfully in a particular area of service as a member of Christ's body. Our gift(s) qualifies us to serve only in the area(s) we are gifted in. Therefore, it is extremely important that we know our gifting so that we do not try to serve in areas Christ never intended for us to serve in. When we selfishly and irresponsibly assume a role in the church that was not meant for us, we are not making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Consequently, we are out of God's will and serving in our own strength.

1 Cor. 12:7

Eph. 4:12

1 Peter 4:11

1 Cor. 12:12-27

Eph. 4:1,3,16

1 Peter 4:11

1 Cor. 12:18-20 *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

- III. Romans 8:6-8 list seven manifestations of the Spirit that exist within the body of Calvary Chapel of the Oley Valley. The gifts of prophecy, serving, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership and mercy are essential to our spiritual wellbeing as we administer God's glorious grace to one another. God wants us to serve freely and selflessly out of equal concern and love for each member of his precious body.

1 Cor. 14:3

Eph. 4:11

James 3:1

1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*