

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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THE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

Ephesians 4 / Romans 12

Have you ever received a gift you did not like? You opened it and you tried to look happy but you weren't happy at all. There are things that people give us that we don't really want. Then there are gifts that nobody wants. But, the gifts that God gives to us will always be the right gifts. These spiritual gifts are always appropriate because they are personally chosen by Him to give to people.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Every believer should be a part of a church.** Every believer needs a pastor, to be spiritually fed, a place to be accountable, and a consistent theology, avoiding church hopping. We have a place in the church and it should be more than a place to hear a message, sing a few songs, see friends, and go home.
2. **God gives the gifts that He chooses.** In Ephesians 4:7 we read, "He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ" (NLT). God is the One who decides what gift or gifts you will have. God makes that decision. God has given these gifts. Use them.
3. **God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.** If God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If your gift is encouraging others, be encouraging. Whatever God had given you to do, do it well, generously, gladly, and take the responsibility seriously.
4. **As we use these gifts, we grow spiritually.** Verse 15 of Ephesians 4 says, "But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head" (NKJV). If you have been a Christian a long time, it is time to grow up. If you are young in the faith, continue to grow.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Sometimes God distributes gifts that make sense to us. Sometimes they don't. In the big scheme of things, it always makes sense and God expects us to use the gifts that He has given to us.
- Don't envy someone else's spiritual gift. Be thankful for whatever God gave you. Develop it and use it for His glory.
- We should desire spiritual gifts. Earnestly want and cultivate them. Discover what they are and not let them lie dormant.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

If you have known the Lord for a time and have not grown, it is time to get out of diapers. It is time to lose the pacifier. It is time to start digging into Scripture for yourself and finding what your spiritual gifts are, developing and using them. Find your place in the church and it will change your entire worship experience. Stop coming as a spectator. Start coming as a participant. Become a part of the family of God.