

**"The Doctrine of Consecration"****Part 4****Romans 12:1-15:7**

**Introduction:** As we continue of study of Romans tonight, we are coming back to the opening verses of Romans 12. It is in these verses that Paul begins to apply what he taught us in Romans 1-11. In Romans 12:1-2 Paul beseeches his readers to give to the Lord the ultimate act of worship which is to present our bodies as living sacrifices. This is to give of our complete person over to the Lord. He calls upon us to separate from the world and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we might prove/discover, the will of God for our lives. When we surrender ourselves over to Him, He will lead us in His will. Paul then goes on in verse 3 and in this verse, he transitions our minds from worship to service.

**Notice Romans 12:3**

Here in this verse Paul reminds us that our attitude must be one that reflects a humble spirit.

**Notice Romans 12:4-5**

In these verses Paul moves on to the subject of service and so he is concerned that every believer will exercise the spirit of humility as they exercise their spiritual gifts. When the Lord chooses to use us to further His Kingdom then we must realize that all we have has come from Him and so we are to give to God all the glory.

**1 Corinthians 4:7**

*<sup>7</sup> For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

We who are saved are all members of the body of Jesus Christ and as members of His body we are given spiritual gifts and we are all important in our service. Just as all our members in the human body are very important so are the members of the body of Jesus Christ. If one or more members fail to function, then it impacts the entire body. Now as we move on to verses 6-8 Paul is going to mention some of the spiritual gifts and with what attitude they are to be exercised. This is not a complete list of spiritual gifts; it is a partial list which Paul uses to help us to see the proper attitude and spirit with which the believer should have.

**I. The Introduction to Christian Service****Part 4****Romans 12:1-8**

**Notice Romans 12:6**

We all have different gifts according to the grace given to us.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

<sup>5</sup> *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

<sup>6</sup> *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

<sup>7</sup> **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**

We have different gifts, and every gift is for the edifying of the body of Jesus Christ. Paul will now list several spiritual gifts which we shall look at in some detail.

**1. The gift of Prophecy**

There is some misunderstanding as to what the gift of prophecy actually was. Let me show you two **WRONG** definitions given by Bible teachers.

*"the ability to understand and to engage in the exposition of the Word of God" - Billy Graham.*

*"The gift of prophecy was actually the ability to speak before people, to proclaim God's Word, sometimes with a predictive element"- John MacArthur.*

If these two definitions were correct, then anyone who stood and taught the Bible would be a prophet. We know this cannot be correct because Paul is going to make a clear distinction between a prophet and a teacher as we continue on in these verses. We need to allow the Bible to define for us the prophet.

**Exodus 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*

<sup>15</sup> *And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and **I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.***

<sup>16</sup> *And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, **even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth,** and thou shalt be to him instead of God.*

Exodus 7:1-2

And the LORD said unto Moses, *See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.*

<sup>2</sup> *Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.*

From these verses we can see that a prophet was a spokesman for God and the Words he spoke were the very Words of God. The mark of a true prophet was that all he spoke would come to pass.

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

<sup>15</sup> *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*

<sup>16</sup> *According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.*

<sup>17</sup> *And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.*

<sup>18</sup> *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

<sup>19</sup> *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.*

<sup>20</sup> *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

<sup>21</sup> *And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?*

<sup>22</sup> *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

In the early church the prophets played a very important role. The New Testament church did not have a New Testament Bible, so they needed New Testament Truth to follow. Therefore, the Lord provided prophets to deliver His revelation of Truth to the church.

The prophets did not just speak concerning future events. They also delivered Truth for present circumstances.

Notice the words of Hodge on the prophets:

*The prophets were "men who spoke under the immediate influence of the Spirit of God, and delivered some divine communication relative to doctrinal truths, to present duty, to future events, as the case may be."*

The prophets were the men who spoke for God. They delivered to the people the revelation which God revealed to them. There are those who believe the gift of prophecy still exists today, but the Bible makes it very clear that the gift no longer exists.

### **Ephesians 2:19-20**

*<sup>19</sup> Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*<sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

The prophets and the apostles were the foundation builders of the church. Now since the foundation has been put into place there is no longer a need for the apostles and the prophets. There is yet another way which we know the gift of prophecy does not exist today.

### **Revelation 22:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

The Book/Bible is complete. So, if someone came on the scene today and claimed to be a prophet that means they had **NEW REVELATION** that is not in the Bible. They would then be guilty of adding to the Word of God. Therefore, because the Bible is complete, we can be sure there are no prophets today.

## **2. The gift of Ministry.**

### **Notice Romans 12:7a**

This is the gift of serving. It is the very word we get the word "deacon" from.

### **Acts 6:1-4**

*And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

<sup>2</sup> *Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

<sup>3</sup> *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

<sup>4</sup> *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

This is the first deacon board. These men were chosen to serve others so that the apostles and elders could give their time to the study of the Word and prayer. This is a very honorable gift, and it takes a humble spirit to exercise this gift. Notice the Words of our Lord in Mark:

**Mark 10:43-44**

<sup>43</sup> *But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:*

<sup>44</sup> *And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.*

<sup>45</sup> *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

Jesus is the ultimate Example of a Servant.

This gift is so very important in the church. In our text it is placed between the gift of prophecy and the gift of teaching. The church would be dysfunctional if it did not have the gift of ministry/serving. This is the ability to see things which need to be done and then to do them. The person who does this with the proper spirit does not seek any attention or accolades. They just do what needs to be done so that those who teach the Word can use their time and energy to get the Word out. Notice the words of another teacher:

*"So a person who is a faithful servant is a person you can trust, a person you can put your confidence in, a person who doesn't mind not getting any recognition & doesn't mind rolling up their sleeves so that the work of getting the Word out, the work of the prevailing ministry of the Word might take place. I love the people who are willing to come alongside and be selfless and willing to do whatever is necessary so that God's work might take place."*

These people exist with this church also and as the pastor I appreciate all who exercise this gift so much. Those who have this gift and exercise it take a great amount of pressure off those who are focused upon getting the Word out. These are not people who believe that since they can do nothing else in the church, they must have the gift of Serving. That attitude would belittle the gift and would be an insult to the person who has the gift of Serving. There are no menial tasks in God's work. It is possible that more people have this gift than any other. Servers paint the walls, pick up the trash, record the services, clean the church, keep the nursery, prepare food, deliver meals, replace light bulbs, mow the grass, shovel the snow, and many other necessary tasks in the church. Let us notice an example from God's Word.

**Acts 9:36-39**

*<sup>36</sup> Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.*

*<sup>37</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.*

*<sup>38</sup> And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.*

*<sup>39</sup> Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.*

**Conclusion:**

All believers should have the attitude of a servant and be willing to serve whenever needed.

**"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"**

There are however those who have the gift of ministry and serving therefore comes natural to these people. If this is your gift you need to know just how important you are in the body of Jesus Christ. You may not receive much recognition in this life, but you surely will when you stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ.