

Equipped to Serve September 13th & 14th, 2014

Ephesians 2:8-10

“... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ...”

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. ...” Ephesians 2:8

Grace: All the resources of God at our disposal!

Grace: “... Favorable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the spirit, ...”¹

“Faith without works is dead” James 2:26

We are “new creations” in Christ Jesus for the purpose of displaying the glory of God through our lives as we, by God’s grace, do good things for others!

Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

One Body ... Many Functions!

📖 Romans 12:3-8

*“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them**...” Romans 12:6*

“... Paul calls the divinely given abilities to serve *charismata* (specific manifestations of ... ‘grace,’) Amid many debated questions regarding spiritual gifts in the New Testament, three certainties stand out. First, a spiritual gift is an ability to express, celebrate, display, and so communicate Christ in a way that builds up and strengthens the faith of other Christians and enlarges the church. Second, spiritual gifts may be broadly classified as either abilities of speech or of loving, practical helpfulness.... Third, no Christian is without some gift of ministry (1Cor.12:7; Eph.4:7). It is every believer’s responsibility to find, develop, and fully use whatever capacities for service God has given.”²

Seven Gifts of God’s Grace:

“*Prophecy*”: “the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.”³

“*Service*”: to serve others

“*Teaches*”: to give instruction

“*Exhorts*”: “Latin: *exhortor*; ... to encourage, ...to excite or to give strength, ...”¹

“*Contributes*”: “to give a share of, ...”³

“...in generosity...”

“*Leads*”: “...(*ho proistamenos*) ‘the one standing in front’ ...”⁴

“...with zeal...”

“*Mercy*”: “‘to feel sympathy with the misery of another,’ and especially sympathy manifested in act, ...”³

“...with cheerfulness...”

📖 Ephesians 2:8-10

“... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”(verse 10)

Questions for Reflection:

What kinds of gifts does the Holy Spirit give to us to enable us to do the work of God and what is their purpose?
1 Corinthians 12:1-11;14:26

What other gifts does He give? *1 Corinthians 12:27-31*

What gifts does God give for leadership in His church and what is the purpose of these giftings?
Ephesians 4:11-12

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

³ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

⁴ Robertson , A. T. *Word pictures in the New Testament*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2000.

♦Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.