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# USE YOUR GIFT(s)

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## INTRODUCTION:

- 1 Peter 2:9 says that God *“called you OUT of darkness and INTO his wonderful light”*.
  - a) Out of the world and into a family of believers!
- You cannot offer yourself to God without offering yourself to others.
  - a) The idea of a *“solo”* Christian goes against the teachings of the bible and the example of Jesus.
- How will you *“Willingly Offer Yourself to your Ministry”*? (chapter 7 of Golden Rule Membership)

## A MIND BLOWING CONCEPT (1 Peter 4:10-11)

1. USE - GIFT - SERVE others.
2. Administering GOD’S GRACE!

3. God has blessed me to be a blessing to others!



## THE GIFTS OF GOD

1. Not the miraculous gifts passed on by the Apostles (Acts 8:18)
  - a) And not the gifts associated with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2 & 10)
2. Romans 12:1-14
  - a) (1-2) Be transformed to understand God’s will
  - b) (3-5) Be humble, we belong to each other
  - c) (6-8) 7 gifts to build the church: Prophesying-Serving-Teaching-Encouraging-Contributing to the needs of Others-Leadership-Mercy
  - d) (9-13) Be devoted, humble, diligent - serve
  - e) (14) Empathy and Sympathy

## WHAT IS GOD’S VISION

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** your Gift(s)!
2. **DISCOVER** your Gift(s)! (*see extra handout*)
3. **USE** your Gift(s)!  
\*\*\*\*Experience Joy and *“life to the full”* (John 10:10), by building up his church!

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

1. What are the needs of the Milwaukee Church?
2. What would the church look like if everyone used their gift(s) to meet these needs?



## Artistic Gifts:

Ex. 31:3; 35:31: *Skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, bronze, cutting stones, setting stones, work with wood, etc. "filled with the Spirit of God" to do this.*

**Musical Gifts for Worship:** Skill, ability to play an instrument or sing. *1 Chron 15:19-22 The musicians Heman, Asaph and Ethan were to sound the bronze cymbals; Maaseiah and Benaiah were to play the lyres according to alamoah, Jeiel and Azariah were to play the harps, directing according to sheminith. Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it.*

**Contentment: Eccl. 3:13; 5:19.**

"When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God" *Phil 4:12-13*

**Prophecy/Preaching: Rom 12:6.** Although as used in the NT this may be mostly speaking for God giving new revelation, the scriptures seem to also indicate that this term included both foretelling and forth telling. Foretelling is more the miraculous (new revelation) while forth telling is having the ability to preach and apply (make relevant) the already revealed message of God for today. Forth telling or preaching would be what is available to us today.

**Serving: Rom. 12:7.** Special ability God gives to some to (1) see needs of others-and use the talent they have

**Teaching: Rom. 12:7.** This is the special ability to communicate information pertinent to the needs of individuals as well as the whole body that will help in their spiritual growth, understanding, and their ministry for Christ.

**Encouraging: Rom. 12:8.** This is the special ability to speak words and do things that will encourage others in a way that helps them feel wanted, important, needed and helped.

**Giving/Contributing: Rom. 12:8.** This is the ability to contribute material resources to God's work liberally and with cheerfulness. It presupposes that the individual has the ability or life situation to make money, gain possessions.

**Leadership: Rom. 12:8.** This is the special ability to set the example in one's life for the flock, set goals in accordance with God's will and inspire others to reach for those goals in a way that they voluntarily work together toward them

**Showing Mercy: Rom. 12:8.** The talent to (1) feel genuine empathy and compassion for those who suffer physical, emotional, mental, and/or spiritual problems and (2) to be able to love those people in a way that relieves them or helps them carry the burdens they have.

**Celibacy: I Cor. 7:7.** One who has the ability to joyfully remain single and not suffer undue sexual temptations so that they can devote more time to God's work.

**Wisdom: I Cor. 12:8.** The ability to unite knowledge with action both in their own lives and in the advice they give others. The knowledge is applied in the best way to meet the needs that arise both within the congregation and in the lives of individuals.

**Knowledge: I Cor. 12:8.** The special ability to discover, analyze, gather, clarify, and organize information and ideas that are needed for the well-being of the body.

**Faith: I Cor. 12:9.** The ability to see (envision) potential (1) in what the church might do as a body for Christ and (2) in people in what they can do for Christ. It involves belief in God and belief in people's (as well as one's own) potential. A person with the ability to have extraordinary confidence in both God and people.

**Healing: I Cor. 12: 9.** Probably specifically means ability to heal apart from the use of natural methods (i.e., supernatural healing). As such it would be a "sign gift" and not available for today. However, some people have the ability to heal through natural means, whether through counseling, being a doctor or nurse, or just touching or spending time with someone (along the encouraging lines).

**Miraculous Powers: I Cor. 12:10.** The ability to do miracles. This is a "sign gift" no longer available

**Distinguishing spirits: I. Cor. 12:10.** The ability to know if certain behavior or a spiritual stance is of God, of human, or of Satan. It is intuitive spiritual discernment.

**Languages/tongues.** I Cor. 12:10. This is a "sign gift" of having the ability to speak other languages without having studied them. This is not available today. However, there are those who have the talent today to learn other languages easily and use them to the glory of God.

**Interpretation or translation of languages/tongues:** I Cor. 12:10. Also a "sign gift" of having the ability of interpreting or translating languages one has no familiarity with. This is no longer available, but some have the linguistic talent to learn how to translate different languages to help spread the Word.

**Apostleship/Missionary:** I Cor. 12:28. There were only 12 apostles. We have their words in the NT, but we have no Apostles today in the sense of the 12 who were part of the foundation of the church. In the sense of the meaning "those sent out with a commission," we have modern day missionaries who have the talent to minister for Christ in a culture not their own.

**Administration: I Cor. 12:28.** The ability to organize, devise, and carry through plans for the accomplishment of God's will for his church. These can coordinate the other gifts of the body for the maximum effect to bring glory to God

**Evangelist: Eph. 4:11.** This is the special ability to preach, teach, share, and communicate the gospel to unbelievers in such a way that they become disciples of Christ

**Shepherd/pastor: Eph. 4:11.** The ability to shepherd (take spiritual care of) the members of the body to help them grow, keep them from the wolves, help them remain faithful, and help them become mature in Christ.

**Hospitality: I Pet 4:9.** Ability to provide a warm welcome open house of food and lodging for those in need.

**Helps: I Cor. 12:28.** The ability to see the needs of others, see how they could be helped, and then using one's own talents to help these other members enhance their effectiveness in using their talents for the body.

**“WHATEVER GIFT”**: I Pet. 4:10. Anything else one may have as a talent is to be used for God and the church. What can you think of?