

STEWARDS OF GOD’S GIFTS

1 Peter 4.10, 11

BE STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE

The vision of our church is to “Save, Equip, and Send.” God calls us to be “stewards of His *varied* grace,” and we hope to see people saved, equipped, and sent out in various ways. This means identifying and helping each person grow in the particular passions, gifts, talents, and desires that they have, and use them for God’s glory.

“WORD” AND “SERVE” GIFTS

Peter here broadly divides the gifts into two categories, “word” and “serve” gifts. Paul seems to do nearly the same thing in **Colossians 3.17** when he says “whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Word Gifts: both Peter and Paul have a stipulation for using your gifting or talent by way of words. We are to do so as we speak “the oracles of God” and “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” This means, we have NO RIGHT to speak our own human wisdom or logic, but we want to speak in a way where our thoughts don’t start out by saying, “well here’s what I think,” but rather, “here is what the Word of God says.”

Serving Gifts: Peter and Paul also give a stipulation for serving. We are to do so not in our own strength or ability, that would be serving in a Christ-less way, according simply to what we can do without Him. We are to do so by being fully dependent on Him, getting in over our heads, and giving thanks to Him all the while.

Some things we must agree to:

- I’m not in this for our glory.
- I don’t need security in my personal ministry, I have security in my place in Christ.
- My ultimate goal is not to “discover” my gifts, it is to “discover” more of Christ.
- I am open to *whatever* is given to me, whether I like it or not.
- I am submitted to the body of Christ.

First, a few key things about spiritual gifts:

- Wayne Grudem says a spiritual gift is “any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.”
- Spiritual gifts can be completely *supernatural* (healing, miracles) or a *mixture of natural and supernatural* influence (teaching, mercy, leadership). The key is that they are empowered by God, not solely natural.
- Sometimes expressions of spiritual gifts will be “obviously” God (incredible healings, divine insights), and other times they may be what we call “naturally supernatural.” For instance, words of wisdom, faith, leadership.
- Spiritual gifts are meant to equip the church.
- Spiritual gifts also give us a “foretaste” of the Kingdom to come.
- Gifts will vary in strength and effectiveness. This is seen in texts where Paul reminds Timothy to persist in his gift and not neglect it, assuming that it can become weaker or stronger.

Each person has been given at least one gift to be used to encourage, build up, and edify the church. Though there is no conclusive or exhaustive list in the Scriptures, there are many that we can look at.

Romans 12.3-8 // 1 Corinthians 12.8-10, 28-30 // Ephesians 4.11

Romans 12.3-8: Each person is gifted differently, with different gifts and *degrees* of gifting. **Verse 3** says that we need to be realistic about our gifting, and we should use our gift according to the degree by which we have been gifted in it.

1 Corinthians 12: We all need each other. Those with gifts which are more “behind the scenes” are often the most important. Seek out gifts that build up and encourage the body.

WE ARE STEWARDS; NEITHER OWNERS, NOR CREATORS

Don’t neglect what God has given you.

James 1.17 // 1 Corinthians 4.7 // Isaiah 45.9-12 // 2 Timothy 1.6-9 // Luke 19.16-23

NOTES:

WANT TO GET CONNECTED?

• JOIN A COMMUNITY GROUP!

If you want to get connected to a group of people near your neighborhood, let us know by filling out the **Connection Card** or visiting the **Connection Booth** in the Atrium!

• JOIN A MINISTRY TEAM!

We would love to have you come serve our community with us. Let us know on our **Connection Card** that you want to help!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LIFE MISSION AT CRUISIN’ GRAND!

Mark your calendar for **Friday, May 31st!** The LMC band will be out at **Cruisin’ Grand** playing our Celtic music set! Come out and enjoy the music, the cars, and the kettle corn!

SERMON CDs AVAILABLE

If you would like a copy of the sermon from today’s service, go to the sound booth in the back right after service. They will make one just for you!

Also, make sure to not just watch, but also subscribe to our **YouTube Channel**, which is at **[youtube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)**. You will get notified AS SOON as our sermons and short videos go up online!

KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out **www.lifemissionchurch.com** and click “Kids” at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey’s heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

Also, the daily devotional book, **Long Story Short**, is available in the Atrium to purchase.



SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ’s Good News.

CONTACT US:

Jobey McGinty // Lead Pastor
jobey@lifemission.tv

Eric Price // Community and Connection
eric@lifemission.tv

Pete Christopher // Technical Arts
pete@lifemission.tv

Matt Piro // Worship Leader
matt@lifemission.tv

Audra Napolitano // Kids on Mission
audra@lifemission.tv

Kim Roberson // Administration
kim@lifemission.tv

Laurie Garcia // Administration
laurie@lifemission.tv

Life Mission Church
PO Box 908, San Marcos ,CA 92079
www.LifeMissionChurch.com
Facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch
Twitter: @YourLifeMission
YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Read **1 Peter 4.10, 11**. What words or thoughts through these first few verses jump out at you? _____

List some of the things that God has given you, be it talents, family, personality, blessings, roles, opportunities, etc. _____

Do you see these as “yours” or as “God’s”? If your answer is “God’s,” how are all of those things being used so that, as in **verse 11**, “God may be glorified”? _____

Are those things being used beyond your own comfort or capacity? Often, when we serve, we serve according to our own ability or strength. Read **1 Corinthians 15.10, Philippians 4.13, 2 Corinthians 12.9, 10**. When we live an act only according to what we can comfortably give and serve, we get the glory. How are ways that you can apply these verses with the gifts that God has given you?

If you have never taken a spiritual gift “test,” now would be a great time! But first, a couple disclaimers:

- 1) Spiritual Gift Tests are just tools to help you think through how God has wired you or what He has given you. They are never conclusive or authoritative. Don’t hang your hat on them.
- 2) These come from various ministries. Though I looked through them, you should know that these ministries may have different ideas of what some roles/gifts are. Also, different ministries will categorize or define certain gifts differently than others. So again, use these as tools, not as definitive revelations of the Holy Spirit’s work in your life.

This one has an adult and student test:
www.spiritualgiftstest.com/

This is by a great ministry called LifeWay:
http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_Discover_Your_Spiritual_Gifts.pdf

Here is another that is similar to the first:
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/spiritualgifts/>

Share your findings with your Community Group. What do you think? Were you surprised, not surprised, and why? How can you pray in order to see these potential gifts used for God’s glory as a steward of these gifts? _____
