

THE GIFTS OF CHRIST Ephesians 4:7-13

Last week :

We were talking about the importance of unity of the Spirit, because we are just one body.

Illustration :

Young Man: Doc, please treat me, both of my arms were cut off.

Doc: Around what time did they get cut off?

Young Man: About 10 hours ago.

Doc: 10?! Why did it take you so long to get here?

Young Man: *HALLER!* Do you have any idea how hard it is to hail a jeepney (without arms)?!

Application : There will be a hindrance in the movement in the body of Christ if the members (parts) are not functioning properly

*Read : Ephesians 4:7-13

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.⁸This is why it says:

*"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train*

and gave gifts to men."⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Pray

Question : Who likes receiving gifts?

Illustration : One of the best gifts I received was last Father's Day – the airport ticket that my wife gave me. What if I was just happy and excited about the gift but never used it.

Icebreaker : Just like the husband and wife :

Wife: Darling, I thought you loved me...

Husband: I do! I'm willing to die for your sake.

Wife: *Sus!* You're all talk—you never actually do it!

*What we're going to discuss

- I. THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
- II. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
- III. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

I. THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

**⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it*

***Emphasis :** *⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it*

***Preceding verse:**

*²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is **one** body and **one** Spirit—just as you were called to **one** hope when you were called—⁵**one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism;⁶**one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

In short, we are One but we are not all the same.

There's a difference between Unity vs Uniformity.

Examples : "It doesn't mean that women's hair all needs to be long, or that we all need to wear the same clothes."

What makes us unique from each other?

**1 Corinthians 12: ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.*

How?

***1. We have been given gift/s by Christ personally.**

⁷But **to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it*

***a.) Each one has a spiritual gift or gifts**

If you are a Christian, you have at least one gift that Christ has given you.

***Quote :** If you are a Christian, if you have received Jesus Christ, if you are born again, if you have new life by the Spirit of God by faith in Jesus Christ, you have a spiritual gift. Whether you are old or young, rich or poor, or quite regardless of your status in society, you have a spiritual gift. If you do not have a spiritual gift, you are not a Christian. The church begins to live, and exercise its impact and influence upon society, when you begin to exercise your gift. – Ray Stedman

Hold your horses: "Oh, Pastor, I don't think I have a gift. Maybe it's just undiscovered. We'll talk about that next week."

Icebreaker: "A man sang at a karaoke bar. 'Hey, you have a hidden talent... just keep it hidden!'"

But remember : A spiritual gift is not like a talent

***b.) Remember it is a gift**

****But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it***

Etymology : grace – ‘charis’ – gift, favour, one that affords joy, pleasure

Lesson :

1. It is a ‘charis’. It is a favour. We never earned it or we never worked for it. It was given.

Application : We can never boast about it.

2. It should be a source of joy and pleasure

****Matthew 11:30 ²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

Question : Why is it easy? Because it is Christ working in us.

Give picture of yoke in Middle eastern societies

Example : When Zak was young, I would fill a big pail with water. I would carry it but I would also let Zak carry it with me by letting him also hold the handle. He thinks he’s the one carrying it but the reality is, I’m the one really carrying it. I was letting him take part of it so we can just walk together.

It’s like our relationship with our Father in heaven, he lets us undergo through trials but the truth is He’s really the one who can and wants to do the heavy lifting, we just need to give it to Him and be with Him so we can just walk together with Him.

That's why it is said in :

Colossians 1:29* **To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Three reasons why ministry is a burden to some people :

1. maybe it's not your spiritual gift 2. maybe you're not depending on God 3. Or maybe you don't have any spiritual gift at all...yikes

Note : How can you attract people to Christ if you are not using your gifts or it's not a source of joy and pleasure for us (then maybe it's not your gift)

Example : gift of serving – nagdadabog or gift of teaching – tinatamad

Remember : People will not always remember what you did or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel. - Anonymous

One more thing : It should also be a source of joy and pleasure to other people

Example : How do you describe a gifted dancer – “graceful”

***Definition of a Spiritual Gift :**

Supernatural skills or abilities that Christ gives us which enables us to perform in the Body of Christ with effectiveness and ease. It makes the Body healthy, whole and gives the Body great joy. - Charles Swindoll

***2. We have been given gift/s by Christ proportionately**

⁷But to each one of us **grace has been given as Christ apportioned it*

⁷But unto every one of us is given **grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (KJV)*

Etymology : measure “metron” required measure – kung ano yung required na sukat.

Illustration : Why is sinigang (soursop) delicious? It's because of it being sour. What if one of the ingredients like the fish sauce insists that sinigang should be salty? Then that sinigang is not delicious anymore, in fact, it's not sinigang anymore.

In short, "It depends on the cook and what ingredients they want to use to make the *sinigang* delicious, and it gives glory to the one who cooked it—who is Christ."

And that's how our Lord distributes His gifts.

**Romans 12 : ³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,*

Going back to the soursop (sinigang) Illustration : "Although, the tamarind cannot say, 'I am the most important, so I don't need other ingredients. Just water and me... we are the only ones important here.' That wouldn't be *sinigang* anymore. Or the water cannot say, 'I'm just water, I have no flavor, so I'm not needed in that *sinigang*.'"

This follows the biblical analogy of the Body of Christ found in 1 Corinthians 12, where every part is essential regardless of its function.

**1 Corinthians 12: ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

CONCLUSION :

Rhetorical question : Do you know that God has given you a measure of a gift that nobody else has?

Important : The best way to honor the giver of the gift is to use the gift He has given you.
God wants to use you.

S.G.D.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

How important is a gift?

- Where it came from?
- How it was purchased?
- What is its purpose?

- The One who gave it.
- How God purchased it for us
- The power behind it

THE IMPLICATION OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

Tie it all up

Ephesians 4:11 – doesn't mean that these gifts are more important than the others...you have to put this into context...it is talking about the unity of the body of Christ which shows itself in verses 12-13

There is the gift of **wisdom**. That is the ability to understand how truth applies to specific situations, how to put truth to work. There is the gift of **knowledge**. That is the ability to categorize truth, break it up into manageable portions and thus to understand it better. There is the gift of **faith**. That is what some call today the gift of vision. It is an idea that grips a man, that some needed goal can be accomplished. He sees it while others do not, and he goes right ahead and does it. This week, in Washington, I talked with W. Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Translators. What an outstanding example he is of a man with the gift of faith, the gift of vision for reaching the world through translating the Scriptures into

the language of the isolated tribes of earth. What a great thing God has done through him with that.

Then there are gifts of **healing**, including physical, mental, or emotional healing. There are gifts of **miracles**, and the gift of **prophecy**, which is something quite different than we usually think. There is the gift of **discernment**, the ability to see whether a person is a phony or not; the gift of **tongues**, the power to speak in other languages; and the gift of **interpretation of tongues**. There is the gift of **helps**, a magnificent gift without which the church would be nothing. (It is called in Romans 12 "the gift of **service**.) Then there is the gift of **administration**, those who have a gift given by God to organize and administrate in spiritual matters. This is "the gift of **ruling**" in Romans 12. There is the gift of **exhortation**, the ability to get people moving, to say things in a way that will motivate people, exhort them. Did you know there is a gift of **contributions**? Every believer is to contribute but there are some who have a special gift for this, the gift of making money.