

Gifts – Part 01

Romans 12:3

12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

- a. For by the grace given to me
 - a. grace (χάρις *charis*) – kindness, favor, a benefit given.
 - b. The grace given to Paul was his apostleship.
 - i. Rom. 1:5 - through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,
 - ii. Gal. 2:7-9 - **7** On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised **8** (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), **9** and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
- b. I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
 - a. Gifts, by their very definition, do not present any occasion for self-pride. Instead, gratitude should be the response.
 - b. Eph. 4:11-12 - **11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ
 - c. Paul is here exercising that apostolic gift in speaking to everyone among you.
 - d. Different gifts are about to be mentioned; members of the same body have different functions.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:21 - The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

- ii. Luke 14:11 - For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
- e. sober (σωφρονέω *sōphroneō*) - to be in a right state of mind, have sober judgment; to be self-controlled.
 - i. “Sober” is to be of a right mind. Here, to be of a modest, humble mind - a sound assessment of oneself in light of where God has placed him.
- f. Measure of faith that God has assigned
 - i. measure (μέτρον *metron*) - measure, limit, portion. You may recognize the root of the English word *meter*, a unit of measure.
 1. If faith is man’s response to God, and it is, it is difficult to explain God’s assignment of it. If, by measure of faith, spiritual gifts are meant, such difficulty disappears. If not, then a principle may be understood - in the same way that God does not allow temptation greater than we can bear (1 Cor. 10:13), so also God’s does not bless us beyond our ability to bear it and function well. A hand is not very useful for walking, and a foot is not useful for picking things up or writing.