

## PRAYER

- Thank God for the gifts He has given you. Pray for God to increase your faith as you use these gifts to serve others.
- Ask God for the grace to worship Him wholeheartedly. Pray to be reminded daily to present your body to Him as a living sacrifice.
- Pray for your family and friends who do not yet know God to encounter His transforming power. Ask God for specific ways that you can serve them using the gifts He has given you.

## NOTES

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# The Gospel Expressed

## Gifts of Grace

WEEK 18

### WARM-UP

- Which subjects in school did you excel in? Which subjects did you struggle with?
- Are you better working with a team or working alone? Tell us about it.
- Give an example of how you expressed your gratitude to someone who did you a great favor.

**WORD** *<sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **ROMANS 12:4-8***

(Read also **ROMANS 12:1-8**.)

The first 11 chapters of Romans deal with what God has done through Christ's finished work. Paul talked about how God forgave us, made us righteous through faith, freed us from sin and the Law, adopted us as His children, and will glorify us when Jesus returns. Romans 12 now transitions to what our appropriate response should be to all the kindness and mercy that God has shown to us.

## 1 Offer ourselves as a sacrifice in service to God.

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* **ROMANS 12:1**

The word “spiritual” here carries the meaning of “true and genuine,” and it also means “rational, reasonable, and logical” in the original language. Paul is saying that the true, reasonable, and appropriate response to God’s mercy for us is to sacrificially *present our bodies*, meaning our whole selves and our whole lives, to Him. True worship or service to God is not limited to our personal time with Him like singing, praying, and reading His word. But we worship God with our whole beings and in our daily lives. What are some ways you worship God in your work, studies, family, and relationships?

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## 2 Be transformed by renewing our minds.

<sup>2</sup>*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* <sup>3</sup>*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.* **ROMANS 12:2,3**

Paul talks about how we can offer ourselves to God in worship. We need to have a renewal of our minds, a change in perspective that leads to transformation. He says that we are not to think too highly of ourselves, but look at ourselves *with sober judgment*, realizing that God has distributed to each person a *measure of faith*. Our minds will be renewed with the perspective that we are not complete in ourselves, we are all gifted differently, and believers are all part of the same body.

In what ways has God renewed your mind? How does the renewal of each one’s mind benefit the whole body of Christ?

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## 3 Use our God-given gifts to serve others.

*Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith . . .* **ROMANS 12:6**

Once our perspective changes, we will be able to understand how to offer our bodies to God. People in the church are not independent from one another, but are all part of one body, each serving a different function. We offer our bodies to God by using our God-given gifts to serve one another. We don’t have to be highly gifted or to have very well-developed gifts before we can serve. We should serve with the measure of gifting and faith that God has already given us. How have you used the gifts God gave you to serve the Church?

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### APPLICATION

- True worship is worshiping God with our whole beings and in our daily lives. What are some things you can change to worship God in the way you live life each day?
- We are transformed by the renewal of our minds. What are some mindsets or attitudes God is calling you to change today?
- How are you using your God-given gifts to serve the Church? How can you more effectively serve others in the church, share the gospel, and serve society?