

Romans 12:3-8
“Next Step”

~ INTRO. ~

CATCH THE FLOW WITH ME.

- We're leaving the **dedication** verses...
 - And stepping into the **call-to-action** verses –
 - Serving God.

LAST WEEK...

- In (vv.1-2) we dealt with the dedication of our lives.

(v.1) Christians are to *present our bodies as living sacrifices*.

- We're to surrender our life to God.

WHY?

BECAUSE... GOD DOESN'T ACCEPT HALF- HEATEDNESS!

SO... PAUL TEACHES THE CHURCH...

- Not to blend into society... by being *conformed to this world*.
- The **world** shapes people from the outside in = *conformed*.
 - The **world** has a **system of life** for the here and now.
 - The **world** takes no thought about what's ahead.

AND BEING *conformed* TO THIS **WORLD**...

- Is a death sentence for a Christian!
 - Because it leaves you empty & desiring more.
 - It's filled with regret & NEVER brings satisfaction.
 - [Solomon proved this in *Ecc. 12:13*].

ON THE OTHER HAND...

- *Transformation* is a work of the **Holy Spirit**
 - That happens from the inside out...
 - New thoughts and values
 - New desire to learn from God

“Being transformed”

- Is a **cooperative command**.
 - As you **yield to** God's word – you're changed.
 - And by **obeying** God's word, the outcome is blessed.

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OK... “*Next Step*”

- From dedication to action.

#1 – MY GIFT

(1 Cor. 15:9-10) NKJV.

- Paul testifies of the GRACE of God given to him...
 - With his wholehearted response.

(v. 3) “*a measure of faith*”

- Each Christian has been given a correct portion of ability...
 - For God’s purpose – a spiritual gift.
- God has given you the exact measure of faith...
 - To fulfill YOUR part in the body of Christ.
 - (That’s your gift from God.)

#2 – UNDERSTANDING MY GIFT

NOW...

- These spiritual gifts are known as **“Motivational Gifts”**
 - (vv.6-8)
- The point of these verses IS NOT a complete list of gifts.
 - The point is to identify the GRACE given to you...
 - (a spiritual gift for service)
 - And use that gift within the church.

TWO PARTS:

1) Gifts that **EXPOUND** the word...

- *Prophecy* = Declares the truth
- *Ministry* = Depicts the truth
- *Teachers* = Define the truth
- *Exhortation* = Stirs you up in the truth

2) Gifts that **EXPAND** the word...

- *Giving* = Expands the work of the church
- *Leading* = Organizes the work
- *Mercy* = Cares for the people in & around the work

LET’S PUT THESE IN ACTION:

1. **Prophecy** = Speaking forth (public proclamation of the word / truth)
 - In the OT it was foretelling = predicting the future.
 - In the NT it’s proclaiming what’s ALREADY written.
 - This gift helps people distinguish the truth of God...
 - From cultural values not from God.
2. **Ministry/Serving** = From the same Greek word for deacons...
 - These folks love to help... they practice the truth.
 - They see a need and fill the need.
 - They jump in & begin working.
3. **Teachers** = Instruct, interpret, clarify, systematize, & explain.
 - This gift points out principles & gives application.
4. **Exhorts** = Calls other to obey, they drive home truth passionately.

Positive: They encourage, comfort, & strengthen believers.

Negative: They admonish & correct.
5. **Gives** = Sacrificial sharing of resources.
 - This person does it willingly & generously.
6. **Leads** = Lit. “*Standing before*”... meaning to guide or steer a ship.
 - This person points out the way with a specific direction.
7. **Mercy** = Sympathy and sensitivity to those suffering or sorrowful.
 - They do it with incredible cheerfulness.
 - Great at doing hospital visits.
 - This person has a God given ability to sense the needs...
 - Of hurting people & come alongside with comfort.

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#3 – USING MY GIFT

HERE’S THE APPLICATION...

- We’re turning this message to you personally – now.

(Eph. 4:16)...

When every part does it’s share, it causes growth in the Church.

- The gifting of God is for the service of God.

SO... WHERE...

- Has God’s grace gifted you?

OPEN YOUR HEART...

- If you’ve been here for more than 6-months...
 - And you’re not regularly serving...
 - You’re NOT listen to what God said ([Rom 12:1](#)).

THIS PORTION OF ROMANS...

- Allows you to understand your Next Step in following Jesus...
 - By teaching you to use the gift God has given you.

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT US TO TAKE COMMUNION...

- And honor the Lord with our “*Next Step*”
 - By offering our reasonable service to God’s grace.