



**Series:** Love in Action (Live by Faith at Christmas)

**Title:** Advent 3: The Gift of Grace is Our Joy!

**Scripture:** Romans 12:1-8

**Dec. Scripture Memory:** *"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. 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."*

**Romans 12:1-2, 9-10**

**The life of joy God made us to lead is available by:**

**1. What God does for all:**

- a. God lavishes His mercies (v. 1)
- b. God gives abundant grace (v. 3)
- c. God assigns a measure of faith (v. 3)

**2. How we respond in faith:**

- a. Offer our bodies as living sacrifices (v. 1)
- b. Reject conformity to the world by thinking soberly (Biblically and Spiritually) (vs. 2-3)
- c. Be transformed by renewing our mind (the Word and the Spirit) (v. 2)

**3. How the Spirit transforms us:**

- a. The Word (1 Tim. 4:5)
- b. Prayer (1 Tim. 4:5)
- c. Membership within the unified body of Christ (the church) (vs. 4-5)

**4. How God empowers us to one another each other (Eph. 4:20-25):**

- a. Recognize we all have different gifts and at least one gift (v. 6)
- b. Use the gifts given according to God's abundant grace (v. 6)
- c. Receive and rejoice in the work accomplished through the collaborative gifts (vs. 7-8)

**Why is the church impotent, sick, and ineffective in areas?**

- Because the people with the gifts needed in that area aren't using them
- Because people think too highly of themselves than to "waste their gifts on undeserving people"
- Because people think too lowly of themselves that their gift is unneeded and unimportant
- Because people think they can only serve in their gifting

**Why is the church strong, healthy, and effectively growing in all areas?**

- Because most people with gifts are using them to serve one another
- Because people think soberly of themselves (J.O.Y. Jesus. Others. Yourself.) and serve regardless of how they think or feel
- Because people see and love people like God sees and loves them
- Because people serve out of God's grace regardless if they are serving in their perceived gifting

