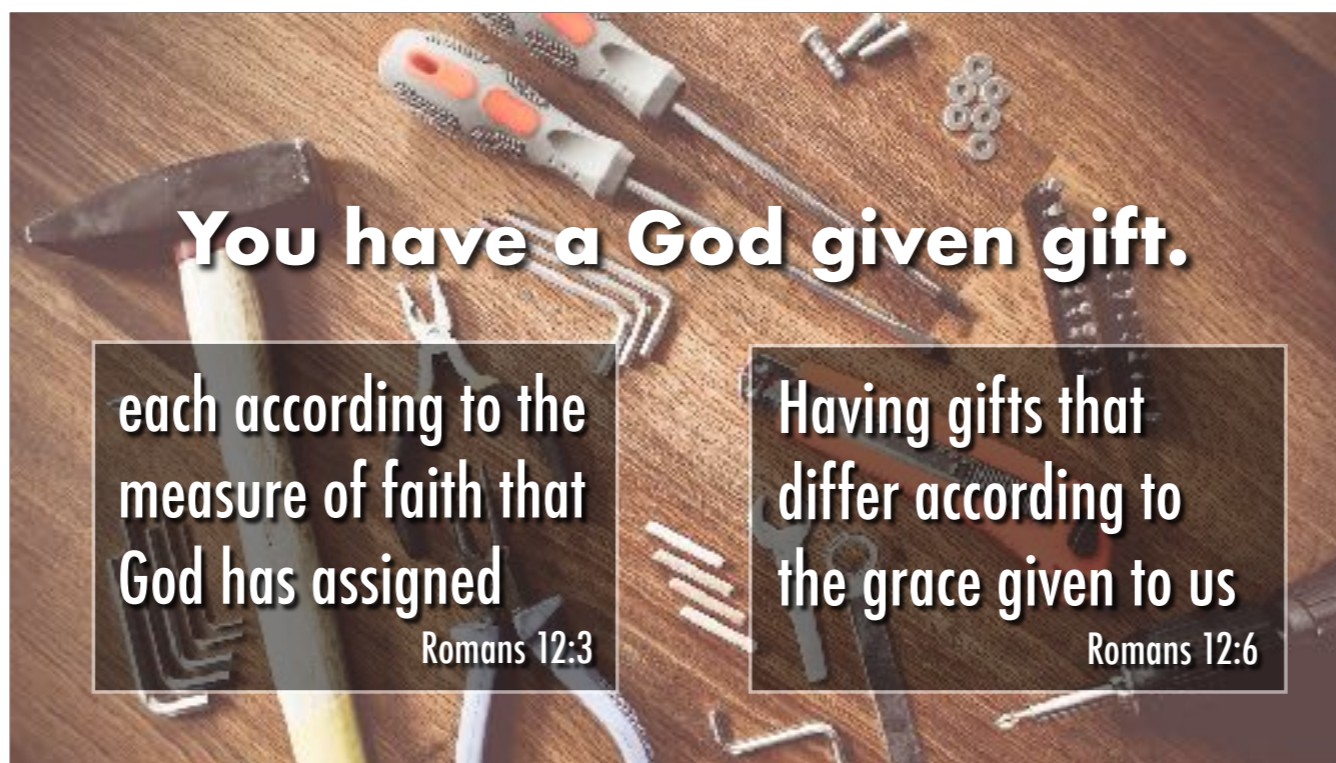




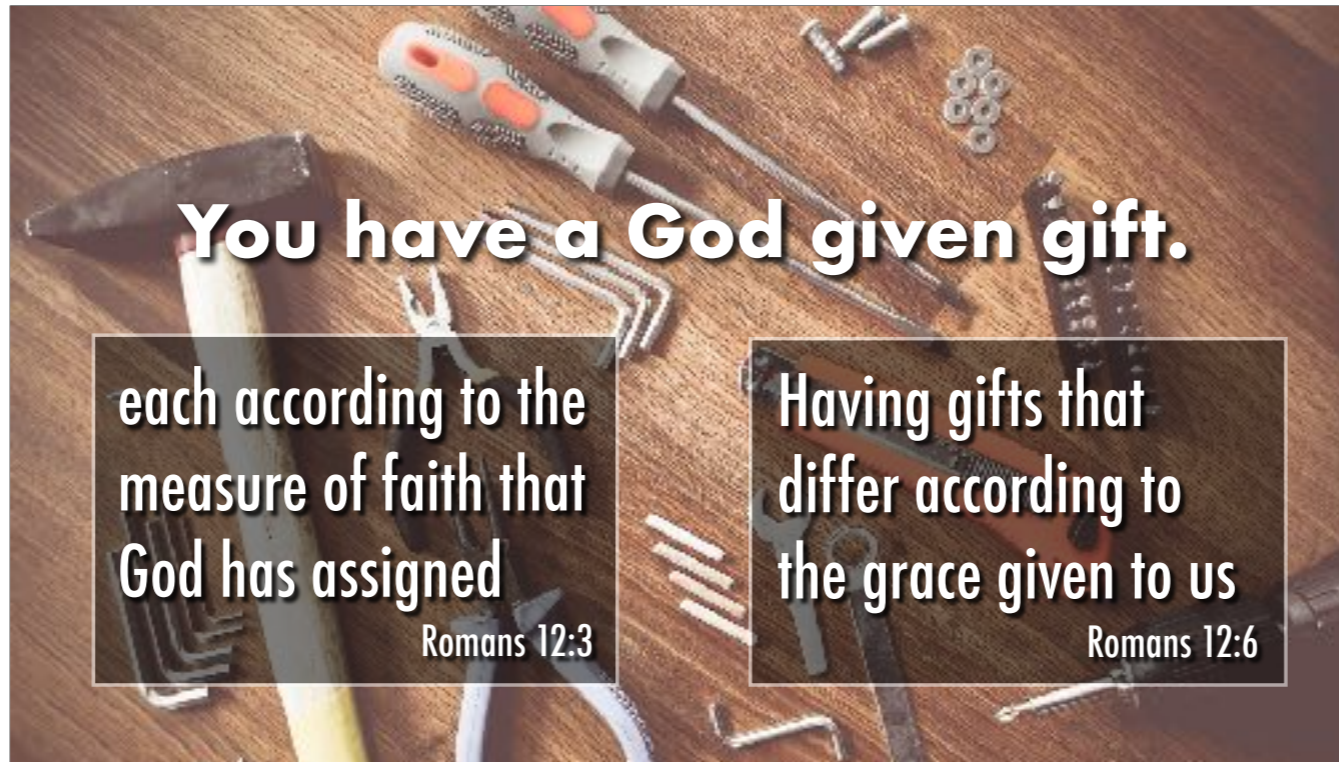
- Having Gifts... Let Us Use Them



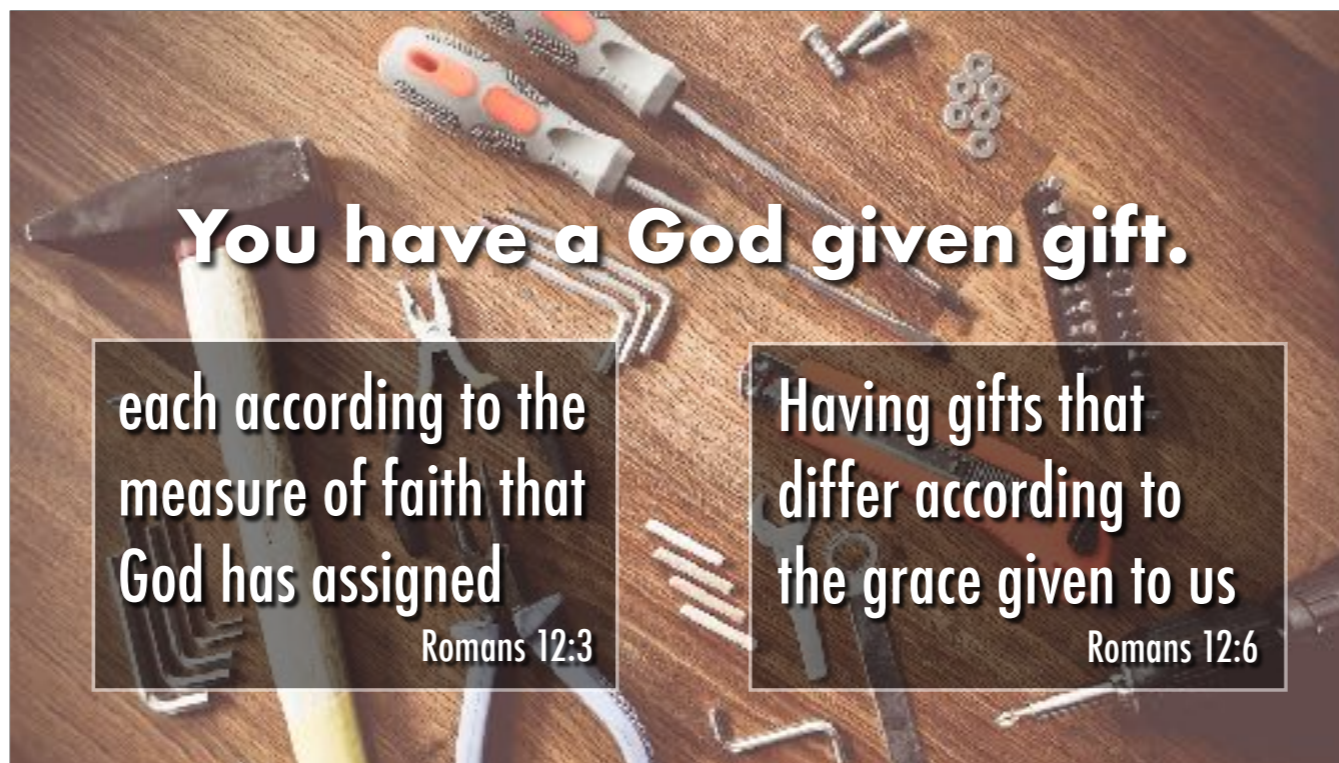
- Esther 4:14 (ESV) For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"



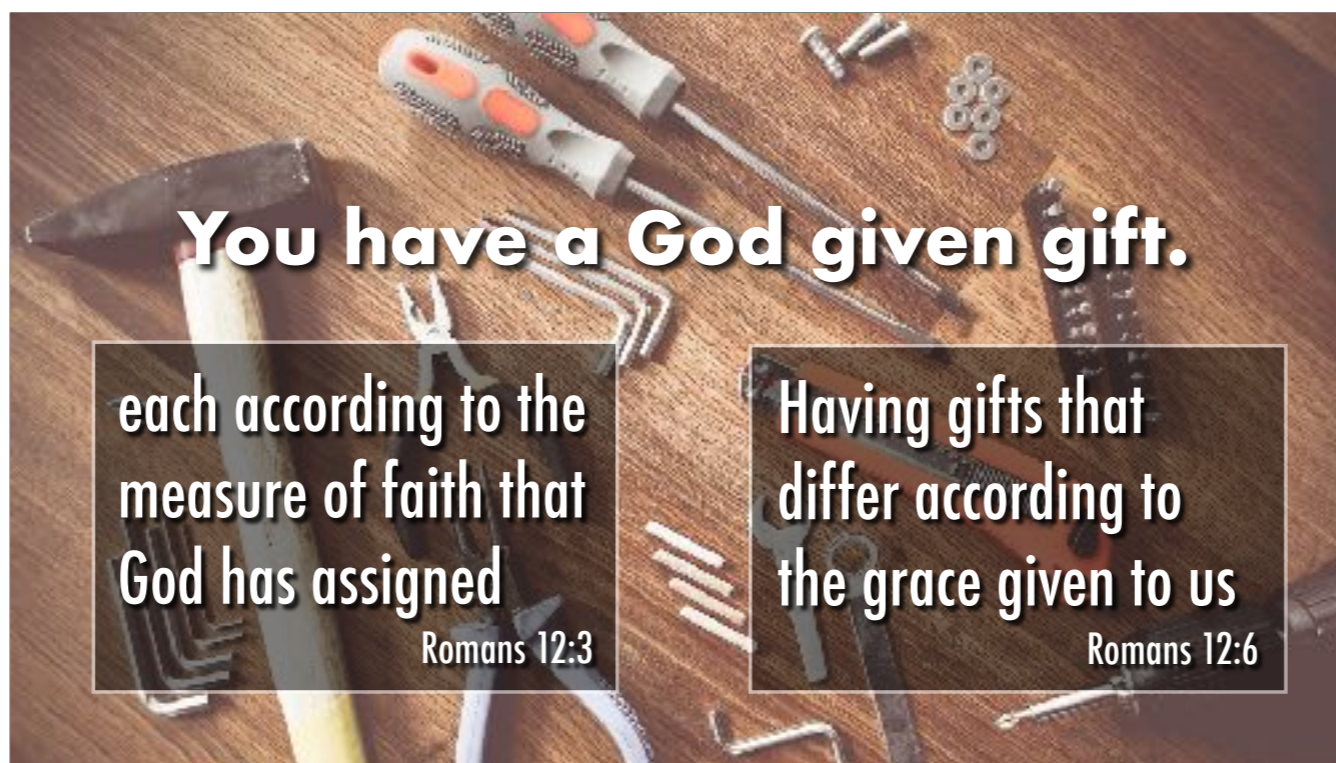
- Romans 12:3: For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- Romans 12:6: Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;



- Ephesians 4:7: But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- 1 Corinthians 12:7: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 1 Corinthians 12:11: All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.



- Each of us has been given a gift by God
 - Not if ... definitely!
- This is an expression of God's grace and provision for his people and his kingdom.
 - Wisdom of God — each of us has what we can use best.
- Thank God!



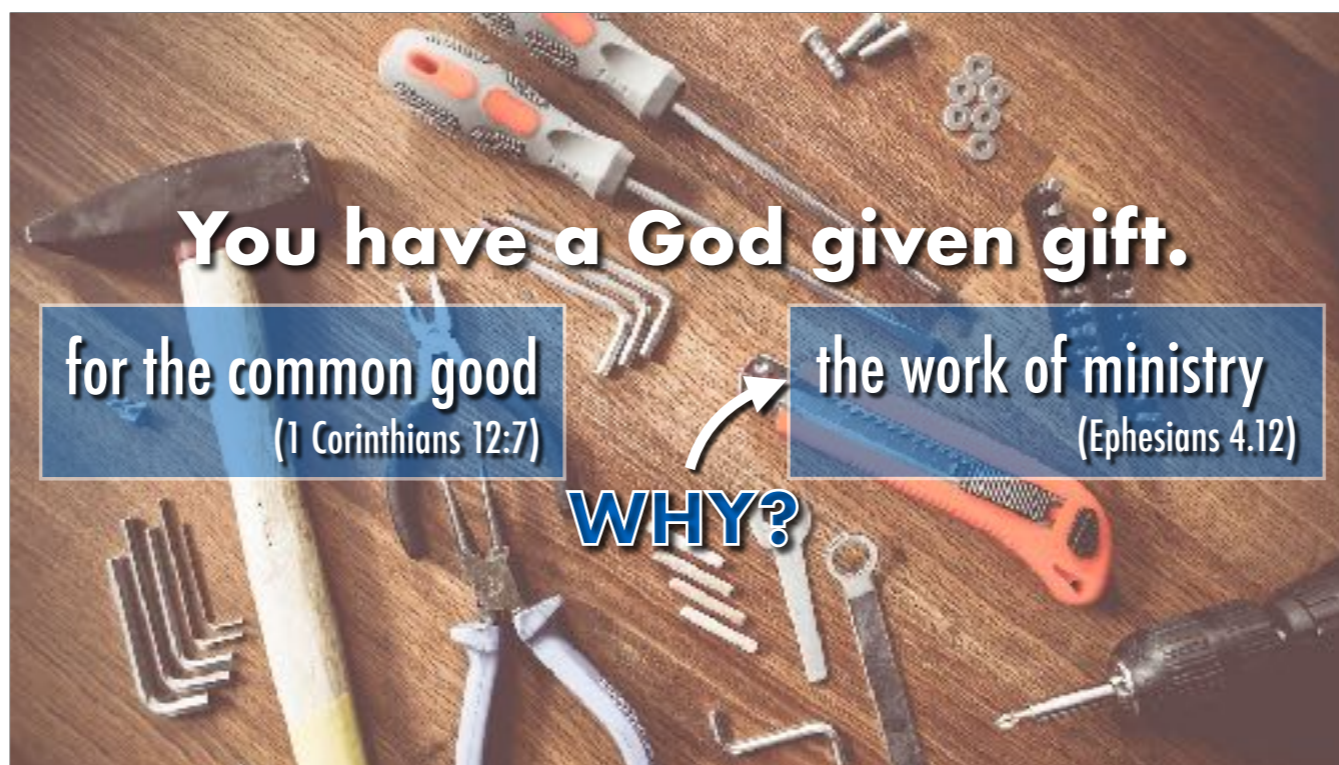
- We must not think of these gifts as trinkets to be played with.
- We must not think of these gifts as so precious that we hoard them for ourselves, or put them on a shelf to be admired
- These gifts are tools.
 - Designed to be used.
 - Designed for a purpose.



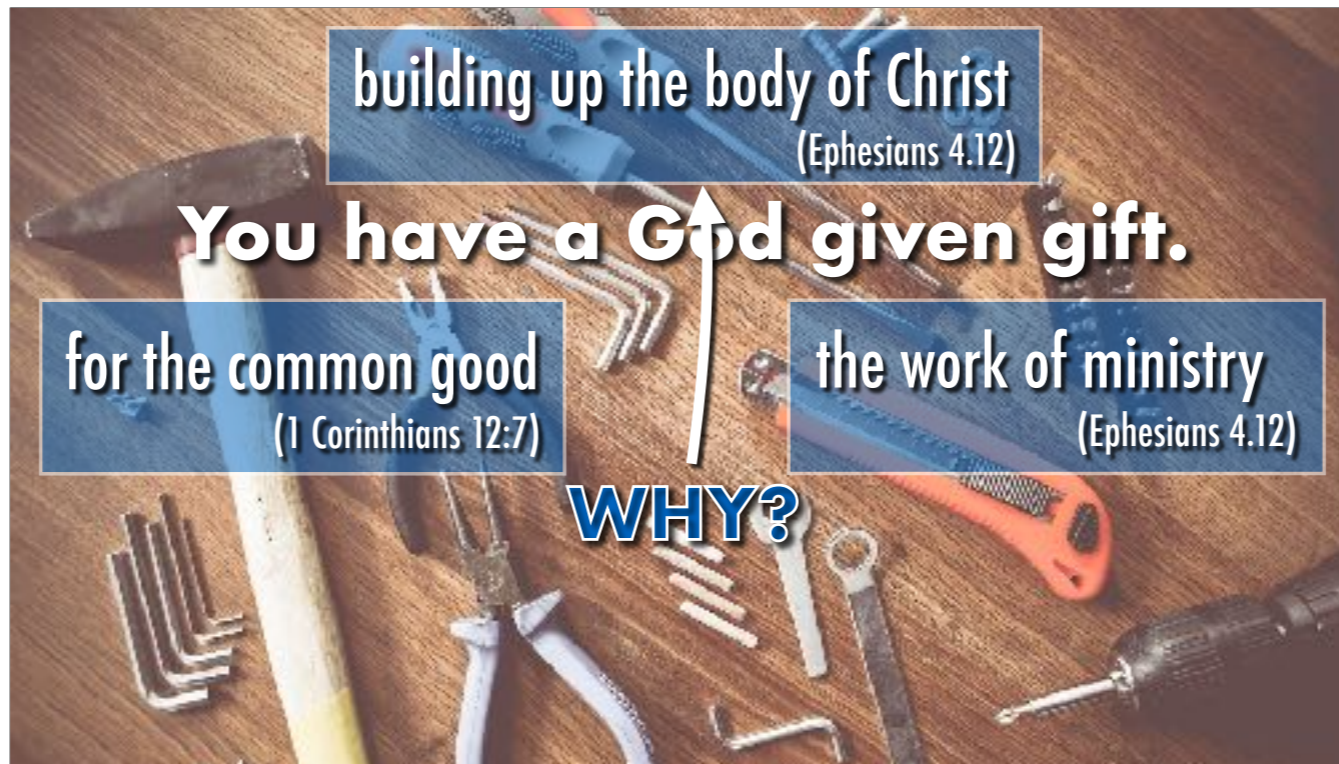
- Why did God give me this gift?
 - 5 reasons...



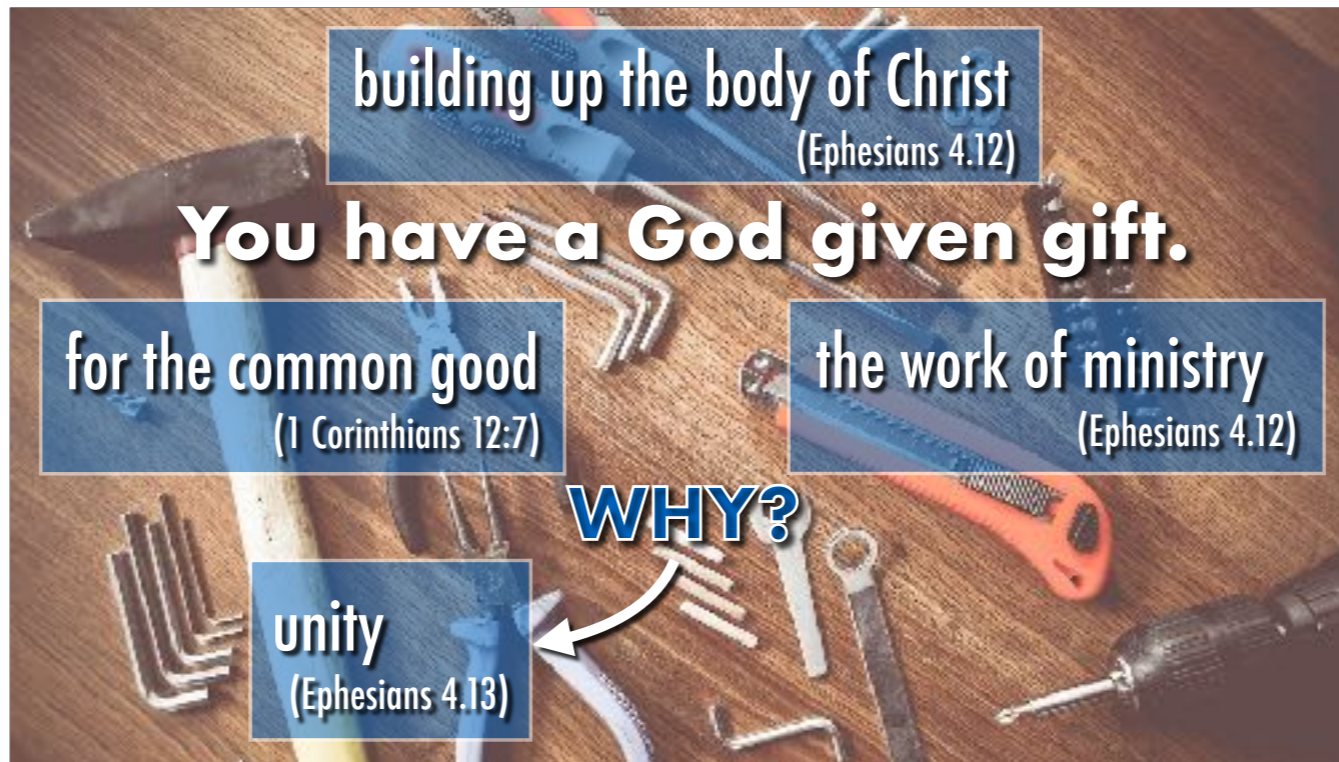
- Why did God give me this gift?
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.



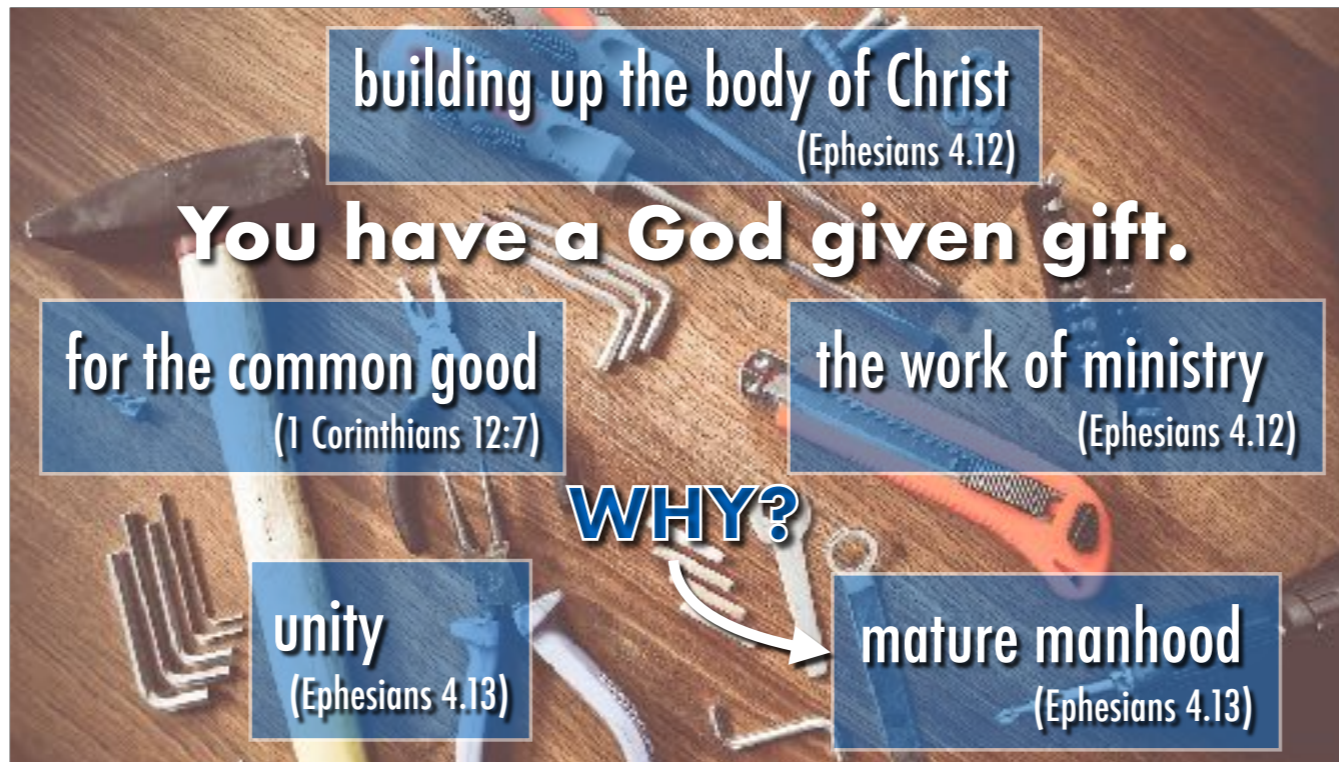
- Ephesians 4:12-14 (ESV) 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry



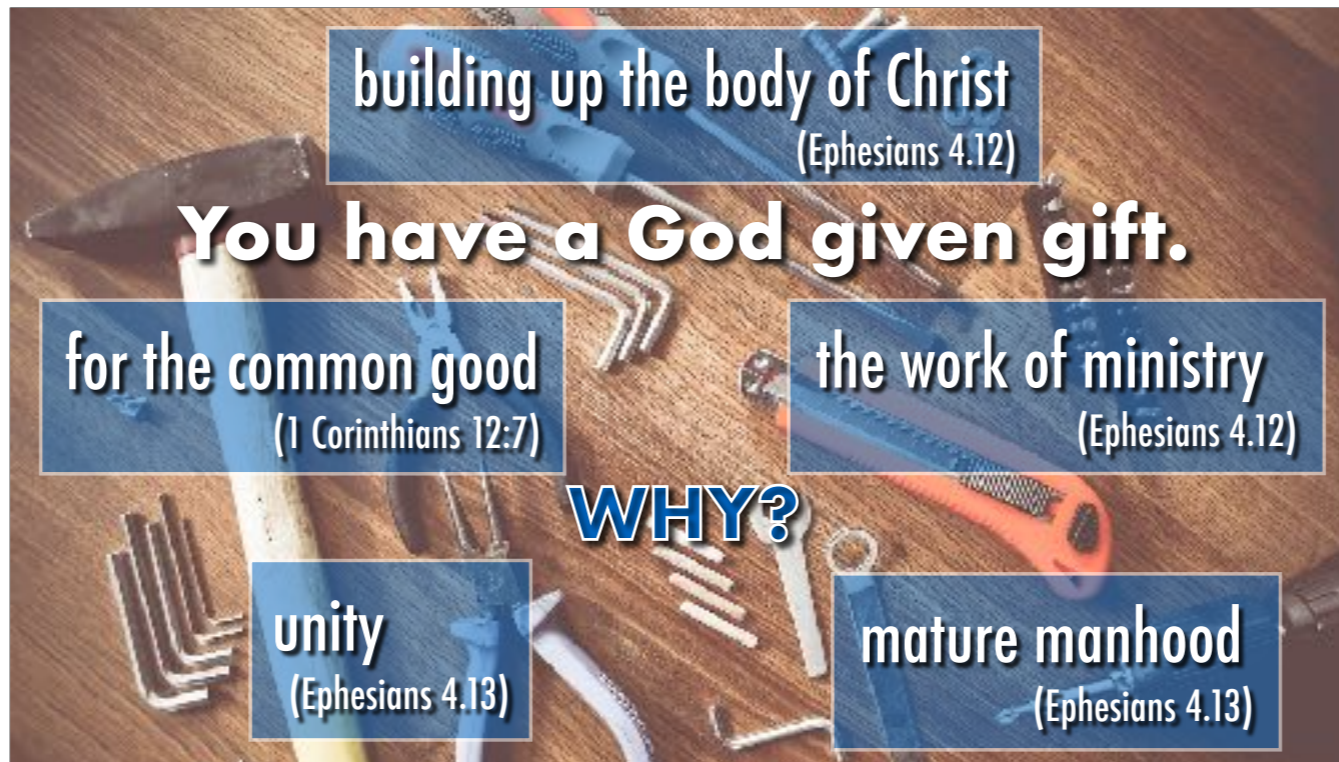
- for building up the body of Christ



- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God
- 4 There is one body



- 13: to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.



- 5 reasons... all about a local congregation!
- For this congregation to thrive and grow
 - God has given you a gift.
 - It is vital for this congregation: to serve, to grow, to be united, to be mature and strong
- When we consider our gift... it's going to be a part of helping us to be what God wants us to be.



- What is my gift?



- Romans 12:6-8 (ESV) 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 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.



- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV) 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.



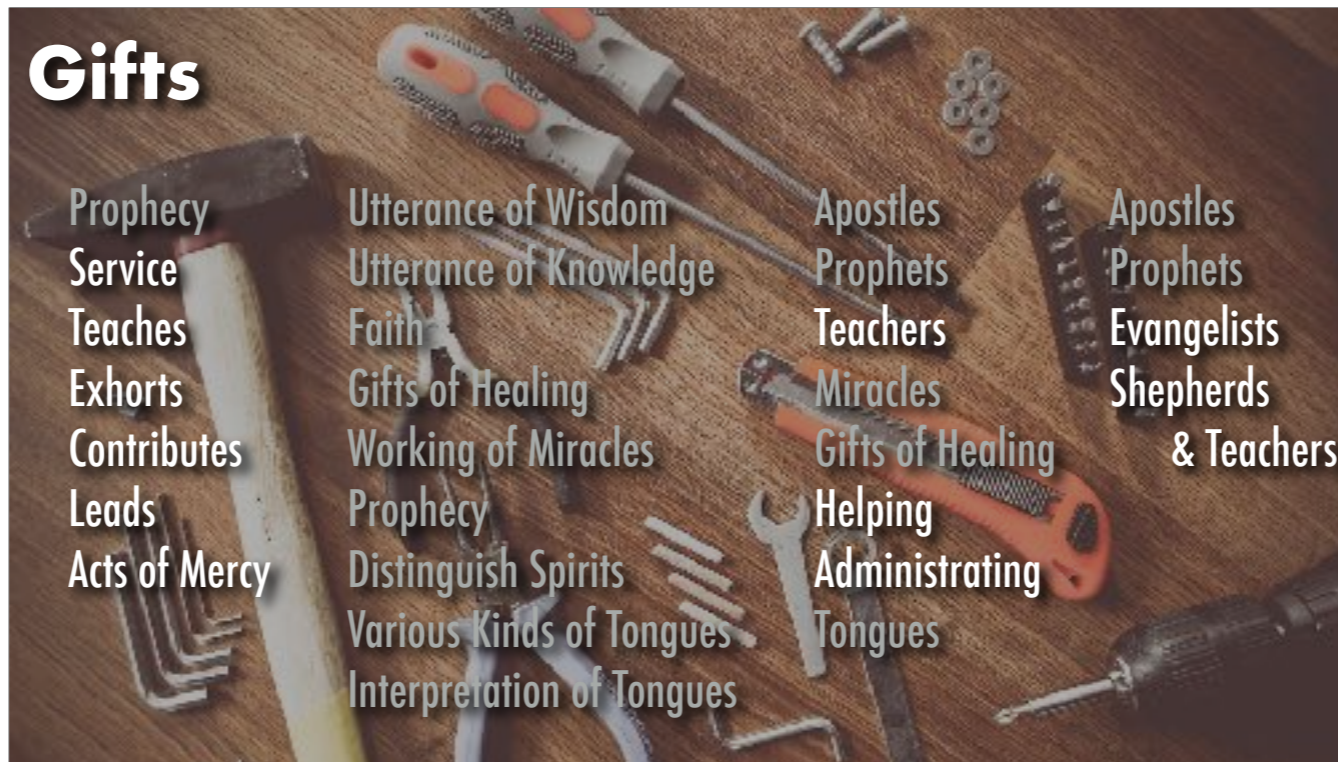
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV) 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.



- Ephesians 4:11 (ESV) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,



- Some of these gifts were special and given for a limited time. Helped the early church in it's infancy. Miraculous.
- Some of these gifts continue today
- Probably, this isn't a complete list: representative?



- Some possible gifts
- I don't know what your gift is.
 - God does.
 - Study and Pray
 - Look at this list, pick something and start doing it.
 - Ask someone you admire to teach you and help you.
- You have a strength and ability to benefit this group of saints.
- We need you.
 - Especially Shepherds & Teachers!!!



- Use it.



- Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV) 14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’



- Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV) 14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
- As a servant, God has trusted you!
- Must be a good steward of God’s “property”.



- 16 He who had received the five talents **went at once and traded with them**, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.



- 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the **joy** of your master.'



- 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the **joy** of your master.'



Use It.

You wicked and slothful servant!

Matthew 25:26

- 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



- Why is it especially distressing to God when we don't use the gifts He has given us?
- Perhaps you've experienced this when you have given a gift to someone and they never use it... it hurts.



- What is Jesus' point?
 - A good and faithful servant is a steward and uses the gift given for the glory of the master.
 - A wicked and slothful servant doesn't use the gift for the glory of the master. Justifies his laziness.



- John 15:1-11 (ESV) 1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.



- Abiding in Jesus

- 5) apart from me you can do nothing.
- 8) bear fruit, prove to be my disciples.
 - prove, not just say (claim)
- 10) keep my commandments — abide in my love
- 11) joy may be full.
 - When we use the gifts God has given us... that is true joy
 - enter into the joy of your master
 - full joy



- Romans 12:6-8 (ESV) 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 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.
- It's not just about doing it, but attitude!



- Paul's teaching to the Corinthians, urges them to look to something better!
- 1 Corinthians 12:31 (ESV) 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV) 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



- Here are gifts we must pursue, earnestly desire: faith, hope, and love.
- Use it.
 - This is not abstract at all.
 - Faith - Looking to Jesus, helping others to seek him, know him.
 - Hope - helping others to trust in Him through struggles in their lives
 - Love - doing for others, actively



- This is the transformation that our congregation needs ... from each one of us.
- Think with sober judgment!
 - I have a gift
 - I must use it.
- Remember.... you are a slave of God, a living sacrifice
 - This is not an option
 - There must not be delay



- You have a God-given gift.
- God expects you to use it.
- We need you to use it (not contingent on what others do or don't do)
- Start today!
 - What is my gift?
 - Remember purpose: serving, building, growing, maturing
 - Higher gifts: faith, hope, and love
 - Remember Esther: Such a time as this.
 - How can I use that gift today for this body of Christians?
 - What am I going to do tomorrow?

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

<https://pixabay.com/photos/teamwork-team-construction-building-606818/>

https://filedn.com/ID0GfuMvTstXgqaJfpLL87S/sweet_images/jpg/17/17_Es_04_04_RG.jpg

<https://pixabay.com/photos/tools-construct-craft-repair-864983/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/drechsler-craftsmen-tool-work-3394311/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/mountain-goats-jumping-leaping-1156056/>

Be Transformed

#10

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2020 July 5
www.1corinthians1614.com

Having Gifts ... Let Us Use Them

Romans 12:6-8

Synopsis: God has given us gifts and expects us to use them for His kingdom and our local congregation.
Thanks to Darrel Yontz.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”