

Week 29

Serving (Gifts discovery)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” – 1 Pet. 4:10

This passage in 1 Peter says that our abilities, talents and gifts are not our own. They belong to God and are given to us as part of his grace toward us. Our gifts, skills, and abilities are not ours to own, they are not ours to boast about, they are not ours to use for our personal pleasure. They are elements of God’s grace, given to us for the purpose of serving others. In this way, God invites us and empowers us to participate in His ongoing activity in the world. Our gifts become an ongoing means for expressing the grace of God to others.

So how do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Often, spiritual gifts can be recognized by paying attention to the things that come “naturally” to you, the things you don’t have to work hard to do. Some people are naturally attuned to the suffering of others, some naturally organize, love to teach, practice hospitality. There are many different kinds of gifts and all of them are useful for participating in God’s kingdom efforts.

Too often we think of our “special abilities” as if we were responsible for them. Here are some steps you can follow to help you discover the gifts God has blessed into your life.

1. Begin by thinking about those things that you enjoy doing. These can be little things such as organizing cabinets, building things, keeping track of money, etc.
2. Make a list of the most fulfilling roles and situations in your life. They could be any specific event or project in which you played a significant role and where you felt energized and natural. What do these situations / events / projects have in common?
3. Ask a few faithful friends. Share your lists with some faithful friends and invite them to comment on what they see that you love to do. What seems to come naturally to you.
4. Where is your heart aimed? Often along with our abilities or gifts, God creates in us a special concern or passion for a particular group of people or a certain kind of situation. These are places where we can consider using our gifts.

This Week

- Take time to reflect on the gifts of grace God has given you and consider how you can “faithfully administer” those gifts for his kingdom.

Week 29

Jul 18-24

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			18
Ezra / Nehemiah (3)				
Mon	1Sam 15,16	Matt 11	Psa 120	19
Tue	1Sam 17	Matt 12	Psa 121	20
Wed	1Sam 18,19	Matt 13	Psa 122	21
Thr	1Sam 20,21	Matt 14	Psa 123	22
Fri	1Sam 22,23	Matt 15	Psa 124	23
Sat				24