

A Church With Open Arms (2)
“Gifts That Build Up Others”
Romans 12:3–8

Introduction: Our passage today is Romans 12:3–8, where Paul shows us how a life transformed by grace turns into ministry through the gifts God has given us. *God equips every believer to strengthen others.* Not to puff themselves up, but to lift others up. *Our gifts aren’t trophies; they’re tools. And today we learn how to use them*

I. Humble self-view: (v. 3)

A. The Christian life begins with humility.

- See yourself honestly—as a forgiven sinner, saved by grace, gifted by God.
- God has given each of us “a measure of faith.”
- Our gifts come by grace; therefore, there is no room for boasting. (Prov. 16:18)
- **Pride says:** “Look what I can do.”
- **False humility says:** “I can’t do anything.”
- **Biblical humility says:** “Whatever God has given me, I will gratefully use for His glory and for the good of His people.” (2 Cor. 10:12; Js. 4:6)

B. This sobering self-assessment means: I am not more important than Christ, and my gifts are not ultimately mine. I owe them back to Him.

If it is a gift, I can’t take the glory. If it came by grace, I should use it to make Christ known and strengthen somebody else.

II. Harmonious unity: (vv. 4–5)

A. Paul uses the human body to illustrate the church.

- We have many members, but **one body**.
- Every believer has a place and a function. (1 Cor. 12:15)
- We are not simply members of the same organization—we are members of the same organism. (1 Cor. 12:18)
- We belong to one another. (Rom. 12:5, 15; 1 Cor. 12:26)
- Unity does not mean uniformity.
- **No part is unimportant.**

- You don’t have to do what somebody else does. You need to faithfully do what God has equipped **you** to do. (Eph. 4:16; 1 Pe. 4:10–11; Acts 2)

Your pain becomes our concern, your joy becomes our celebration, and your gift becomes part of our strength.

When every member does its part, the whole body becomes stronger.

III. Heartfelt service: (vv. 6–8)

*God has given the gifts. Paul’s instruction is simple: **USE THEM!***

A. Prophecy — Speak God’s Word faithfully.

B. Serving — Humbly meet practical needs. (Mk. 10:45; Col. 3:23)

C. Teaching — Clearly explain God’s Word.

D. Exhortation — Encourage and strengthen others.

E. Giving — Give generously and cheerfully. (Phil. 4:9; 2 Cor. 9:7)

F. Leading — Lead diligently and passionately.

G. Mercy — Care for hurting people with cheerfulness.

Dr. John Piper: “The best way to use your spiritual gifts is to forget about yourself as your joy in Christ spills over in love to other people.”

H. Notice the attitude — generosity, zeal, cheerfulness. (Rom. 12:8; 1 Pe. 4:10–11; Ephesians 4:11–12, 16)

*God is interested not merely in our **doing**, but in **heartfelt doing**—not obligation, but overflowing gratitude.*

Conclusion: Put your gift to work!

Think humbly.

Live harmoniously.

Serve wholeheartedly.

Acts 6:7: When God’s people served where they were needed, “the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly.”

Don’t let your gift sit unused. **Step out in faith, and watch God strengthen others through you.**

God equips every believer to strengthen others.