

## Key Christian Passages

### Romans 12:3-8 – Rightly Thinking, Actively Serving

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

<sup>3</sup> Λέγω γὰρ διὰ τῆς χάριτος τῆς δοθείσης μοι παντὶ τῷ ὄντι ἐν ὑμῖν μὴ ὑπερφρονεῖν παρ' ὃ δεῖ φρονεῖν ἀλλὰ φρονεῖν εἰς τὸ σωφρονεῖν, ἐκάστῳ ὡς ὁ θεὸς ἐμέρισεν μέτρον πίστεως. <sup>4</sup> καθάπερ γὰρ ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι πολλὰ μέλη ἔχομεν, τὰ δὲ μέλη πάντα οὐ τὴν αὐτὴν ἔχει πράξιν, <sup>5</sup> οὕτως οἱ πολλοὶ ἐν σώμα ἐσμεν ἐν Χριστῷ, τὸ δὲ καθ' εἷς ἀλλήλων μέλη. <sup>6</sup> ἔχοντες δὲ χαρίσματα κατὰ τὴν χάριν τὴν δοθεῖσαν ἡμῖν διάφορα, εἴτε προφητεῖαν κατὰ τὴν ἀναλογίαν τῆς πίστεως, <sup>7</sup> εἴτε διακονίαν ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ, εἴτε ὁ διδάσκων ἐν τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, <sup>8</sup> εἴτε ὁ παρακαλῶν ἐν τῇ παρακλήσει· ὁ μεταδιδούς ἐν ἀπλότητι, ὁ προϊστάμενος ἐν σπουδῇ, ὁ ἐλεῶν ἐν ἰλαρότητι.

#### 1. Be Thinking Rightly About Yourself

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of [himself] more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- No super-thinking: Have a realistic view of yourself
- Aim for wise thinking: Knowing that my abilities come from God

#### 2. Be Thinking Rightly About Your Church Body

<sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- There are many members in one body
- Members have different functions
- We are one body in Christ
- We are connected to one another as members of one another

#### 3. Serve Actively as Different Parts of the Body

<sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, [let us use them]: if prophecy, [let us prophesy] in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, [let us use it] in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Each function is important
- Each function is given to be used to minister to others in the body
  - Prophecy
  - Service
  - Teaching
  - Exhorting
  - Sharing
  - Ruling
  - Having Mercy

Why this list?

Why a different list than 1 Corinthians 12?

1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But whether [there are] prophecies, they will fail; whether [there are] tongues, they will cease; whether [there is] knowledge, it will vanish away.

Other Thoughts:

- Other than prophecy, each of these is something we are instructed to do anyway. One gifted is given *enhanced* ability to help and encourage the body towards these ministries.
- “[Spiritual gifts] are not bestowed for the self-aggrandizement of the recipient, or as an evidence of a special endowment of the Spirit, but for the profit and edification of the Body of Christ. The possessor is only the instrument and not the receiver of the glory.” - J. Oswald Sanders.
- “Just as no organ can function independently of the others, so no Christian can enjoy spiritual vitality in a relational vacuum.” - Kenneth Boa
- “Spiritual gifts are reminders that God is doing something special in your life and through your interactions with others.”

1 Pet 4:10-11 <sup>10</sup> As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, [let him speak] as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, [let him do it] as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.