

A Study of Motivational Gifts

Have you ever wondered just where you really belong in the Body of Christ? Do you know what your vocation in the Lord's work should be? Troubled Christians are frustrated questioning what their true identity in the Body of Christ is.

Why is it that some that Christians minister so well in some things, yet, when they attempt something else, they fail so miserably? Why is it that some Christians sit in pews and seem not to care whether or not they accomplish anything in the Lord's work? They are those who get involved in some ministry because of their admiration for that type of ministry – they may even shine brightly for a time, but, gradually, dim and eventually, fade out. They have an admirable ambition to minister for God, but attempt to minister in a position the Holy Spirit has not placed them and so, not only do they fall into a deep rut that entombs their spiritual growth, but, they also, find that their relationship to others becomes less and less effective.

The answer to these questions is that, in order for one to minister effectually in the body of Christ, one has to have knowledge of what "*Motivational Gifts*" God has endowed him with and then he must to put those gifts into use.

The purpose of this study is to discover what God, in His Word, teaches on how to discover and develop one's God-given "*Motivational Gifts*" into meaningful Spiritual ministry.

A study of "*Motivational Gifts*" will enable you to discover why you think and act the way you do – what motivates you! It will reveal what occupation in the Lord's work suits you best, and how using your gifts will bring true joy, instead of dull routine.

The seven "*Motivational Gifts*" listed in Romans 12:6-8 are actually the key to understanding the very motivating forces of our lives, the forces God created within us to help us serve Him more fully.

Not only do we need to understand our Motivational Gifts and how that our preferred behavior is due to a driving force, or impulse, that God fashioned within us, but we must be sensitive to the Motivational Gifts of friends and colleagues as well. We need to better understand why some of our actions caused a reaction rather than a response in others, and why we sometimes felt threatened by certain people. As we begin to apply this new awareness to our interpersonal relationships, personality conflicts will diminish – even disappear.

- In our understanding of Motivational Gifts, we must be careful not to put people into boxes
- Motivational Gifts do not take the place of the Manifestation of the Holy Spirit

Motivational Gifts Shape Our Personalities

It is hoped that, in discovering your Motivational Gifts, it will bring you a fulfilled, happy and at your best for the Lord – and give you an ability to understand how others function.

Many Bible studies simply lump all the “gifts” mention in Scripture together, as if they are all the same caliber – for the same purpose. However, there are three different and separate categories of gifts enumerated in the New Testament. While all three groups are composed of “*gifts*,” each group is unique and distinct from the others.

1 Peter 4:10 holds the key to understanding many things about yourself – why you think and act the way you do, how you relate to other people and circumstances around you, and what makes you the special individual you are. This passage states:

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

(King James Version)

The Amplified Translations render this verse as, *“As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God’s many-sided grace – faithful stewards of the extremely divers [powers and gifts granted to Christians by] unmerited favor.”*

Note that every believer has been given a gift – or “*gifts*” – and commanded to employ it – or them – for the benefit of others. Of course, God would not command us to use something we do not possess. Where do these “*gifts*” come from and how do we possess them?

The Greek word translated as “gift” is “charisma” and has to meaning of – “*a divine gratuity – a spiritual endowment – a free gift.*” No one can “earn” any of these gifts, but rather, they are already freely given to each one by God.

The Bible teaches there are:

- ***Motivational Gifts***
- ***Ministry (or Office) Gifts***, and
- ***Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

Though this study is on the “*Motivational Gifts*,” however, for clarity of understanding Scripture on the subject of “*gifts*” I will mention the other two groups of gifts as well.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE BIBLE

<u>Motivational</u> Romans 12:6-8	<u>Ministry</u> Ephesians 4:11	<u>Manifestations</u> 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
1. Prophet	1. Apostle	1. Word of Wisdom
2. Service (helps)	2. Prophet	2. Word of Knowledge
3. Teaching	3. Evangelist	3. Discerning of spirits
4. Exhortation	4. Pastor	4. Faith
5. Giving	5. Teacher	5. Gifts of Healing
6. Administration/leadership		6. Working of miracles
7. Mercy		7. Prophecy
		8. Tongues
		9. Interpretation of tongues

To keep our study in perspective and to learn just exactly what the ‘spiritual’ gifts of the Bible are, let’s look at these passages of Scripture. First, The Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man [every believer] to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom [a supernatural revelation of the right words for the occasion]; to another the word of knowledge [supernatural revelation of facts from the mind of God] by the same Spirit; To another faith [supernatural trust in God for the miraculous] by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing [supernatural trust in God for healings] by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles [supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of natural laws]; to another prophecy [supernatural utterance in a known tongue]; to another discerning of spirits [supernatural insight into the spirit realm]; to another divers kinds of tongues [supernatural utterances in an unknown tongue]; to another the interpretation of tongues [supernatural showing forth the meaning of the utterance in tongues]” (1 Corinthians 12:7-10).

“The Ministry Gifts” – God-appointed positions in the Body of Christ:

“And He gave some, apostles [one sent with a special message for specific purpose]; and some, prophets [one speaking forth the message of God]; and some, evangelists [one giving the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ; and some, pastors [one who feeds, or shepherds, believers] and teachers [one who instructs believers in the Word of God]; For the perfecting of the saints [the maturing of the believers], for the work of the ministry, for the edifying [building up, or strengthening] of the body of Christ”
(Ephesians 4:11-12).

I have completed a study on “*The Manifestations of the Holy Spirit*,” and made it available – and plan to complete one on “*The Gifts of Ministry*” in the very near future, however, presently my intention is to concentrate in this study on “*The Motivational Gifts*,” as given in Romans 12:6-8.

I would like to state at this juncture, God’s Word teaches that these “*gifts*” are for **every** believer – not just those we refer to as “*clergy*.” Each child of God has a “*Motivational Gift – or Gifts*” – God, also, has a “*Ministry Gift – or Gifts*” – within the Body of Christ for them to function in – God also desires to use believers in “*The Manifestations of the Holy Spirit*” as occasions arise.

God has a purpose for every believer!

We are all ordained to minister!

***Our responsibility is to recognize our gifts
and
enter into our God-called gifted ministry!***

You are about to embark upon one of the most exciting adventures of your entire life as a Christian – that of discovering your “*Motivational Gift*.”

It is important that we take the time to pray for special insight into our personal ministry as a servants of Jesus Christ because, in order for each of us to become channels whom God can work through to serve others within the Body of Christ - the reach others within our communities with the Gospel – and to incorporate them into the church as responsible disciples of Christ – each one of us, individually, must find our important place in ministry.

When we discover the various gifts God has so endowed us with and, then, putting these gifts into use, will provide strength, unity and growth within the church – the Body of Christ.

Since every believer is ordained by God to minister, the first step in finding one’s place in the Body of Christ is the realization that the discovery of one’s spiritual gifts is contingent upon his knowledge of the “*descriptions*” given in God’s Word.

Jesus said in John 15:16, “*Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.*”

WHAT IS A “SPIRITUAL GIFT?”

A Spiritual gifts is God working through a believer to give divine unction, strength and power to accomplish His will in the believer’s life so that, as a channel of God’s grace, Christ’s life, and His kingdom, may continue to be made manifest.

THE NEED TO KNOW ONE’S SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Knowing one’s Spiritual gifts will help him to:

1. Know God’s will for his life
2. Discover his spiritual “*job description*”
3. Take his appropriate place in the Body of Christ
4. Begin to see himself as a channel of God’s grace
5. Avoid over-commitment and burn-out
6. Become more appreciative of what others are called, and anointed, to do
7. Be apart of maintaining the true purpose of the Body of Christ

DID “SPIRITUAL GIFTS” END WITH THE EARLY APOSTLES?

There is not the slightest hint in the New Testament that any endowment of the Holy Spirit would “*cease*” before seeing Jesus “*face to face*,” or before “*that which is perfect is come*” (See 1 Corinthians 13:10-12).

MINISTRY IS NOW!

Every believer is to be involved in Spirit-given ministry so that the Body of Christ might carry out the divine mission committed to her by the Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing the tremendous task that Jesus left to His Church to complete, special spiritual endowment was bestowed upon all believers by the Holy Spirit to help accomplish that purpose. 2 Peter 3:9 sums up the purpose

of the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, when it states, “*The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”

To be useful in the Lord’s work the believer should realize God’s promise to anoint him with a special unction, because the work of the Body of Christ is not accomplished by mere human strength. 1 Peter 4:11 states, “*Therefore, if any man minister, let him do it as the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*”

Every one of us has a divine work to do – and God has made *divine* power available with which to do it! The Church’s mission is much more than proclaiming a new philosophy, or calling men to morality, but rather, the Church is to deliver men from the bondage of Satan and bring them, by means of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ so that they might become responsible, reproducing members of Christ’s Church.

A “SPIRITUAL GIFT”

The word that is translated as “gift” in our English Bibles is the Greek word, “*Charisma*” that has the meaning of “*grace*,” therefore, a gift is a divine enablement bestowed freely by God through the Holy Spirit and, because it is of divine origin, it cannot be merited or earned. The Holy Spirit imparts the gifts to believers in order that there might be ministry to the Body of Christ for the purpose of spiritual profit and edification. The Holy Spirit exercises spiritual gifts through believers to the glory of God.

WHO HAS SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1 Peter 4:10-11, “*As every man [that is, every believer] hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*”

1 Corinthians 12:7, “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man [every believer] to profit withal.*”

Romans 12:4-6, “*For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*”

Christ intends for every member of his Body to be anointed for spiritual service and to edify the Church through spiritual gifts. Despite the fact that we are all a part of one body in Christ, we are part of that body as individual members with differing gifts.

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Our responsibility is to find what gifts God has bestowed upon us and upon knowing our gifts we will know our *calling*!

OUR CALLING

When Jesus ascended up into heaven, after His death and resurrection, He said to His followers, “*Ye shall received power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses.*” God knew that believers would need help, a source of poert, to help them to live, and to propagate, His Word, and, so, He gave them His divine power in the way of Spiritual Gifts and callings. As the Apostle Paul tells us,

“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

Spiritual Gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit’s power that go beyond the believer’s own natural talents and gives him that supernatural ability to do the ministry God has called him too.

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man [every believer] to profit withal...But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man [every believer] severally as He will” (1 Corinthians 12:7 and 11).

The Holy Spirit, working with the perfect knowledge and plan of God, gives out, and uses, these Spiritual Gifts, as He sees the need, in the lives of believers.

Again, as noted on page 2, God’s Word lists three different, distinct, kinds of Spiritual Gifts: **Motivational** Gifts; **Ministry** Gifts and Holy Spirit **Manifestation** Gifts. It would be wrong, and misleading, to mix, or confuse, these lists

God has given **every** believer one, or more, of the “*Motivational Gifts*,” – one, or more, of the “*Ministry Gifts*,” – and – one, or more, of the “*Manifestation Gifts*.”

All Spiritual Gifts may not seem to be spectacular, displaying the supernatural phenomenon one might expect, however, they are provisions of power that will better equip one as a servant of Christ, so that he, or she, can minister to the needs of others.

As one operates in the Spiritual Gifts, he c=must learn to do so within the guidelines that are given in God’s Word. One must keep in mind that, because the ways in which God moves are always purposeful and holy, the administration of these Spiritual Gifts coexist with the sovereign hand of God and those who minister these gifts are only instruments of divine empowering by, and through, which God is moving.

HOW ARE THESE SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO WORK?

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and **all the members** of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also** is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is **not one member, but many**. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are **they many members, yet but one body**. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but **God hath tempered the body together**, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members **should have the same care one for another**. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. [Just, so the church – all believers – who are the body of Christ, is made up of many individuals, having different gifts] **Now ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular” (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

When God wanted to send His “Life” into the world, He sent His Son in the form of a human body. Hebrews 10:5 tells us that when Christ came into the world, “*God prepared Him a body,*” and it was through this “*body*” that God manifested His love and blessing – and demonstrated His power – to the world.

In John 10:10 Jesus stated His purpose for coming into the world when He said, “*I am come that they [believers] might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*” Jesus did not come to just give believers “*eternal life*” in heaven, but He came, also, to give believers *abundant* life here on earth – **NOW**, in this life.

In theological language, God embodied in the flesh is called . . .



While Jesus was on earth God manifested His Divine Life through Jesus’ body. Jesus came “*in flesh*” to accomplish two things: (1) To reveal the Father, and (2) To accomplish the atonement, the reconciliation between God and man. But man rejected Jesus, crucified Him and buried Him in a tomb, however, Jesus rose again in a glorified body, and ascended into heaven. Jesus’ body is in heaven at this present time where He intercedes for believers on earth.

John 16:7 tells us that Jesus was eager to get out of His fleshly body. He said, “*It is expedient for you – [profitable for you – to your advantage] – that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comfortable will not come unto you.*” When Jesus left this earth to go to His Heavenly Father, His followers – every believer – became “**HIS BODY**” on earth.

One of the most amazing concepts taught in God's Word is that NOW, in the present age, God works through the "*Mystical Body of Christ* – the Church – that is, every believer!

When anyone received Jesus Christ as their Savior, he is "*baptized INTO the body of Christ*" . . .

Romans 6:3, "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?*"

1 Corinthians 12:13, "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*"

Galatians 3:27, "*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*"

...as a result, believers are an extension of Christ's life!

When Jesus said, "*I will build My church,*" He was not speaking of building an edifice, an organization, or a particular denomination, but rather, He was speaking of constructing *a body of believers through whom His life,* the life of Christ, *would manifest itself!*

Jesus dwelt on earth in *ONE* body of flesh because He came to live man's life and to die man's death. He returned to His heavenly Father "*in spirit,*" and He now seeks to indwell every believer in order to live out His life through him.

The "*incarnation*" – that is, "*God manifested in human flesh*" – did *NOT* end when Jesus' individual *physical* body was glorified and ascended into heaven. God now desires to manifest His life through the Body of Christ – the Church – that is, *every believer.* The Church is to be an extension of the "*Life*" of Jesus Christ in the world today!

Jesus makes this teaching clear in John 14:12-20 when He said,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it. If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you."

We are the Body of Christ on earth today!

The Amplified Translation renders Colossians 2:18-19, "*Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire and declaring you unworthy and disqualifying you for the prize, insisting on*

self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions (he claims) he has seen, vainly puffed up by his sensuous notions and inflated by his unspiritual thoughts and fleshly conceit, And not holding fast to the Head [Jesus Christ], from whom the entire body [of believers – the Church], supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”

Paul instructs us to not let anyone “rob” us of our “reward” by listening to, or paying attention to, those who would influence us by their false teaching of “humility” – “the worship of angels” – or – supposed “visions” – but rather, maintains union with our Head, Jesus Christ, from Whom the whole Body (the Church) – is nourished and strengthened by its points of contact and its connections as it grows according to God’s design.

WHY DO WE NOT WITNESS THESE “SPIRITUAL GIFTS” TODAY?

The reason the church is living below God’s standard of excellence is because believers are *ignorant* of their *Spiritual Gifts* and God’s will for their lives. God’s provision for helping the Body of Christ is the supernatural unction manifested through the Spiritual Gifts and if believers no longer have these gifts – or, if they are not using what they possess because of ignorance of their purpose – then we are missing the key ingredient for our spiritual success as a church – the Body of Christ in the world today.

***What a terrible dilemma it is to be a Christian
and not know what one is supposed to be doing!***

A vast majority of believers have the idea firmly rooted in their minds that it is primarily the task of *professionally trained ministers* to do the work of the Lord. Their attitude is, “*I’m just a butcher, or baker, or a candlestick maker, what do I know about theology? I’ve never been to seminary, so I’ll leave the work of the Lord to trained ecclesiastical people.*”

This attitude has been the greatest tragedy that has befallen the Church, the body of Christ. It is a tragedy whose results are so far reaching, so vast in scope that most believers have no concept of what damage has been done.

This was *not* the attitude of the early Church. Examine the passage of Acts 8:4 that states, “*All they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word.*” It is referring to the persecution that was taking place in Jerusalem and telling how God’s Word was being spread.

Note, “*they*” went everywhere preaching the Word. Some folk would say, “*Just a minute preacher, not so fast. You have turned the corner a little too rapidly, You see, the people that went everywhere spreading – and preaching – the Word must have been the apostles.*”

We all know that “*a text without its context is a pretext*” – so let’s look at the context. Look at verse 1 of this 8th chapter of Acts. It says, “*They were all scattered abroad **EXCEPT THE APOSTLES!***” So we see, the “*they*” of verse 4 – were the believers, minus the Apostles!

The Greek word that is translated as “*preaching the Word,*” has nothing to do with “*pulpit pounding,*” or standing up before a crowd of people and shouting at them, but rather, it means “*to evangelize,*” or “*spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.*” This “*spreading the Gospel*” might be over the back yard fence – over the desk at work – over a coffee table – or – just

anywhere God opens the opportunity to tell someone about Jesus. And, Acts 8:4, is saying that “*everybody, **EXCEPT THE APOSTLES**, went everywhere spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.*” Of course, the Apostles did more than their share of evangelizing, but the point that the inspired writer is emphasizing here in Acts 8 is that everyone, besides the Apostles, also went and evangelized.

HOW DID THIS FALSE ASSUMPTION TAKE PLACE?

For 300 years the believers – the Body of Christ, the Church, were able to witness with the most amazing results. The whole pagan Roman Empire was undercut, and overthrown, by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that, on the lips of Christ-conquered disciples – crossed seas and deserts – pierced the darkest jungles – seeped into every city and town – and – finally, into the senate and the very place of Rome itself – until even a Christian Caesar was placed upon the throne. How? Because *everyone* was “*preaching the Word!*” The Christian Church was mushrooming with such rapidity, that by the middle of the second century, one of the great apologists of that time could say, “*We are everywhere. We are in your towns and in your cities; we are in your country; we are in your army and navy; we are in your palaces; we are in the senate; we are more numerous than anyone.*”

By 300 A.D. the Church had shown such tremendous strength, and virility, and was spreading so swiftly, that it appeared that the entire civilized world could be evangelized by 500 A.D. However, that never became a reality because Emperor Constantine, who knew very well that he had no chance of unifying the Roman Empire, or holding power in that empire, without the help of the Christians. Supposing to do a favor to the Church, by fiat decree, Constantine declared the whole Roman Empire to be Christian. Thus, millions of barbarians flooded into the Church, bringing with them all of their pagan superstitions and heresies, and, because they didn’t know the Gospel, and, therefore, had never experienced its transforming power, they, of course, could not go out and tell others about it. So, little by little, the idea arose that there was a division between the “*clergy*” and the “*laity*” and that the task of doing the work of the Lord was the job of professionally trained individuals, and, as a direct result of this misguided belief, the Dark Ages followed. Tragically, with only a few bright spots in the history of the Church since that time, this deplorable condition has continued down to our day.

So successful has Satan been with this stratagem that it has been estimated that probably 95 percent of church members have never led anyone to Christ. Thus the army of Christ has been ineffective due to the prevalent attitude from the pew concerning the work of the Lord, “*Let Clerical George do it!*”

What has birthed these lessons on how to discover one’s Spiritual Gifts has been a desire to start a trend in the opposite direction – to get believers to realize their place in the Body of Christ and accept their responsibility to do the work of the Lord.

I mentioned the 4th chapter of Ephesians earlier – and hope to do a study on the “Ministry Gifts” – however, I refer to it here in order to keep things in perspective.

Verses 11 teaches that Christ, “*gave some **apostles**; and some **prophets**; and some **evangelists**; and some **pastors** and **teachers**; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ.*” First of all, let me say that these various titles sounds so reverential, that we are awed by them and feel that they are “*offices*” and “*ministries*”

of God's special "*full-time*" people. But to seek the original meaning of each of these positions will help us to understand God's purpose for these "*ministries*" within the Body of Christ – and to realize that **every** believer has one – or more – of these Ministry Gifts.

- **Apostles** are those sent with a special message for specific purpose"
- **Prophets** are those speaking forth the message of God"
- **Evangelists** are those giving the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ
- **Pastors** are those who feeds, or shepherds, believers
- **Teachers** are those who instructs believers in the Word of God

Of course, there are "*full-time*" individuals, called of God to perform these various functions. They may be endowed with one or more of these "*Ministry Gifts*" – however, there are also others (or should be others) – who, on a smaller, less noticed, basis – perhaps even on a one-to-one relationship – within the body of Christ are called of God to function in one, or more, of these Gift Ministries.

Note verse 12 continues with the purpose of these Ministry Gifts, "*For the perfecting of the saints [the maturing of the believers], for the work of the ministry, for the edifying [building up, or strengthening] of the body of Christ.*"

No! The church is not made up a few "*star performers*," but rather, it is made up of believers who have discovered their individual Spiritual Gifts and, grasping the Biblical truth that God has equipped them to do the work of Body of Christ, can completely revolutionize the work of the Lord. To the degree that believers embrace, and adhere to this concept, will the successfulness of God's work be determined.

1 Peter 4:10, in the Amplified Bible states, "As each of you has received a gift (a particular special talent, a gracious Divine endowment), employ it for one another as (befits) good trustees of God's many-sided grace – faithful stewards of the extremely divers powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor."

This Scripture unmistakably states that **every** believer has been given a gift and, it also unmistakably commands that he is to employ that gift for the benefit of others.

The Greek word here in 1 Peter 4:10, translated as "*gift*," is defined in the Greek dictionary as "*a divine gratuity – a spiritual endowment – a free gift.*"

What is true of the ***Motivational Gifts*** that is not true of the other two categories of gifts – (that is, the ***Ministry Gifts*** and the ***Manifestation Gifts***) – is that a **Motivational Gift** is a *possession* that is given by God, to each one of us. It is a natural, innate, capability, or aptitude that God has built into each individual before birth. (Psalm 139:13-16).

It is important to look at any Scriptural verses that one plans to study in the context of the entire passage in which it is found. So, in our endeavor to understand what the 12th chapter of Romans is telling us about the Motivational Gifts, we need to focus on the verses preceding the list of Motivational Gifts – that is the first five verse of Romans 12.

In the first verse Paul states that all believers are to present themselves to God as living sacrifices, and it is only when one makes this kind of wholehearted dedication that his Motivational Gifts can be used as they were intended to be used.

Let's look at verse 1:

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of (all) the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies – presenting all your members and faculties – as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship” (Romans 12;1 – Amplified Bible)

In the second verse, we learn that we need to have our minds renewed. How do we do this? By the Word of God, because, as we prayerfully read, and study, the Bible, it becomes a living personalized revelation of God to us that, as a result cleanses, and renews, our minds.

Verse 2 in the Amplified Bible,

“Do not be conformed to this world – this age, fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs. But be transformed (changed) by the (entire) renewal of your mind – but its new ideals and its new attitude – so that you may prove (for yourselves) what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing that is good and acceptable and perfect (is His sight for you).”

In the third verse, we learn that we are to have a right attitude about ourselves – an attitude of gratefulness and humility rather than one of conceit, and we are to have an attitude of objective self-worth, rather than one of self-abasement – AND – we also are told that each of us have been given a degree of faith that will allow us to operate effectively in our Motivational Gifts.

Verse 3 in the Amplified Bible,

“For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn every one among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought – not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance; but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him.”

The King James Version renders this last phrase as, “*God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.*” Paul is speaking of faith possessed by those motivated in each of the seven Motivational Gifts:

- **Prophets/Perceivers** possess the measure of faith speak the message from God.
- **Servers** possess the measure of faith to enable him to complete God's tasks
- **Teachers** possess the measure of faith to instruct in the Word of God
- **Exhorters** possess the measure of faith to find God's solutions to problems
- **Givers** possess the measure of faith that God will supply all needs
- **Administrators** possess the measure of faith that complete difficult projects
- **Compassionate persons** possess the measure of faith to help others in love

In the 4th and 5th verses of Roman 12, tells us that one needs to discern the various gifts, for the glory of God, because this is the only way we will find fulfillment. These gifts, of which most are unaware of, are the motivating forces of our lives, and unless these gifts are channeled properly in our life, we will feel frustrated in our labor for God. However, once we discover our “*Motivational Gifts*” we will discover a tremendous potential for happiness.

Verses 4 and 5 in the Amplified Bible,

“For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function or use, so we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ, the messiah, and individually we are parts one of another – mutually dependent on one another.”

My prayer is that these lessons will not only show you how to identify your motivational Gifts, but that they will also show you how to use these gifts more effectively. As you study these lessons, you will not only grow to understand how your particular gifts have been evident in your actions even from early childhood, but you will also grow to understand how your particular gifts give you your basic motivation for ***what*** you like to do and ***how*** you like to do it.

God commands us to use our gifts for the benefit of others because when one uses his special gifts only for his own selfish ends, those gifts will tend to become polluted. In contrast to this pollution, however, when one obeys God’s command and uses his gifts for the benefit of others, because he is cooperating with God’s plan for his life, he experiences the greatest kind of joy he can experience.

Listed below are the titles of the seven Motivational Gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8. You can choose any one – or more of them – and click on it to download and study.

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #1 – PROPHECY, PERCEPTION

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #2 – SERVING

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #3 – TEACHING

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #4 – EXHORTATION

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #5 – GIVING

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #6 – ADMINISTRATING (ORGANIZING)

MOTIVATIONAL GIFT #7 – COMPASSION