

Gifts of Motivation

Romans 12:3-8

Companion Passages:

- Eph 4:13 (the gifts here are people, given to the church, and describe ministries)
- 1 Corinthians 12 (the gifts here are manifestations of the HS, given at times when needed to accomplish the will of God)

There are three passages in scripture that discuss “gifts” in detail in scripture. Each passage discusses a different kind of gift, given in a different context, but they have a common theme. Paul describes the diversity and emphasises the value of every person who is a part of the Body of Christ.

Paul lists seven gifts that describe motivations in Romans 12:3-8. These gifts are descriptive of those areas of ministry that we are drawn to because God had given us skills and talents and desires that find full expression in those areas. Here are the seven gifts listed:

- 1) Prophecy: Prophecy, here, should be understood to mean forthtelling, not foretelling (that gift is described in 1 Cor 12). Prophets have a desire to proclaim God’s word, to express the truth.
- 2) Service (ministry): A desire and passion for accomplishing the work of the church, wherever that might lead
- 3) Exhortation (encouragement): A desire and passion to encourage, to come up beside and help someone develop.
- 4) Teaching: A desire to both understand and communicate the details and content of God’s word.
- 5) Giving: A desire to equip the persons and ministries of the Church through material support.
- 6) Leadership (administration): A passion for organization, for strategic thinking, planning, communication and execution.
- 7) Mercy: A desire to alleviate suffering and to comfort those who are struggling.

Jesus represents and embodies all these things, and we are called to grow in each of these areas, but there will be some of these that you are more naturally drawn to, and Paul is instructing us to pursue those areas so that we may help the church to be well rounded.

Pick the three of the above that you most closely identify with, and rank them in order of preference:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Discuss your choices with the class.