

# SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	<b>HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT</b>
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	<b>ROMANS 12:1-8</b>
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	<b>#2203</b>

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Romans 12:6
  - i) Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.
  - ii) We each have different gifts.
  - iii) No one has all of the gifts.
  - iv) God has wrapped these gifts within us, and we need to unwrap our spiritual gifts.
- b) A spiritual gift is not a natural talent.
  - i) A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability.
    - (1) It may be married to a natural talent, but it goes beyond natural talents.
  - ii) A spiritual gift is a grace gift.
    - (1) The Greek word for grace is "charis."
    - (2) Spiritual gifts are also known as charismatic gifts.
- c) We are gifted because God has gifted us.
  - i) We should not put on false humility and claim we do not have a gift.
  - ii) God has gifted each of us.
- d) At the judgment, we will each give an account of what we did with our spiritual gift; our stewardship of that gift.
  - i) It is vital that we discover our gift and learn what that gift is.
- e) Romans 12 will help us learn how to unwrap our spiritual gift.

2) A SACRIFICIAL PRESENTATION (Romans 12:1)

- a) Romans 12:1
  - i) The apostle Paul is writing by divine inspiration.
    - (1) To "beseech" someone mean to plead with that person.
      - (a) Since Paul is writing for God Himself, it is almost as if God is pleading with us.
  - ii) Consecration is not giving to God anything; it is taking our hands off of that which already belongs to God.
    - (1) By His mercy, God sought and saved us; we are bought with His blood.
    - (2) We are not our own; we are bought with a price and are to be a living sacrifice.
- b) What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
  - i) It is different than any animal sacrifice in the Old Testament.
    - (1) No animal sacrifice ever volunteered.
    - (2) We are to volunteer; we present ourselves.
      - (a) We are to present all that we are and all that we hope to be to God: all of our hopes, plans, goals, possessions.
      - (b) In modern-day America, we want to take our Christianity and tack it on to our regular life.
  - ii) A sacrifice in the Old Testament was slain; therefore, it had no plans of its own.
    - (1) Since it was a bloody sacrifice, it had a tendency to slip off the altar.
    - (2) Two flesh hooks would be used to hold the sacrifice on the altar.
  - iii) There are two hooks that will hold us on the altar when we tend to slide off:
    - (1) Discipline
    - (2) Devotion

- iv) A sacrifice in the Old Testament was burned; it was consumed.
    - (1) We can never truly worship God until we are consumed with the holy fire of God.
  - c) Many Christians are afraid of what God might ask them to do if they fully present themselves to Him as a living sacrifice.
    - i) God loves us; there is no reason to fear.
- 3) A SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION (Romans 12:2)
- a) The word "transformation" in the Greek is related to the word "metamorphosis."
    - i) The word "metamorphosis" means a change of form.
    - ii) When we present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, we will go through a metamorphosis.
      - (1) Our inner nature will come to the surface.
    - iii) This word was used when Jesus was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration.
      - (1) Matthew 17:1-5
        - (a) The inner nature of Jesus is glory.
  - b) When we are saved in Jesus Christ, our inner nature is Jesus.
    - i) When we present ourselves a living sacrifice to Him, a spiritual transformation takes place where the Jesus hidden in us becomes the Jesus revealed in us.
    - ii) This divine change gives us the mind of Christ.
      - (1) We are renewed in the spirit of our minds.
      - (2) We will never really understand our spiritual gift without the renewing of our minds.
  - c) Unless we present ourselves a living sacrifice to God, our minds will not be renewed and we will not know our spiritual gift.
    - i) We should never be afraid of the will of God.
      - (1) It is the highest, happiest and holiest place for us.
- 4) A SOBER CONSIDERATION (Romans 12:3)
- a) The word "think" is used three times in Romans 12:3.
    - i) We are to "think" with a renewed mind.
  - b) How are we to think of ourselves?
    - i) We are not to think more highly than we ought; we are not to assume that we have a gift that we don't have.
      - (1) This is false, or sinful, exaggeration.
    - ii) We are not to think in false humiliation.
      - (1) We are to think soberly.
        - (a) The word "soberly" comes from two Greek words meaning "to save" and "the mind."
          - (i) I am what I am by the grace of God.
        - (2) We are not to say that we don't have a gift.
        - (3) False humiliation is just as bad as sinful exaggeration.
          - (a) Saying that we have a gift is not pride.
          - (b) Denying we have a gift is unbelief and rebellion.
        - (4) To think soberly is to think honestly.

- iii) We are to think in sober estimation.
  - c) Below are some principles to help us take inventory of ourselves in sober estimation:
    - i) The principle of enlightenment.
      - (1) The Holy Spirit of God within us will enlighten our minds.
      - (2) The Holy Spirit will speak to our hearts.
    - ii) The principle of enjoyment.
      - (1) When we obey the Holy Spirit's prompting, we enjoy it.
      - (2) We need to be careful in our churches to place people in areas of service that God has equipped them and gifted them to do.
        - (a) We have a tendency, instead, to try to tone people down in an area where they're strong and to try to strengthen them in areas where they're not gifted at all.
      - (3) God has given each of us a particular gift, and we will find enlightenment and enjoyment in this gift.
    - iii) The principle of encouragement.
      - (1) Other people will encourage you in your gift because they are being blessed by it.
    - iv) The principle of enablement.
      - (1) God will enable us to do what He has gifted us and called us to do.
      - (2) 1 Timothy 1:12
        - (a) The apostle Paul knew that he could not do what he did in the ministry without the enablement.
- 5) A SHARED PARTICIPATION (Romans 12:4-5)
- a) When we present ourselves to the Lord Jesus, we are also presenting ourselves to one another.
    - i) The church is His body.
      - (1) The church is not an organization with Jesus Christ as the president.
      - (2) The church is a body with Jesus Christ as the head, and we are members in that body.
        - (a) It is arrogance, pride and conceit that divide us.
        - (b) It is the Holy Spirit that unites us.
    - b) Not everyone's gift is as obvious as another's gift.
      - i) Each gift, though, is given to perfect the body of Christ.
      - ii) If we do not fulfill the purpose God has for us within the body of Christ, then we are harmful and hurtful to the body.
    - c) Each member of the church is active.
      - i) Some members are tearing down while others are building up.
    - d) No one has all of the gifts; everyone has at least one of the gifts, and we are dependent upon one another.
      - i) God made us different that He might make us one.
- 6) A SPECIFIC ACTIVATION (Romans 12:6-8)
- a) We will find our gift as we get busy within the body.

- b) Romans 12:6
  - i) God has dealt to everyone a measure of faith.
  - ii) We need to take the faith we have and the gift we have and put them to work.
- c) Romans 12:6-8 lists seven spiritual gifts.
  - i) The gift of prophecy
    - (1) Romans 12:6
    - (2) Prophecy is declaring truth.
    - (3) Those with the gift of prophecy will likely find themselves involved in mission work or teaching a class.
    - (4) Those with the gift of prophecy will have a desire to be persuasive and move people to action.
  - ii) The gift of ministry
    - (1) Romans 12:7
    - (2) Ministry is another word for service.
    - (3) Those with this gift will find themselves meeting spiritual needs in practical ways.
      - (a) Activities programs at church
      - (b) Those who are ushers at church
      - (c) Nursery workers
  - iii) The gift of teaching
    - (1) Romans 12:7
    - (2) Those with the gift of teaching desire to clarify truth.
      - (a) To search out and validate truth that's been presented.
    - (3) Those with this gift will have a questioning mind.
    - (4) Those with this gift will likely find themselves involved in Sunday school, backyard Bible clubs, neighborhood Bible studies, etc.
  - iv) The gift of exhortation
    - (1) Romans 12:8
    - (2) Exhortation is the desire to stimulate people in their faith; to exhort them to love Jesus better.
    - (3) Those with this gift enjoy personal counseling.
    - (4) Those with this gift may be involved in music ministry, visitation, soul winning, etc.
    - (5) This is the ministry of encouragement.
  - v) The gift of giving
    - (1) Romans 12:8
    - (2) We are all commanded to give, but there is also the gift of giving.
    - (3) The gift of giving means that you're motivated to entrust personal assets to others so that the work of God may be carried on.
    - (4) The one with this gift makes good decisions to meet immediate needs.
      - (a) This person is willing to give and has the ability to accumulate and disperse assets.
  - vi) The gift of ruling
    - (1) Romans 12:8

- (2) The gift of ruling is not playing the role of a “big shot,” but is the motivation to coordinate things and help others see the big vision and to move them toward that vision.
  - (a) To coordinate the activities of others for a common goal for the glory of God.
  - (b) The gift to lead.
- (3) The one with this gift also has the gift of vision; he sees where the group ought to go and begins to lead and motivate people in that direction.
- vii) The gift of mercy
  - (1) Romans 12:8
  - (2) The gift of mercy identifies with people and comforts those who are in distress.
  - (3) The person with this gift will feel empathy and sympathy for the misfortune and heartaches of others.
    - (a) This individual will be able to relate to those needs mentally, emotionally and practically.
  - (4) The person with this gift may find themselves involved in hospital visitation, benevolence and counseling.
- 7) A SETTLED CONFIRMATION (Romans 12:2)
  - a) After we discover our gift and get busy and put it to work, then we will prove what is that good, perfect and acceptable will of God.
    - i) We will have the confirmation in our hearts.
  - b) When we have that confirmation:
    - i) We accept ourselves.
    - ii) We begin to be ourselves.
    - iii) We begin to give ourselves.
  - c) We are then blessed, God is glorified and the church is strengthened.
- 8) CONCLUSION
  - a) The first step in discovering your spiritual gift is to present yourself to God a living sacrifice.
  - b) But you must first present yourself to Him as a sinner needing to be saved.
  - c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
    - i) Romans 3:23
    - ii) Romans 10:9-10
    - iii) Romans 10:13
    - iv) Acts 16:31