

## Taking It Home:

If we do these two things, we will grow as the body of Christ:

### Discover Your Gifts

1. Where do you most often see need? Your sensitivity to need is often an indicator of giftedness for service.
2. Ask trusted and wise friends (small group or family) where they are benefited the most by your service. Since gifts are meant to build up others, where are others being built up by you?
3. Take a spiritual gifts inventory such as the free one available at [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com) > Resources > Discover Your Spiritual Gifts.
4. Consider purchasing the Uniquely You Membership and Personality Profile combining Gifts and DISC in our @Home library of resources. This advanced tool combines several inventories to help you have a better picture of how God created you.
5. Serve in a variety of areas with a heart to discover what God is doing in you and through you to benefit His people. Sometimes in trying things we learn where we are NOT gifted.

### Use Your Gifts to Build Others Up

1. Ask God to give you a heart to want to serve and an opportunity to put that desire to work. Trust Him to provide the opportunity.
2. Remember that our first attempts at service may not always be the final destination.
3. Consider the service opportunities listed at [www.bethelfc.com/serve](http://www.bethelfc.com/serve).
4. Give yourself permission to deploy your gifts for the sake of the Kingdom outside the local church. Many of our local partners are blessed by people who are using their gifts for Kingdom impact.

## Resources:

There are two opportunities to take a 3 week course on discovering your own Spiritual Gifts and how you might use them, coming up this spring, led by Pastor Jonas Bundy.

- Wednesdays (starting April 23) at 6:30 p.m.—Room C
- Sundays (starting May 11) at 9 a.m.—Room B

Dr. Matthew R. St. John

Bethel Church

April 6, 2014

Gifted for Life

Romans 12:3-8

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## Gifted for Life

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 6, 2014

Romans 12:3-8

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**Quick Review:** Any time we talk about spiritual gifts within the church, it is good to remind ourselves that we are a part of One Body; the body of Christ. As followers of Jesus we experience a profound reality of unity in Christ with a diversity of gifts displayed by others who follow Jesus. This giftedness is sourced in the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The purpose of the grace gifts is always to build others up to the glory of God. Both Paul and Peter write about these gifts as an opportunity for the fruit of the Spirit to be manifest in the Church to put Jesus' love on display. We will see in our study of Romans 12 that God has done a marvelous work in our lives and in history to bring about a unity within the body of Christ that displays His love in profound ways to reach those who have not yet heard while building up those who follow Jesus.

## My Story:

- When was the last time you notice someone's strength and made it a point to compliment or encourage him or her? How did that person respond?
- When others compliment you, do you find it hard or easy to receive the compliment?
- What are your top three spiritual gifts?

## Growing Deeper:

- The gospel message is good news that God has done a great thing on our behalf. Those created in God's image have turned their back on God and rejected Him (Romans 1; 3:23). God sent His Son to rescue the perishing. At the cross, Jesus became the sin substitute, redeeming those who will believe through His sacrifice on the cross (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5). We receive the free gift of salvation in Jesus by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8-10). It is on the basis of this truth that we begin a study of spiritual gifts.
- The first 11 chapters of Romans retell the story of God's character and activity which resulted in the good news of Jesus. In Romans 12, Paul begins a series of teaching on how we are to then apply this teaching. His first instruction challenges the believer to live with a sober self-assessment of what God has done and who God has created him or her to be. Read Romans 12:1-8. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? What are we to do with the gifts according to 12:6?
- Make a list of the gifts listed in Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4; Ephesians 4; and 1 Corinthians 12. Pay special attention to places where the gifts mentioned also indicate roles or positions within the Church.
- What do you see that is similar in all four passages?
- Read 1 Timothy 1:1-8. What do you notice about the spiritual gifts given to Timothy? One of Paul's encouragements to him was that he, "fan into flame," the gifts given. How can you work on developing the gifts God has given you?