

## **“UNDERSTANDING GOD’S SERVING GRACE”**

### **ROMANS 12:1-8**

**INTRO:** Over the past several weeks we have been involved in a study entitled: “**AN ADMONITION ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH,**” taken from 2 Peter 3:17,18. In this text, through the Apostle Peter, the Holy Spirit is calling upon all true born again believers to **GROW IN UNDERSTANDING THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**. The fact is, from the time of our salvation until we see the Lord it is the will of God that **we continually endeavor to learn more about God’s Grace and about the person of the Lord Jesus Christ so that we will effectively glorify God in our praise, worship, and service**. It is significant to note that the word “**GROW**” in 2 Peter 3:18 means “**TO ENLARGE AND INCREASE**” meaning that it is God’s desire that we **MAKE A SPIRIT LED EFFORT TO ENLARGE AND INCREASE IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S GRACE AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST**. This is to be a **LIFE-LONG ENDEAVOR** on Earth and will be an **ETERNAL EXPERIENCE** in Heaven. **Such an endeavor is completed through our continual commitment to the study and application of the Word of God. THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STUDIES WE HAVE EVER CONDUCTED AS IT LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR US TO LIVE A GOD-HONORING LIFE... THEREFORE, DO NOT NEGLECT OR DENY THIS STUDY.**

### **A REVIEW OF THE STUDY**

Up to this point we have been focusing on understanding the Grace of God.

- 1) **GOD’S SAVING GRACE:** God’s unmerited favor toward all mankind in providing a great salvation which we do not deserve. Ephesians 2:8,9
- 2) **GOD’S SUSTAINING GRACE:** God’s unmerited favor toward all born again believers in which God provides all of the wisdom, strength and direction to face every trial, temptation and situation of life. 2 Corinthians 12:9,10

### **TODAY’S STUDY**

Today we are going to focus on a third element of God’s Grace which is His **SERVING GRACE**.

**OBSERVATION: EVEN AS WE CANNOT BE SAVED AND SUSTAINED WITHOUT THE GRACE OF GOD, NEITHER CAN WE SERVE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT THE GRACE OF GOD.**

- Many Christians falter, fail, and fizzle out because they attempt to serve God by their own strength apart from His grace.
- **NO CHILD OF GOD HAS THE ABILITY, THE UNDERSTANDING OR THE STRENGTH TO SERVE GOD ON HIS OWN.**  
-Zechariah 4:6; John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 15:10

**DEFINITION OF GOD’S SERVING GRACE:** God’s unmerited favor toward all born again believers in giving them the **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** necessary for effective service unto Him. Romans 12:6-8

**DEFINITION OF A SPIRITUAL GIFT:** A God-Given Ability for Christian Service given to every Born Again Believer by God’s grace, at the time of their salvation.

### **I. GOD EXPECTS US TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL GIFTS SO THAT WE CAN SERVE HIM EFFECTIVELY – 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1**

A. Spiritual Gifts are the Result of the Redemptive Work of Christ

-After Christ died on the cross, went to the grave, rose again, and ascended back into heaven, He gave **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** to believers. – Ephesians 4:7-10

B. Spiritual Gifts are the Result of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

-At the **POINT OF SALVATION**, the Holy Spirit **indwells and equips** every Christian with a **SPIRITUAL GIFT**. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

**FAILING TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL GIFTS IS A SIN AGAINST GOD THAT WILL PREVENT THE CHILD OF GOD FROM SERVING GOD EFFECTIVELY.**

**II. GOD EXPECTS US TO UTILIZE SPIRITUAL GIFTS SO THAT OTHER CHRISTIANS CAN GROW SPIRITUALLY – 1 PETER 4:10,11**

A. Each Christian has received a SPIRITUAL GIFT

“AS EVERY MAN (ANTHROPOS) HATH RECEIVED THE GIFT”

B. Each Christian is to use his SPIRITUAL GIFT

“EVEN SO MINISTER THE SAME ONE TO ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE GRACE OF GOD.”

**FAILING TO UTILIZE ONES SPIRITUAL GIFT IS A SIN AGAINST GOD THAT WILL PREVENT OTHERS FROM GROWING IN CHRIST EFFECTIVELY.**

**III. GOD EXPECTS US TO ULTIMIZE SPIRITUAL GIFTS SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST CAN DEVELOP EFFECTIVELY – EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

A. To Perfect and Edify other Believers in the Body – Vs. 12

B. To Continue until we are in the Presence of Christ – Vs. 13

C. To Build Spiritual Maturity and Sound Doctrine in Others – Vss. 14,15

D. To Unify the Body of Christ – Vs. 16

**FAILING TO ULTIMIZE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS IS A SIN AGAINST GOD THAT WILL PREVENT THE BODY OF CHRIST FROM DEVELOPING SPIRITUALLY.**

**THE BIBLICAL IDENTIFICATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

The Word of God identifies 18 SPIRITUAL GIFTS and places them into TWO CATEGORIES:

1) The Temporary Gifts (8) – Given to lay the foundation of the Church

2) The Permanent Gifts (10) – Given to build the Church until the Rapture

**LESSON AND APPLICATION**

God, by His Grace, has given each Christian a SPIRITUAL GIFT in order to serve Him. As a Christian, YOU HAVE A SPIRITUAL GIFT! DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? If you know what it is, DO YOU USE IT IN SERVING GOD?

**GOD HAS SAVED EVERY CHRISTIAN BY HIS GRACE SO AS TO SERVE HIM THROUGH HIS GRACE. ARE YOU USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT TO SERVE GOD EFFECTIVELY? DOING SO WILL BRING GREAT BLESSING. NOT DOING SO WILL CAUSE YOU TO MISS GOD'S BLESSING!**