

Title: **Use Your Gifts (Part 1) - Laying the Foundation**
Text: **1 Corinthians 12**
Date: **May 8, 2022**

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Big Idea

When God saves you and brings you into community in the church, he has something for you to do. He has a ministry, a purpose for your being here. He wants you to use, to steward, your gifts for his glory and the good of others.

Truth #1: We Are Humbled (vv. 1-3)

Paul opens with this fresh reminder that before the Holy Spirit can really make use of us, so far as these gifts are concerned, he has to humble us to the point where we can say: "Jesus is Lord . . . not me." We can't even begin to use our spiritual gifts until we're broken of our self-rule. We are of little use to the kingdom so long as we think we are of great use.

Truth #2: We Are Gifted (vv. 4-13)

Because these gifts are distributed to us as members of Christ's body, empowering us for ministry, so that he would be shown and seen more clearly in the world, it makes sense, then, that they can be organized according to the three main offices that Christ held so far as his ministry was concerned. Here I'm thinking of what theologians refer to as the tripartite office of Christ. He's *Prophet*, he's *Priest*, and he's *King*.

- **Prophetic gifts** are those that put an emphasis on speaking and communicating God's word with power. There's a particular concern for truth. These gifts equip the person to bring Christ's truth to others (e.g. prophesy, teaching, evangelism, words of wisdom or knowledge, etc.).
- **Priestly gifts** are those that put an emphasis on service and showing compassion. There's a particular concern for love. These gifts equip the person to bring Christ's care to others (e.g. healing, helping, serving, acts of mercy, etc.).

- **Kingly gifts** are those that put an emphasis on ruling and establishing organization and structure. There's a particular concern for order. These gifts equip the person to bring Christ's rule to others (e.g. leading, administrating, contributing, etc.).

Truth #3: We Are Needed (vv. 14-20)

Maybe your dad told you that you were good for nothing. Maybe your mom used to make you feel stupid, the way she would talk to you. Maybe your husband or your wife has you thinking you are worthless and you just better do what you're told. Maybe the church has hurt you and made you feel like you're not welcome and God could never use you. Maybe you're just saying this stuff to yourself on repeat. It's probably some mixed up mess of all of this.

But that's not what God is saying. He's lovingly getting in the face of your spiritual despair in these moments and saying: "You are needed. You're not the one saint I forgot to gift. You've got something to use. So, by faith, get up and use it!"

Truth #4: We Are Needy (vv. 21-26)

Maybe you're on the other side of spiritual despair, and you're teetering into spiritual pride, where you're thinking: "I can't stand that person, I don't want that person around, I don't *need* that person here." If so, you must realize: you're not just arguing with the Apostle Paul, or with your pastor, you're arguing with God.

Truth #5: It's All from Grace (v. 27)

You and I don't belong here. I'm pretty sure Jesus would be more effective without me, but here I am. Why? In a word: grace.

Reflection Questions

- Read Isaiah 58:10-11. Nick talked about "Ironic satisfaction" –we pour out to be filled up. Have you experienced this?
- Considering that threefold classification of spiritual gifts (prophetic, priestly, kingly), how do you think your gifts trend? Which are you strongest in? Which are you weakest?
- Which error are you more prone to: spiritual despair ("Because I'm not a ___, I don't belong in the body") or spiritual pride ("Because I am a ___, I don't need the body"). Explain.

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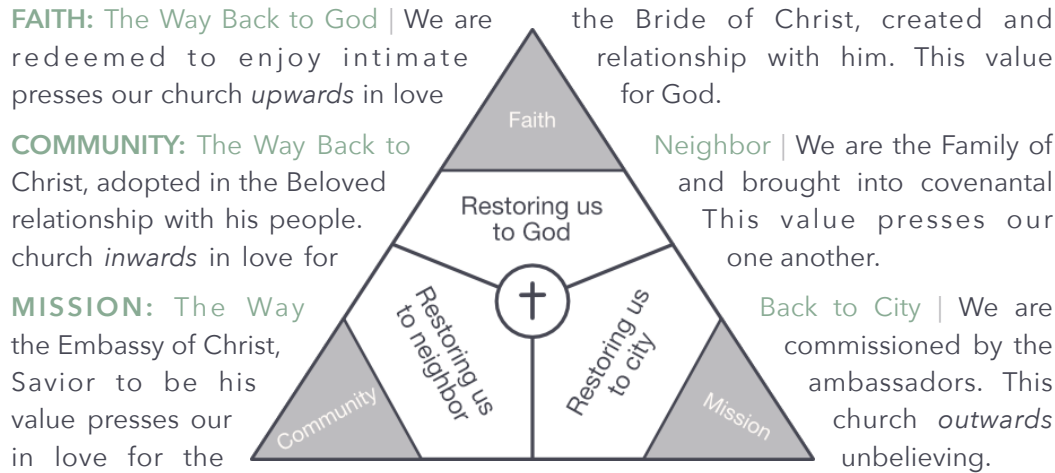


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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Happy Mother's Day!

We just wanted to give a special shout-out to all the mamas in our midst. Happy Mother's Day! We know your calling as a mom is as much a blessing as it is a challenge. Thanks for staying faithful and leading the next generation to Jesus. As a way of expressing our appreciation, we have a rose for you all to pick up after the service. Don't leave before you get one (or two?!). May the Lord encourage you today. He sees you . . . and is well-pleased!

Youth Hangout - Rescheduled for 5/22

We usually have Mercy Hill Youth Hangouts on the second Sunday of every month, but this month's hangout has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 22nd due to Mother's Day. Instead of gathering together with us after the service today, all Mercy Hill youth are encouraged to go home and *love on their mamas* :)

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

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