

Title: **Use Your Gifts (Part 2) - Finding Your Place**
Text: **1 Corinthians 12**
Date: **May 22, 2022**

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Big Idea

It's one thing to know that every Christian has a spiritual gift(s). It's another thing to know what your gift(s) actually is. Here are six directions in which you can look to begin discerning your place in the body of Christ.

Truth #6: It's All for Love (v. 31)

Love is the center around which all these spiritual gifts are meant to turn. It's the sun around which these planets are to orbit. If you don't have love at the center, as the reason and driving force for the use of your gifts, you've missed it. And everything will fall out of order, out of line, out of orbit. The *gifts of the Spirit* must be subordinated to the *fruit of the Spirit*—the essence of which is love.

Look #1: Look Up

It shouldn't come as a surprise to us that this is really the starting point for discerning our own gifts and how we ought to best use them. After all, these gifts have come to us from God in the first place. He is the one who has made us, redeemed us, and gifted us. Therefore, he's the one to whom we should look to direct us. He's our Commander in Chief. So we look up. We pray.

Look #2: Look Down

God has put your feet in this place on purpose. You are here for a reason. God may be calling you to go somewhere else someday, that is true. But he's called you right here, right now. And often the way you get wherever you're supposed to be later is by going all in and being faithful wherever you are right now.

Look #3: Look In

Consider your own desires and passions. How has God wired you? What do you get excited about? What lights you up? What do you

like to do? What do you want to do? I used to think that desires were inherently evil. If I want it, it must be bad, or wrong, or selfish. Now, it's true, our desires can often lead us astray and into sin (cf. James 1:14-15; 4:1-2), but they can also be indicators of where God has gifted us and where he may be calling us.

Look #4: Look Out

Where have you been fruitful? Where has God already been using you? What do you feel skilled at? What do you think you're gifted at? It's one thing to be passionate about something. It's quite another to actually be good at it, right? So look out and consider: where have you seen fruit? It's at this point that I'd like to accent a very important principle in all of this: namely, we discern our gifts in the context of community. Find a friend. Ask them what they think.

Look #5: Look Backward

We all have a different constellation of life experiences in our background that, in many ways, gives shape to the kind of ministry God may have for us now and in the future. Think about your family history, your education, your vocation, your ethnicity, your testimony. Think about your blessings and your hardships, your victories and your losses, your accomplishments and your failures, your joys and your sorrows. How may God want to use all of this to bless others?

Look #6: Look Forward

With this last look I simply want to encourage you to go and try things. Take steps of faith and look forward to what God will do!



Reflection Questions

- When you consider the place in which God has put you, what needs do you see? Get specific. Make a list. Pray over it. Lay it all out before the Lord. How would love for God and others guide? Which needs do you "vibrate" to? Why?
- Consider the community of Christians around you. Ask the Lord to help you identify one person you can encourage. Express thanks for the way their gifts have blessed you!
- Which of the six looks seems most helpful to you? Which still seems most confusing? Why?

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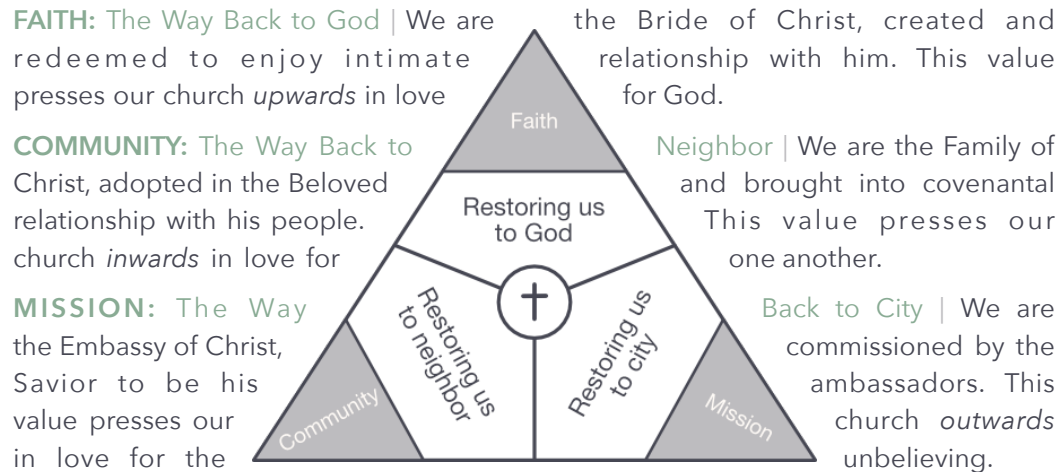


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Our Mission & Values

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

Family Service - Next Week!

On occasion, we hold Family Services where children sit in the service with their parents. That's what we have next Sunday, May 29th! We know this can be a bit challenging for parents, but we also recognize that it is a very good thing for kids to participate with the larger church family in worship. To help, we will provide coloring sheets and pre-packaged crayons for you to make use of. The Mother's Room adjacent to the Sanctuary is a space families can utilize as well if necessary.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Christina Lugo at kids@mercyhillchurch.org.

Afghan Refugee Family

A team from Mercy Hill Church is working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to welcome and provide support for a newly-arrived Afghan refugee family. You can help in the following ways:

Donations of new or gently used items to set up housekeeping, including furniture, are greatly appreciated. Contact Marcia Bolster (info below) if you're able to help in this way.

Contributions to a \$2,500 fund to help the family get started with living expenses are also welcome. To donate online, visit <https://mercyhillchurch.org/give> to find the online giving portal. Once there, click on the drop down menu and select the Missions fund. You may also place your donation in an envelope (be sure to indicate "Missions, Afghan" on the outside) and leave it in the black collection box in the back of the sanctuary after one of our Sunday Services.

Please keep the family in prayer for God's provision, that its members will experience God's love through Mercy Hill Church and the team, and that they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior? Thanks!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Marcia at marciabolster@att.net.

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