

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: YOU ARE A GIFTED CHILD

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-12

**LWF SERMON
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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) In the Christian world, we have a tendency to divide people into two categories:
 - i) The clergy, who are in full-time ministry.
 - ii) The laity, which are the ones in the pews.
- b) As Christians, we are all called into the ministry.
 - i) God has a ministry for each of us.
- c) Many Christians feel frustrated and don't see any victory in their lives or have any joy.
 - i) We need to find a ministry.
 - ii) Discover your spiritual gift and put it to work for the Lord.
- d) There are three kinds of people in every church:
 - i) Those who make things happen.
 - ii) Those who watch things happen.
 - iii) Those who don't know anything is happening.
- e) As believers, we need to go to work for the Lord.
 - i) The need is desperate.
 - ii) The hour is late.
 - (1) We only have so many years, months, days, etc., before the end of all things is at hand.
 - iii) In spite of the sin and debauchery prevalent in our world today, there is also a great hunger for spiritual things.
 - (1) Many are turning to humanism, New Age-ism and false cults because we have failed to declare the truth.
- f) Do you want your life to count for Jesus?
 - i) One day, we will all give an account for our lives.
- g) God has called each of us to serve Him, and He has equipped us to serve Him.
 - i) God has given each of us at least one spiritual gift.
 - ii) We are to discover our spiritual gift, develop it and deploy it for Jesus.

2) THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1)

- a) These are spiritual gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:4
 - (1) In this passage, the word translated for "gifts" is "charismata."
 - (a) "Charis" is the word for "grace."
 - (b) These gifts are grace gifts.
 - ii) These are not material gifts.
 - iii) These are not natural talents.
 - iv) A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability that comes from God.
 - (1) As Christians, we should be supernatural and not superficial because God has gifted us.
- b) These spiritual gifts are not earned, and they are not learned.
 - i) They are given to us by God as a gift.

3) THE DISTORTION OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

- a) The devil wants to take something that is good and distort it and pervert it.

- i) The enemy wants to give the Holy Spirit a bad name.
 - ii) The devil has no raw material; God made everything.
 - (1) Anything that is bad is a perversion of that which was once good.
 - iii) The enemy wants to take spiritual gifts and distort them.
 - (1) He does not want us to understand our spiritual gifts.
- b) In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul addresses the church at Corinth, which was carnal.
- i) The Corinthians were led away by “dumb idols.”
 - ii) Some would get into such a frenzy that they would even call Jesus accursed.
 - iii) In churches today, we sometimes hear of “revivals” where people are roaring like lions or barking like dogs.
 - (1) We must remember that real revival is demonstrated by the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, mercy, long-suffering.
 - (2) Real revival does not put you out of control; real revival brings you under the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - (3) 1 Corinthians 14:32
 - (4) 1 Corinthians 14:40
- c) Any worship that draws you away from the Lord Jesus is false, even worship that magnifies the Holy Spirit rather than the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- d) John 16:13-14
- i) The work of the Holy Spirit is to magnify Jesus Christ, not Himself.
 - ii) Any movement or teaching that has the Holy Spirit for a figurehead is distorted.
 - (1) We may go deeper into Jesus, but we will never go beyond Jesus.
- e) Colossians 1:18
- i) A church that is Spirit-filled gives the preeminence to Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Your spiritual gift is operating when it gives preeminence to Jesus Christ.
- 4) THE DIVERSITY OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
- a) The word “diversities” in this passage means different kinds.
- i) The “gifts” speak of God’s provision.
 - ii) “Administrations” speak of God’s purpose.
 - (1) God has given your gift a purpose.
 - iii) “Operations” speak of God’s power.
 - (1) God makes a provision, He has a purpose for that provision, and He gives us power so that we may fulfill the purpose of that provision that God has given.
- b) There is a diversity of gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit.
- i) God wants unity in diversity.
 - ii) As members of the body of Christ, we have different functions and capacities, but it is the same Spirit.
 - (1) The power source is the same - the Holy Spirit.
- c) There is unity in diversity.
- i) Diversity in the church is not bad, but good.
 - (1) Division is bad.
 - ii) Unity is not unison.
 - (1) God does not want us all to be alike.

- (a) He makes us different.
 - iii) Unity is not uniformity - everyone doing the same thing.
 - (1) Uniformity comes from pressure from without.
 - (2) Unity comes from life from within.
 - iv) Unity is not union.
 - (1) Members of the same church may be in union but not necessarily in unity.
 - v) It must be unity of the Spirit.
- 5) THE DESIGN OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- a) Spiritual gifts are not selfish gifts.
 - i) They are to profit the entire body of Christ.
 - b) Spiritual gifts are not for our enjoyment but for our employment.
 - i) Your spiritual gift is a tool, not a toy.
 - ii) God gives us spiritual gifts so that we might do a job in the church of the Lord Jesus.
 - c) Spiritual gifts are designed so that we might be a blessing to the body of Christ.
 - i) We are to be a blessing in our local church and, therefore, make the church a blessing to the local community and the community a blessing to the world.
- 6) THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)
- a) The gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit.
 - i) He chooses the gift.
 - ii) You receive your gift when you receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - b) All we need to do is to discover the gift and develop the gift that God has already given us.
 - c) 1 Peter 4:10
 - i) When the Holy Spirit comes to reside within us and to place us into the body of Christ, He does not come empty-handed; He comes with a gift.
 - ii) Every believer receives a gift.
 - d) Here are some spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes:
 - i) Wisdom
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - (2) Wisdom is not just being smart or having worldly wisdom.
 - (3) It is not common sense.
 - (4) It is uncommon sense.
 - (5) Those who have the gift of wisdom make good counselors.
 - ii) Knowledge
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - (2) In the Greek language, it is "a word of knowledge."
 - (3) This is the ability to know things that one could not know, other than by divine intuition or revelation.
 - (4) This is not something that is learned from school.
 - (5) This is God giving insight.
 - (6) The devil counterfeits this gift (as he does of all spiritual gifts).
 - (a) The counterfeit of this gift is clairvoyancy.

- (7) Acts 5:4
 - (a) Simon Peter had a word of knowledge regarding Ananias and Sapphira.
- iii) Faith
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - (2) This is not natural faith or even supernatural faith that all of us have.
 - (a) Romans 12:3
 - (3) This gift is a super-abundant faith.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 13:2
 - (b) This is mountain-moving faith.
- iv) Healing
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - (2) God heals by miracle and by medicine.
 - (3) God heals instantaneously, and He heals in time.
 - (4) God also heals by doctors.
 - (a) Matthew 9:12
 - (5) The apostles had the gift of healing.
 - (6) Isaiah 53:5
 - (a) When Jesus died on the cross, He not only took our sins but our sicknesses, too.
 - (b) But we are waiting for the redemption of the body.
 - (c) Romans 8
 - (7) God does heal today in answer to prayer and in many ways.
- v) Miracles
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (2) These miracles normally came in clusters in the Bible.
 - (a) Miracles around creation.
 - (b) Miracles around the ministry of Moses.
 - (c) Miracles around the ministry of Elijah and Elisha.
 - (d) Miracles with Jesus and the apostles.
 - (3) The gift of miracles is not necessarily a good tool for bringing the lost to Christ.
 - (a) Jesus had to rebuke the miracle mongers of His day for following Him for what He did instead of who He was.
 - (b) John 10:41-42
 - (i) John the Baptist performed no miracles.
 - (ii) It was the Jesus that John preached that made the difference.
 - (iii) The lasting miracle is the new birth – the greatest miracle of all.
- vi) Prophecy
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (2) Prophecy is the ability to speak for God.
 - (3) It is not merely foretelling, though, some of that is included.
 - (4) Prophecy is forth-telling; it is speaking the Word of God.
 - (5) In 1 Corinthians 14, the apostle Paul states that this is a gift greatly to be desired among the church.

- (a) There are some today who claim to have the office of a prophet, but the office of a prophet is no longer; though there is the gift of prophecy.
- (b) The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the Bible prophets. And the foundation is complete.
- (6) 1 Corinthians 14:3
 - (a) The gift of prophecy is to edify, which is to build up.
 - (b) To exhort is to fire up.
 - (c) To comfort is to shore up and to hold up.
- vii) Discerning of spirits
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (2) Not everything that is spiritual is of God.
 - (a) Spiritual wickedness exists, and demons are masters of deception.
 - (3) This gift is greatly needed in the church today to discern the spirits.
 - (a) The enemy has come with much counterfeit.
 - (4) Matthew 7:1
 - (a) This gift is not the ability to judge who is saved and who is lost.
- viii) Tongues
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (2) A gift of tongues is not primarily a prayer language that you don't understand.
 - (3) Speaking in tongues, or in other languages, is not a sign that you are Spirit-filled.
 - (a) The Corinthian church was Paul's most carnal church, and they practiced the gift of tongues.
 - (4) Tongues is not a sign that you are saved.
 - (5) Tongues is not a sign to the saved but to the unsaved.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 14:22
 - (6) The gift of tongues is the ability to speak in a language you have never learned; not an unknown language, but a known language (unknown to you but not unknown to others).
 - (a) Acts 2:8
 - (b) The gift of tongues is the ability to praise God in a language you have never learned as a sign to unbelievers.
 - (7) The sign that you are Spirit-filled is not the ability to speak in a language you have never learned, but the ability to control the one tongue you do have.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 13:1
 - (b) The fruit of the Spirit is love.
- ix) Interpretation of tongues
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (2) Spiritual gifts are given to profit the entire body.
 - (a) When someone is speaking in tongues, an interpreter is needed so that everyone understands.
 - (3) There are two heresies concerning tongues:
 - (a) One is to say that you must speak in tongues.
 - (b) The other is to say that you must not speak in tongues.

- (4) God is God, and He can choose to use the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues if He chooses.
- e) Romans 12
 - i) Other gifts include the following:
 - (1) Ministry
 - (2) Teaching
 - (3) Exhortation
 - (4) Giving
 - (5) Ruling
 - (6) Mercy
- 7) THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:12)
 - a) God brings us together as a body.
 - i) We all have different gifts, yet those gifts are to be put to work in the body of Christ.
 - b) We can discover our spiritual gifting in the context of the body of Christ.
- 8) CONCLUSION
 - a) You are a gifted child. God has given you a spiritual gift.
 - b) The only way to discover your gift is to have it, and the only way you can have your gift is to be saved; and the only way to be saved is to put your faith in Jesus Christ.
 - 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