SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Discover Your Spiritual Gift

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 12:1-8

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2203

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) Romans 12:6
      i) Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.
      ii) We each have different gifts.
      iii) No one has all of the gifts.
      iv) God has wrapped these gifts within us, and we need to unwrap our spiritual gifts.
   b) A spiritual gift is not a natural talent.
      i) A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability.
         (1) It may be married to a natural talent, but it goes beyond natural talents.
      ii) A spiritual gift is a grace gift.
         (1) The Greek word for grace is “charis.”
         (2) Spiritual gifts are also known as charismatic gifts.
   c) We are gifted because God has gifted us.
      i) We should not put on false humility and claim we do not have a gift.
      ii) God has gifted each of us.
   d) At the judgment, we will each give an account of what we did with our spiritual gift; our stewardship of that gift.
      i) It is vital that we discover our gift and learn what that gift is.
   e) Romans 12 will help us learn how to unwrap our spiritual gift.

2) A SACRIFICIAL PRESENTATION (Romans 12:1)
   a) Romans 12:1
      i) The apostle Paul is writing by divine inspiration.
         (1) To “beseech” someone mean to plead with that person.
            (a) Since Paul is writing for God Himself, it is almost as if God is pleading with us.
      ii) Consecration is not giving to God anything; it is taking our hands off of that which already belongs to God.
         (1) By His mercy, God sought and saved us; we are bought with His blood.
         (2) We are not our own; we are bought with a price and are to be a living sacrifice.
   b) What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
      i) It is different than any animal sacrifice in the Old Testament.
         (1) No animal sacrifice ever volunteered.
         (2) We are to volunteer; we present ourselves.
            (a) We are to present all that we are and all that we hope to be to God: all of our hopes, plans, goals, possessions.
            (b) In modern-day America, we want to take our Christianity and tack it on to our regular life.
      ii) A sacrifice in the Old Testament was slain; therefore, it had no plans of its own.
         (1) Since it was a bloody sacrifice, it had a tendency to slip off the altar.
         (2) Two flesh hooks would be used to hold the sacrifice on the altar.
      iii) There are two hooks that will hold us on the altar when we tend to slide off:
         (1) Discipline
         (2) Devotion
iv) A sacrifice in the Old Testament was burned; it was consumed.
   (1) We can never truly worship God until we are consumed with the holy fire of God.

c) Many Christians are afraid of what God might ask them to do if they fully present themselves to Him as a living sacrifice.
   i) God loves us; there is no reason to fear.

3) A SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION (Romans 12:2)
   a) The word “transformation” in the Greek is related to the word “metamorphosis.”
      i) The word “metamorphosis” means a change of form.
      ii) When we present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, we will go through a metamorphosis.
         (1) Our inner nature will come to the surface.
      iii) This word was used when Jesus was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration.
         (1) Matthew 17:1-5
            (a) The inner nature of Jesus is glory.
   b) When we are saved in Jesus Christ, our inner nature is Jesus.
      i) When we present ourselves a living sacrifice to Him, a spiritual transformation takes place where the Jesus hidden in us becomes the Jesus revealed in us.
      ii) This divine change gives us the mind of Christ.
         (1) We are renewed in the spirit of our minds.
         (2) We will never really understand our spiritual gift without the renewing of our minds.
   c) Unless we present ourselves a living sacrifice to God, our minds will not be renewed and we will not know our spiritual gift.
      i) We should never be afraid of the will of God.
         (1) It is the highest, happiest and holiest place for us.

4) A SOBER CONSIDERATION (Romans 12:3)
   a) The word “think” is used three times in Romans 12:3.
      i) We are to “think” with a renewed mind.
   b) How are we to think of ourselves?
      i) We are not to think more highly than we ought; we are not to assume that we have a gift that we don’t have.
         (1) This is false, or sinful, exaggeration.
      ii) We are not to think in false humiliation.
         (1) We are to think soberly.
            (a) The word “soberly” comes from two Greek words meaning “to save” and “the mind.”
               (i) I am what I am by the grace of God.
            (2) We are not to say that we don’t have a gift.
            (3) False humiliation is just as bad as sinful exaggeration.
               (a) Saying that we have a gift is not pride.
               (b) Denying we have a gift is unbelief and rebellion.
            (4) To think soberly is to think honestly.
iii) We are to think in sober estimation.

c) Below are some principles to help us take inventory of ourselves in sober estimation:
   i) The principle of enlightenment.
      (1) The Holy Spirit of God within us will enlighten our minds.
      (2) The Holy Spirit will speak to our hearts.

   ii) The principle of enjoyment.
      (1) When we obey the Holy Spirit’s prompting, we enjoy it.
      (2) We need to be careful in our churches to place people in areas of service that God has equipped them and gifted them to do.
         (a) We have a tendency, instead, to try to tone people down in an area where they’re strong and to try to strengthen them in areas where they’re not gifted at all.
      (3) God has given each of us a particular gift, and we will find enlightenment and enjoyment in this gift.

   iii) The principle of encouragement.
      (1) Other people will encourage you in your gift because they are being blessed by it.

   iv) The principle of enablement.
      (1) God will enable us to do what He has gifted us and called us to do.
      (2) 1 Timothy 1:12
         (a) The apostle Paul knew that he could not do what he did in the ministry without the enablement.

5) A SHARED PARTICIPATION (Romans 12:4-5)
   a) When we present ourselves to the Lord Jesus, we are also presenting ourselves to one another.
      i) The church is His body.
         (1) The church is not an organization with Jesus Christ as the president.
         (2) The church is a body with Jesus Christ as the head, and we are members in that body.
            (a) It is arrogance, pride and conceit that divide us.
            (b) It is the Holy Spirit that unites us.

   b) Not everyone’s gift is as obvious as another’s gift.
      i) Each gift, though, is given to perfect the body of Christ.
      ii) If we do not fulfill the purpose God has for us within the body of Christ, then we are harmful and hurtful to the body.

   c) Each member of the church is active.
      i) Some members are tearing down while others are building up.

   d) No one has all of the gifts; everyone has at least one of the gifts, and we are dependent upon one another.
      i) God made us different that He might make us one.

6) A SPECIFIC ACTIVATION (Romans 12:6-8)
   a) We will find our gift as we get busy within the body.
b) Romans 12:6
   i) God has dealt to everyone a measure of faith.
   ii) We need to take the faith we have and the gift we have and put them to work.

c) Romans 12:6-8 lists seven spiritual gifts.
   i) The gift of prophecy
      (1) Romans 12:6
         (2) Prophecy is declaring truth.
         (3) Those with the gift of prophecy will likely find themselves involved in mission work or teaching a class.
         (4) Those with the gift of prophecy will have a desire to be persuasive and move people to action.
   ii) The gift of ministry
      (1) Romans 12:7
      (2) Ministry is another word for service.
      (3) Those with this gift will find themselves meeting spiritual needs in practical ways.
         (a) Activities programs at church
         (b) Those who are ushers at church
         (c) Nursery workers
   iii) The gift of teaching
      (1) Romans 12:7
      (2) Those with the gift of teaching desire to clarify truth.
         (a) To search out and validate truth that’s been presented.
      (3) Those with this gift will have a questioning mind.
      (4) Those with this gift will likely find themselves involved in Sunday school, backyard Bible clubs, neighborhood Bible studies, etc.
   iv) The gift of exhortation
      (1) Romans 12:8
      (2) Exhortation is the desire to stimulate people in their faith; to exhort them to love Jesus better.
      (3) Those with this gift enjoy personal counseling.
      (4) Those with this gift may be involved in music ministry, visitation, soul winning, etc.
      (5) This is the ministry of encouragement.
   v) The gift of giving
      (1) Romans 12:8
      (2) We are all commanded to give, but there is also the gift of giving.
      (3) The gift of giving means that you’re motivated to entrust personal assets to others so that the work of God may be carried on.
      (4) The one with this gift makes good decisions to meet immediate needs.
         (a) This person is willing to give and has the ability to accumulate and disperse assets.
   vi) The gift of ruling
      (1) Romans 12:8
(2) The gift of ruling is not playing the role of a “big shot,” but is the motivation to coordinate things and help others see the big vision and to move them toward that vision.
   (a) To coordinate the activities of others for a common goal for the glory of God.
   (b) The gift to lead.
(3) The one with this gift also has the gift of vision; he sees where the group ought to go and begins to lead and motivate people in that direction.
   vii) The gift of mercy
      (1) Romans 12:8
         (2) The gift of mercy identifies with people and comforts those who are in distress.
         (3) The person with this gift will feel empathy and sympathy for the misfortune and heartaches of others.
            (a) This individual will be able to relate to those needs mentally, emotionally and practically.
            (4) The person with this gift may find themselves involved in hospital visitation, benevolence and counseling.

7) A SETTLED CONFIRMATION (Romans 12:2)
   a) After we discover our gift and get busy and put it to work, then we will prove what is that good, perfect and acceptable will of God.
      i) We will have the confirmation in our hearts.
   b) When we have that confirmation:
      i) We accept ourselves.
      ii) We begin to be ourselves.
      iii) We begin to give ourselves.
   c) We are then blessed, God is glorified and the church is strengthened.

8) CONCLUSION
   a) The first step in discovering your spiritual gift is to present yourself to God a living sacrifice.
   b) But you must first present yourself to Him as a sinner needing to be saved.
   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