

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Ministry

SERMON REFERENCE: Ephesians 4:7

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) When the Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven, He left us an incredible giftedness.
 - i) It may be that you have not yet discovered what you have in the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) Could it be that you have left your spiritual gift under the tree, unwrapped and unopened and, therefore, unappreciated?
- b) When God saved you by His grace, He did not save you to sit, soak and sour.
 - i) God saved you to serve.
- c) We are saved by grace, and we serve by grace.
 - i) As a child of God, you are a gifted child.
- d) Ephesians 4:7
 - i) The word “everyone” refers to every child of God.
 - (1) God has given to you a spiritual gift.
 - ii) The Greek word for “grace” is the word from which we get our word “charismatic”.
 - (1) You have a charismatic gift.
 - (2) “Charismatic” means “a person who has been gifted by grace.”
- e) Today’s message will focus on how we can discover, develop and deploy our spiritual gifts and minister in the body of Christ.

2) THE GIFTS DELIVERED (EPHESIANS 4:7)

- a) Ephesians 4:7
- b) God has given us a grace gift, so we shouldn’t insult God by saying that He cannot use us.
 - i) In the church, there can be no inferiority or superiority.
 - ii) We are what we are by the gift of God.
- c) A charismatic gift (a grace gift) is a God-given gift for service and ministry; a God-given spiritual ability for service and ministry.
 - i) It goes beyond natural talent.
 - (1) Talent is natural.
 - (2) Spiritual gifts are supernatural.
 - (a) They are supernatural in source.
 - (b) They are supernatural in nature.
 - (c) They are supernatural in purpose.
 - ii) You do not choose your spiritual gift any more than you can choose your natural gifts.
 - (1) You get your natural talents genetically by your first birth.
 - (2) Your spiritual gift is given to you at your new birth.
- d) Your spiritual gift is the gift of your ascended Lord.
 - i) Ephesians 4:8-10
 - (1) The Lord Jesus descended to this Earth, lived a perfect life, suffered, bled and died upon the cross.
 - (2) He was buried and rose again.

- (3) When Jesus Christ died upon the cross for us and purchased our salvation with His blood, at the same time He defeated Satan.
 - (a) Satan's kingdom was crushed by Calvary.
 - (b) By His death, burial, resurrection and ascension, the Lord Jesus led captivity captive.
 - (i) Satan had taken the world captive, but Jesus took Satan captive.
 - (4) In this passage, the Apostle Paul is speaking of a Roman Triumph.
 - (a) When a Roman general would return to Rome after winning a battle, the city would have a parade called "The Triumph."
 - (b) The Roman general would be riding upon his white horse.
 - (c) Following behind the Roman general would be the conquered kings and generals.
 - (i) They would have been stripped naked and chained to the conquering general's chariot wheels.
 - (d) The people would be praising the conquering general and mocking those who were stripped, shamed and subdued.
 - (e) Behind all of them would come the servants, bearing all of the spoils of the battle and the riches that had been conquered.
 - (i) The spoils were brought back to Rome to be given to the people of Rome.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus ascended up on high.
 - iii) Satan's kingdom is ruined.
 - iv) The spoils of the battle are given to us.
 - (1) That is our grace gift to serve our great King.
 - (a) It is a spiritual gift from our conqueror, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3) THE GIFTS DESCRIBED (1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-10, ROMANS 12:6-8)
- a) 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
 - i) It is the Holy Spirit who gives different gifts to the church.
 - ii) God has given you a spiritual gift, not for your enjoyment but for your employment.
 - (1) Your spiritual gift is to bless the church, not to bless you.
 - b) The gift of wisdom
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - ii) Wisdom is supernatural insight into the mind of God.
 - iii) This is not common sense; it is uncommon sense.
 - iv) People who have a word of wisdom make wonderful counselors.
 - c) The gift of knowledge
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - ii) This differs from wisdom in that it is the supernatural ability to know and apply the things of God.
 - iii) Knowledge puts wisdom into practical use.
 - iv) Some have the gifts of wisdom and knowledge combined, and they make wonderful leaders and counselors.

- d) The gift of faith
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - ii) All believers have faith.
 - (1) We cannot be saved without faith.
 - iii) Some people, though, have a supernatural gift of faith.
 - (1) It is mountain-moving faith.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 13:2
 - (2) These are visionaries and pioneers.
 - (a) They are able to think big and to believe God for the big things.
- e) The gifts of healing
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - (1) In the Greek, it is literally plural, “gifts of healings.”
 - ii) There are healings for the body, soul and mind.
 - (1) Physical healing, psychological healing, and spiritual healing.
- f) The working of miracles
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) The age of miracles is not past.
 - iii) There are individuals who have the power to work miracles.
 - (1) We must also remember, however, that Satan has miraculous power, so we need to be careful.
 - (2) The gifts of healing generally came in clusters in the Bible.
 - (a) They were not normal in everyday Bible life.
 - (i) But we cannot deny that God is a God of might and miracle.
- g) The gift of prophecy
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) The word “prophecy” means “the ability to foretell and forth tell.”
 - (1) Primarily not to foretell the future, but to tell forth the will of God in a particular matter.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 14:3
 - (1) Edification means to build people up.
 - (2) Exhortation means to encourage, to exhort and to cheer.
 - (3) Comfort means to hold up and to shore up people.
 - iv) A prophet is someone who builds up and shores up the people of God.
 - v) Every church ought to pray that God will give prophets to the church; spokesmen who can speak God’s Word.
- h) The gift of discerning of spirits
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) 1 John 4:1
 - iii) There is much spiritual wickedness, as well as spiritual righteousness, in the world today.
 - (1) We need the Holy Spirit to be able to discern the spirits.
- i) The gift of tongues
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (1) The word “tongues” here means “languages.”

- ii) This is the ability to praise God in a language that you have never learned in school.
- iii) Tongues are not a sign to God's people but to unbelievers.
- iv) Tongues are not primarily a private prayer language, but they are a tool for witnessing, primarily, to unsaved Jews.
- v) If God gives someone the gift of tongues, then He also gives someone else the gift of interpretation so that all can understand what is being said.
- j) The gift of interpretation
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) When someone is praising God in a language they have never learned, then there must be someone present with the gift of interpretation in order to interpret what is being said to everyone else present.
 - (1) For instance, if an English-speaking minister is talking to an audience of English speaking and Russian speaking attendants and the minister begins praising God in Russian (though he has never learned Russian), the unsaved Russians (specifically those who are Jewish) in attendance will see the power of God.
 - (2) A person with the gift of interpretation will interpret in English what is being said so that nobody is in the dark.
 - (3) 1 Corinthians 12:7
 - iii) No one is to come into a service and not understand what is being said.
 - (1) Everyone is to understand the Word of God.
- k) The gift of ministry
 - i) Romans 12:6-7
 - ii) Ministry is acts of service.
 - (1) This includes general church work.
 - (a) Church ushers, secretaries, those who work in the nursery, etc.
 - (i) Matthew 10:42
- l) The gift of teaching
 - i) Romans 12:7
 - ii) Those who have been taught, anointed and gifted of God to teach the Bible have the spiritual gift of teaching.
 - iii) Those with the gift of teaching may not necessarily teach in a class.
 - (1) They may be parents who are anointed by God supernaturally to teach their children.
- m) The gift of exhortation
 - i) Romans 12:8
 - ii) Musicians who not only have vocal ability but also the ability to move the hearts of others often have the gift of exhortation.
 - iii) People who go out on visitations and who give counseling that encourages others often have this gift.
 - iv) Those with this gift have the ability to cheer people on.
- n) The gift of giving
 - i) Romans 12:8

- ii) This is the supernatural ability to make and to give money sacrificially and wisely.
 - o) The gift of ruling
 - i) Romans 12:8
 - ii) Those on a church staff or who head committees or who are in a place of leadership may have the gift of ruling.
 - p) The gift of mercy
 - i) Romans 12:8
 - ii) Those with the gift of mercy are the ones who do hospital visitations, work in benevolence, and who counsel others.

- 4) THE GIFTS DEVELOPED (EPHESIANS 4:11-12)
 - a) Ephesians 4:11-12
 - i) Edifying is the building up, the developing of the body of Christ.
 - b) Not only does God give to each of us spiritual gifts, but He also gives to the church spiritual leaders.
 - i) Apostles and prophets
 - (1) Ephesians 4:11
 - (2) There were twelve apostles and the prophets who wrote the Old Testament.
 - (a) The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.
 - (b) Ephesians 2:20
 - (3) We don't have apostles and prophets today, but pastors and ministers can preach with the authority of a prophet and apostle if they preach what the apostles and prophets preached.
 - ii) Evangelists
 - (1) Ephesians 4:11
 - (2) These are the soul winners who bring people into the body to help the body to grow.
 - iii) Pastors and teachers
 - (1) Ephesians 4:11
 - (a) This is not pastors and then teachers, but pastor/teacher.
 - (i) It is grouped together in the Greek language.
 - (2) The job of a pastor/teacher is to guide and feed the flock.
 - (3) God gives the church a pastor/teacher, not to do the work of the ministry, but to help the people to do the work of the ministry.
 - (a) Ephesians 4:11-12
 - (b) The job of the pastor/teacher is to help us to be mature so that we can find our spiritual gift and put that spiritual gift to work.
 - c) God has a ministry for each of us.
 - i) He has a job for you.
 - ii) We are to serve the Lord Jesus in our churches.
 - iii) We have been called into the ministry.

- iv) 1 Corinthians 12:18
- d) Here are five principles to help you know your spiritual gift:
 - i) The principle of desire
 - (1) What do you enjoy doing?
 - (2) What do you do naturally?
 - (3) What do you feel that you do well?
 - ii) The principle of discovery
 - (1) You will discover your gift as you endeavor to do it.
 - (2) You may hear others compliment you in that area.
 - iii) The principle of development
 - (1) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - (2) You have to develop your spiritual gift; study and work.
 - iv) The principle of dependence
 - (1) Your spiritual gift must operate in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - (2) Your gifts are supernatural, and they operate with supernatural power.
 - (3) Depend upon the Holy Spirit of God.
 - v) The principle of deployment
 - (1) Put it to work.
 - (a) Go to work with other saints.
 - (2) You understand your gift in the body of Christ, in the church.
 - (3) It is in the fellowship of the church that you will discover your place in the body.

5) THE GIFTS DISPLAYED (EPHESIANS 4:13)

- a) Ephesians 4:13
 - i) God has given us gifts.
 - ii) When these gifts work together, then the body matures and becomes like its head, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) We are to be mature.
 - iii) The word “perfect” in this verse means “mature.”
- b) There are certain ways in which we are going to be mature:
 - i) Mature in stature
 - (1) Ephesians 4:13
 - (2) This means that we will be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (3) When the gifts are working in a church, then the church becomes like the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) When the gifts are operating, we become more and more like the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) Mature in stability
 - (1) Ephesians 4:14
 - (a) False cults corrupt and deceive people who are immature, who do not have the measure of the stature of Christ.
 - (b) People who are immature get blown about by every wind of doctrine.

- (2) When the body is healthy and the gifts are operating, we become mature in stature and in stability.
 - (a) We are not blown about by every wind of doctrine.
- iii) Mature in speech
 - (1) Ephesians 4:15
 - (2) We are to speak the truth in love.
 - (a) To speak the truth without love is brutality.
 - (b) To speak in love without truth is hypocrisy.
 - (c) Immature people cannot blend the two.
 - (i) Truthless love and loveless truth are signs of immature people.
- iv) Mature in service
 - (1) Ephesians 4:16
 - (a) This speaks of flexible harmony.
 - (2) A physical body is connected by joints and works together because of the joints.
 - (a) It works the same in the spiritual body.
 - (i) Every member has a ministry, and we're held together by all of these joints.
 - (b) Rather than having flexibility, an unhealthy body gets rigid and firm.
 - (c) In a healthy body, all of the joints work together in harmony.
 - (i) The Greek word for "joint" is the word from which we get our word "harmony."
 - (3) When we love one another, then we don't inflame one another; hence, we don't get stiff and rigid.
 - (4) We serve one another, and the body works together.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) If you are part of the body of Christ, then you are a gifted child.
 - i) Find out what God wants you to do and get busy doing it.
 - ii) When you serve the Lord, it brings joy.
- b) You must be saved by grace before you can serve by grace.
 - i) You need to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- c) If you've never truly been saved, you can be today.
- d) Pray to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to come into your life.
- e) 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
 - v) John 3:16