

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

## Why People React The Way They Do

### Article # 2

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3).*

### Equipped For The Responsibility

In a previous article, we were looking at the seven gifts that are mentioned in Romans chapter twelve that the Bible says the Lord has given to Christians to equip them for service. “Equipping” is simply supplying what is necessary to get the job done.

In Paul’s letter to the Believers at Rome, he said, **Romans 1:11,**

*“For I long to see you, that I may impart”—make known—“unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.”*

Paul wanted the Christians at Rome to be established in these gifts so they would know what they are and how to use them. Spiritual gifts are there to equip us for our service in the work of the Lord. To serve the Lord is a duty, but it's also a privilege. Sometimes we think we're doing God a favor if we do something for Him. No, it's a privilege to be allowed to serve Him.

**Romans 12:1-3,**

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye*

*may prove (Translated “discern” 2x) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

### “Given Unto Me”

We are going to come back to these verses a bit later; however, we should notice here that in verse three Paul referred to “the grace given” to him. The word "grace" is in the Bible twenty-three times, and focuses on a person’s desire and ability to do God's will.

And James 4:2, we read, “Ye have not, because ye ask not.” If we would like to have this grace, the Bible says we need only to ask for it.

### “If Any Man Be Ignorant, Let Him Be Ignorant”

**First Corinthians 12:1,**

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”*

The very worldly Christians at Corinth were thinking they were filled with the Spirit because they were speaking in tongues. Paul wrote three chapters to attempt to straighten them out and ends the discussion with “But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant” (Chapter 14:38). In the original Greek, those three chapters are all one paragraph.

**“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).**

## The Seven Gifts

### Romans 12: 6-8,

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, **(Gift #1)**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, **(Gift #2)**, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, **(Gift #3)**, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, **(Gift #4)**, on exhortation: he that giveth, **(Gift #5)**, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, **(Gift #6)**, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, **(Gift #7)**, with cheerfulness.

## Corresponding Verses

### Romans 12: 9-15,

**V.9 (Gift #1)**, Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

**V.10 (Gift #2)**, Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

**V.11 (Gift #3)**, Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

**V.12 (Gift #4)**, Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

**V.13 (Gift #5)**, Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

**V.14 (Gift #6)**, Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

**V.15 (Gift #7)**, Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

## Determining Our Gift

The gift is God's qualification for service. In the business world, if we were going to work in a department store we would need to have some qualifications. If we were going to work as a mechanic in an automotive center, we would need to have some qualifications.

The church is far more important than any of those kinds of businesses, and for us to be able to serve the Lord, there are some qualifications.

## Qualifications For Service

### Romans 12:1,2,

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

## “By The Mercy of God”

The fact that we get to serve God is by the mercy of God. Some professed Christians might ask, “Do I have to serve God?” No, we don't have to, we get to. For you and me to put this into perspective, it would be like us if we were going to open up a factory, and we go outside, lift up a rock, find a dirty bug underneath that rock, and say, “I'd like to put you in as the manager of this particular department in my business.”

That's what it's like for God to consider any of us for His service. We are despicable sinners that sent His Son to the cross, and if we get to serve Him, it is because of the mercy of God.

## “Present Your Bodies”

### Romans 12:1,

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice...”

In Romans chapter six, Paul gave the Christians at Rome a formula for presenting their bodies a living sacrifice.

### Romans 6:12-14,

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

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**“Simply A Choice”**

We will yield the members of our body for the service of the Lord or we will not. It is simply a choice. We will automatically yield our members as “instruments of unrighteousness” if we do not “yield” ourselves unto God. If we yield ourselves unto God, “sin shall not have dominion” over us (Verse 14). Our “selves” here refers to our mind, will, and emotions.

**“Reasonable Service”**

**Romans 12:2,**

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

“Conformed to the world” means to comply with the standards of the world, or to go along with what is sociably acceptable. When God refers to “the world,” He is referring to the world system.

**“Present Your Bodies”**

Presenting our bodies to the Lord will determine how we dress it, where we take it, what we put in it, what we listen to, and what comes out of our mouth. This is all determined as a result of our “renewing” of the mind.

**“Renewing of The Mind”**

How to renew the mind is to wash the Scriptures through the mind. Ephesians 5:26, refers to “washing...by the Word.” As we read the Word it cleans out the mind if we allow the Holy Spirit to direct us as we read the Word.

**That We May Discern The Will of God**

If we are not willing to make these verses a reality in our lives, we might as well forget it, because we are not going to be able to learn what our gift is and how to use it.

In fact, we can’t even qualify to use our gift unless we are going to follow the instructions that are here. These are the basic qualifications for serving the Lord.

**A “Holy” Living Sacrifice**

What does “holy” mean? In First Peter 1:16, God commands the Christian to, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” Is that possible? Yes it is, or He would not command it. The word “holy” here means simply to be separated.

The Lord is saying here that we are to determine to be separate from the things He is separate from, and then we will be qualified for service in the work of the Lord.

We never really find real happiness until we find the purpose for which we are in this world and then we fulfill that purpose. Paul’s desire for Christians was...

**Romans 1:11,**

*“For I long to see you, that I may impart”—or make known—“unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.”*

**“Written For Our Admonition”**

**First Corinthians 10:11,**

*“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”*

**We have no choice but to choose!**

**Joshua 24:15,**

*“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve”.*



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# Romans 12:6,

**“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...”**



Prophet

Servant

Teacher

Exhorter

Giver

Ruler

Mercy

The Gifts	Corresponding Verses
<p><b>Verse 6,</b> “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether <b>prophecy</b>, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.”</p>	<p><b>Verse 9,</b> “ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”</p>
<p><b>Verse 7,</b> “Or <b>ministry</b>, (Servant) let us wait on our ministering.”</p>	<p><b>Verse 10,</b> “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”</p>
<p><b>Verse 7,</b> “Or he that <b>teacheth</b>, on teaching.</p>	<p><b>Verse 11,</b> “Not slothful in business; (Diligence 5x) fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”</p>
<p><b>Verse 8,</b> “Or he that <b>exhorteth</b>, on exhortation.”</p>	<p><b>Verse 12,</b> “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.”</p>
<p><b>Verse 8,</b> “he that <b>giveth</b>, let him do it with simplicity.”</p>	<p><b>Verse 13,</b> “Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”</p>
<p><b>Verse 8,</b> “He that ruleth, (Administrator) with diligence.”</p>	<p><b>Verse 14,</b> “Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.”</p>
<p><b>Verse 8,</b> “He that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”</p>	<p><b>Verse 9,</b> “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”</p>