

November 1, 2009
“God’s Gifts”, *Daily Disciple*, page 314



Psalm 64:9

Then everyone will fear;
They will tell what God has brought about,
And ponder what He has done.

MEDITATION

“It was through this variety of gifts that the unity of the body is conserved. As the diverse functions of the several members of the human body, all cooperating together, are necessary to the welfare of the body, so the variety of gifts possessed by different members in the body of Christ, is essential to the growth and unity of that body.” (J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 152)

SCRIPTURE

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second, prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.”

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

PRAYER

Lord, I praise you for the gifts you have given your body. May I use the gifts you have given me to bless others.

Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. Read Psalm 64. What would you say is the theme of this Psalm?
2. Think now about ways in which the Psalm verse of our study (64:9) ties in with our study of God's gifts.
3. The first phrase of this verse is: "Then everyone will fear..." Realizing who God is and what he has done provides the basis for our fear and reverence of Him. Given this as the backdrop for our study, how would you say our fear and reverence of God impacts how we view our gifts?
4. The second phrase of this verse is: "They will tell us what God has brought about..." Using our gifts provides opportunities for us to share with others what God is doing. How can we tell others about what God is bringing about through the exercise of our gifts without it sounding like we are boasting or bragging?
5. The third phrase of Psalm 64:9 is: "And ponder what he has done." In our way of thinking and practicing our Christian faith we often do not allow for much pondering to take place. What should we ponder about and reflect on regarding how God is using our gifts and what he is doing?
6. In the Meditation by J.H. Garrison on the Holy Spirit, he highlights the purpose of gifts in the body of Christ.
 - a. How does the variety of gifts conserve the unity of the body of Christ?
 - b. Gifts are necessary for the welfare of the body. What does it mean for all members of that body to cooperate together for such welfare?
 - c. The variety of gifts possessed by all the members are for two purposes: growth and unity. How do you think gifts can contribute to growth? How do you think gifts can contribute to unity?
7. The text from 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 is a classic one when referring to gifts in the body of Christ.
 - a. Why is the church referred to as the "body of Christ?"
 - b. It is significant that Paul mentions that "God has appointed in the church" the various roles and their accompanying gifts in the church. Is it normal for us to think that God has appointed these roles and gifts? Or, do we typically think in terms of people just recognizing their gifts and then choosing to use them? Do you think it makes a difference in how we view this?
 - c. Sometimes when we read the list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 we try to spend a lot of time figuring out which ones were miraculous and which ones were not. Then we try to figure out which ones are applicable to today and which ones are not. This misses the point that Paul is addressing. The core problem was that individuals were using a hierarchy of gifts to prove their spirituality. Is there such a thing as some gifts being more important than others?
8. Do you know which gifts you possess?
9. What collective gifts does your small group possess?
10. Paul says strive for the greater gifts. And he is going to show a more excellent way. What is that?
11. How does love dictate how we use our gifts?
12. Can we use our gifts selfishly?
13. What ministries at Highland View need which gifts?
14. How can we encourage one another to use our gifts more for the health of the body of Christ?