

DISCUSSION IDEAS
A GIFTED FAMILY

Ephesians 4:1-16

February 5th, 2017

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: EVERY BELIEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN AT LEAST ONE GIFT.**

We have studied this before. Do you really believe that God has given YOU some special gift for service?

Before you answer this, look at what God's Word literally states in Ephesians 4:1-16.

Be discerning as you read this passage.

How does God want us to live and act, as described in verses 1-3?

What is the point of verses 7-8?

What specific gifted leadership persons were given to the church?

Discuss some of what these gifts brought to the Body of Christ.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT PURPOSE DOES GOD INTEND FOR APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, SHEPHERDS AND TEACHERS?**

SO: WHY did God give these folks to his church?

Look at verses 12, and then 13-16.

Who are the saints? Note that "saint" does not mean sinless! It means a consecrated person, set aside for a purpose.

Does this include you? Take a look at Eph. 2:10.

List what is stated to result from following this plan that God has.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE MAJORITY OF OUR TEAM SITS IN THE BLEACHERS?**

What kind of world would you and I experience if we obeyed His plan? Describe some of the stated effects in verses 12-16.

Do you want your world to be different?

What effect does it have on all of us if someone just "sits on their duff" and enjoys the ride?

What will be the difference if we humbly recognize that we can not accomplish anything without God's power in us?

Do you believe that God will give you the ability to use your gifts? Consider Phil. 2:13.

♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

Re-read and absorb Ephesians 4:1-16.

How does this apply to YOU?

Read through and think about 1 Corinthians chapters 12 through 14.

How does chapter 13 fit into this context?

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What is the meaning of "love", and how will it affect your life?
Ponder: just what is the value of a spiritual gift?
Did God really give you one (or more)?
How can you find out what your gift is?

CONSIDER:

EACH ONE OF US IS SPIRITUALLY GIFTED.

EACH ONE OF US NEEDS TO BE SERVING GOD IN SOME WAY.

THE RESULTS IF WE DO THIS?

GRACE CHURCH WILL BE THE LOVING, REDEMPTIVE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE WORLD.

OUR WORLD WILL GET TO SEE JESUS IN A WAY THAT COULD NOT HAPPEN OTHERWISE.

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Our Grace Church Elders: Pray for our elders as they seek how to do their part in God's plan.

Gettises: Pray for the Gettis family as they go about raising additional support.

Shelter Valley: Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Home Groups: Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pearsons: Continue to pray for John and Bobbie Pearson as John completes a living area for his 101 year old mother, and for their son, John Caleb, who is dealing with severe cancer and now on palliative care.

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Barangonan Island: Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as both Ingvoidstads and Binders prepare to move off the island. Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

"Continue to pray for them as there continues to be a solid group listening and interacting with God's Word. We often get to go, and its exciting to see `the body' in action.

"Not only are there teachers, but others go to support and engage this new group who is hearing. If you can believe it, there are even some who catch fish for the families who go so they won't miss a meal!

"Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear."

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

Persecuted Believers:

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

This week:

1. North Korean Defectors – to receive Bibles in their own dialect
2. Columbia – Paramilitary groups are taking control of villages, murders and people fleeing. Evangelists are still sharing the gospel.
3. India – Evangelist was distributing gospel tracts near a Hindu temple when locals accused him of attempting to convert people to Christianity. He was hospitalized with a brain hemorrhage after police interrogation. Currently there is no change in his condition.
4. Sudanese court handed down extended prison sentences for three men arrested in 2015. Petr Jasek was sentenced to life in prison (a life sentence is 20 years in Sudan) on convictions of spying and conducting NGO work without a permit, among other charges. The other two men, Hassan Abduraheem and Abdulmonem Abdumawla, both Sudanese, were sentenced to 12 years for helping Petr.