

The Book of Romans

SECTION SIX

Chapter's 12 Through 16

WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF OUR **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

In this final Section of Romans, we will see the following Truths:

Being a Christian Means Being a Servant
Servanthood is Not Easy
God Seeks to Mature the Christian; Not Just Bless Them
The Christian Life is Practical
Remember That You Are Not Alone

The Book of Romans

Chapter Twelve - Spiritual Gifts

I. Introduction - Greatest Book in the New Testament for the Christian!

This one Book in your Bible condenses down into 16 chapters the greatest themes of all humanity - the themes of understanding sin, God's judgment, justification by faith, sanctification (clean living), victory over sin, eternal security, and serving Christ!

II. Book Review So Far - *There are Six Sections (main subjects) in Romans*

A. SECTION ONE - **Sin** - Chapters 1 & 2

Chapter 1. **The Righteousness and Wrath of God** - Describes the condition of the human heart in very vivid terms - as depraved (ruined utterly in character or quality)!

Chapter 2. **The Sin of Self-Righteousness** - There are so many people who look at the list and find some way of excusing THEMSELVES, and looking down at OTHERS - "civilised" vs "heathen" and the lower classes

B. SECTION TWO - **Our Great Salvation** - Chapters 3-5 (*Justification*)

Chapter 3. The fact of There Being No Difference - No Excuses

Chapter 4. How To Become Strong in Faith

Chapter 5. The Benefits of Salvation

C. SECTION THREE - **The Christians' Sanctification** - Chapters 6-7

D. SECTION FOUR - **The Beliver's Security in Christ** - Chapter 8

E. SECTION FIVE of the Book of Romans - **The Special Place of Israel in God's overall plan.** This section explains a lot of the background to the history in the Middle East, and help us Gentiles understand the level of God's commitment to us! There are 3 chapters in this section (chapters 9, 10, 11).

Chapter 9. The Position of Israel - A special place of use

Chapter 10. The Need of Israel - to get the Gospel

Chapter 11. The Future of Israel - God's plan for them in the future

F. SECTION SIX - **The Christians' Service** - Chapters 12-16

Chapter 12. God's Gifts of provision - how He enables us to serve

III. Focus Verses: Romans 12:,12

IV. Lesson Outline - The Christian's Spiritual Gifts (Rom 12:1-21)

A. **Begin With A Gift ___ God - of Ourselves (12:1,2)**

1. Because of God's gift of mercy - salvation (Eph 2:8,9)
2. Dealing with the gift of our lives back to God - specifically, our bodies (1Cor 6:19,20). Our physical lives are not worthless when they are yielded to God. They can be used of God for His purpose.
3. Called here a _____
 - a. Like an Old Testament Sacrifice
 - b. A sacrifice costs us - not easy or free - sometimes costs us everything - Jesus said "take up your cross and follow me..."
 - c. Must be holy - clean; without spot or blemish
 - d. Must be given God's way - not a DIY situation
 - e. Christ is God's Sacrifice for our sin - the Lamb of God
 - f. Our lives are our sacrifice for God's glory
4. This is our "_____" service - only reasonable - not too much. Pretty good exchange value don't you think? Seems that we come out with the better deal! Don't be too cocky and hold out on God!
5. Accomplished by _____ to God's transformation of you (Rom 6:13)- a metamorphosis. Salvation is instant. But Spiritual growth takes time, and requires a process to take place (2Cor 5:17).
 - a. All religious and philosophies make salvation *a process*, but the Bible simply says get INTO Christ and it is finished!

- b. To grow, you must first **resist** conforming to the pull of the world so that you can respond to the pull of the word!
 - c. To be “conformed” to the world is to be shaped by its outside forces on you! Peer pressures; fads; cultural expectations.
 - d. To grow, your _____ must be renewed - renewing your decisions and commitments, and choices for God on a daily basis - you cannot “coast!”
 - 1) The mind is the source of the will - what you WANT
 - 2) The mind must daily be restored to focus on the Lord and on things that are important (Isa 26:3; 2Co 10:5)
 - 3) Every Christian must make the effort to “put on” Christ first in your mind, and then throughout your life (Eph 4:22-24). It takes work, and effort - *is not hypnotic!*
 - e. When our mind is renewed daily, God transforms our lives from the inside-out! You cannot be transformed from the outside-in (ie, baptism, laying on of hands, rituals). Only obedient surrender to God’s words, works.
 - f. Begin to prove what is God’s perfect will for your life - trying it out and “proving it” like you would go and prove a car’s worth before buying (Ps 34:8).
 - 1) Most “Christian” have a “say-it” faith but don't live it!
 - 2) True faith is LIVED, and PROVED, and ENJOYED!
 - 3) The most important thing for a Christian to do is to find what God wants them to do, and then to DO IT!
- B. A Christian’s Need for God’s Gifts - His Empowerment, Enablement to Serve (12:3-6) Remember - think seriously about the following:**
1. Even though a person is saved, they still are a *nobody* without Christ (Ps 39:5)
 2. Every gift that we have, was GIVEN to us (Cf Ps 100). Even our _____ came from God (Ro 12:3; John 1:9)
 3. Watch your attitude about yourself, and your “abilities” - don’t think more highly about yourself than is really true!
 4. Even as Christians, we are all different - not the same - we must not just “mimic” or imitate each other - we are to follow the Lord Jesus Christ as He directs our lives by His words!
 5. We are supposed to operate like a human body does - each with a different, and yet necessary function, working together as a unit
 6. God has given 24 GIFTS to enable the Christian to function - to not be a drain on the body, but a part of it, **and to serve in it!** The local visible body of Christ ought to be stronger because you have been placed in it, and equipped by special gifts to serve!
 7. The Greek word for GIFT is *Charisma* - Charismatic - gifted people. Yet, according to the Bible (12:3), all Christians are GIFTED in at least one of the following areas!
 8. There are false gifts (Pr 25:14). Be careful not to desire the wrong gifts. Most people do (1 Tim 6:10; Lk 12:15).
 9. There are four kinds of gifts from God
 - a. _____ **Gifts** - Gifts that authenticate God’s word and work to the Jews (Mk 16:15-20; 1Cor 1:22; 14:22). These include miracles, healing, tongues, drinking deadly things, etc. They were temporary because they were intended to get Jews saved.
 - b. _____ **Gifts** - Gifts that enable a Christian to do something for God. This includes preaching, teaching, serving tables, giving, comforting, etc. These are permanent.
 - c. _____ – Gifts of people in a church that make up the leadership of that church: Apostles, prophets, Evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 - d. _____ **Gifts** - Gifts that transform people’s lives. Permanent
 - 1) Jesus (John 3:16)
 - 2) Eternal Life (Rom 6:23) Salvation
 - 3) Suffering (Philp 1:29; 2Cor 12)
 10. This is like the three kinds of Laws in the Old Testament:

- a. **Ceremonial Laws** - very specific ceremonies explaining how a sinner could approach God by the sacrifice of a lamb. Done away with. It was only temporary (Gal 3:21)
 - b. **Civil Laws** - these are commandments that governments are supposed to abide by so that people are safe, and can trust the government - ie, laws against murder, homosexuality, theft, etc. These laws have not been done away with.
 - c. **Moral Laws** - absolute rules of right and wrong. Permanent.
- C. **The Gift List** (12:6-8) A Basic List (See also 1Cor 12 and Eph 4) dealing with Service Gifts - Gifts that help you SERVE GOD!
1. _____ - To declare God's words authoritatively (Mk 1:21,22).
 - a. Before the New Testament was completed, God used prophets to declare His words to people, and these prophets clearly foretold the future, and spoke God's word (Eph 4:11,12).
 - b. Since the completion of the New Testament, we simply declare God's word, with all its prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled. Modern prophets of God only declare prophecies contained in the Bible - they don't make up new ones (Rev 22:18,19): they simply preach "You are lost without Christ" "There is a heaven" "There is a hell" "Jesus is coming soon!"
 2. _____ - To minister, or serve. This is the work of the deacons of a church (deacon means *Servant*), who wash tables, and feed widows and orphans - they minister to physical and spiritual needs of the people in a church. They do it with joy!
 3. _____ - Instruct people in God's word so that they can grow, and become strong in their faith. Work along with the pastor
 4. _____ - These are spiritual coaches, who help people stay encouraged, and who live as examples to new Christians, and to discouraged Christians that God is still on His throne (Rom 8:28)!
 5. _____ - These people give over and above their tithe so that a church can reach out beyond just themselves, and take the Gospel to the farthest reaches of this planet!
 6. _____ - These people run the church. They govern it. They are the Evangelist (who starts the church), then the Pastor (who leads and directs the church), and Teachers (who help instruct the new Christians in the Bible). They make the leadership decisions
 7. _____ - These people comfort, and show mercy to Christians who are hurt, and confused, and need peace brought back into their broken life. They know all about how rotten someone is, but can overlook that and work with them to get them saved!
- D. Notice what is missing in the list:
1. _____ - the preaching of the Gospel in another language than what a person currently knows - *the gift of linguistics!* Mastering other known languages so you can preach the Gospel in them!
 - a. Given sometimes to allow the Gospel to be heard in another language (Acts 2)
 - b. Given to prove to unbelieving Jews that God was with the Apostles (Acts 2) just as He had been with the Old Testament Prophets - this gift was a fulfillment of prophecy (Joel 2).
 - c. Given to prove to Jewish Christians that Gentiles were being saved as well as them (Acts 10)!
 - d. Questions:
 - 1) If tongues is for today, why do Pentacostal missionaries learn a language when they go to another country?
 - 2) If tongues are for today, then prophecy is for today, and therefore the Bible is not completed! Is that possible?
 2. **Interpretation of Tongues** - God wanted the message being preached in the unknown tongue to be understood by everyone. The purpose of the speaking in tongues was to allow the Gospel to be preached to someone of another language. But the interpreter was able to translate the message supernaturally so all could hear!
 - a. If tongues are "heavenly languages" of angels, then there is NO verification process by which we may judge their reality!
 - b. This is a completely untrustworthy "gift" if it is only heavenly languages
 - c. If a speaker in tongues gives a prophetic revelation through and interpreter, then it is verifiable - but that is the only way it can be trusted!

3. **Healings** - the ability to miraculously heal and cure incurable diseases in every case (Mt 10:1). Every bible-believer believes in HEALING! We just waste no time on HEALERS!
 - a. Questions:
 - 1) If healers are for today, why don't people get cured of cancer and AIDS by the laying on of hands?
 - 2) Why do faith healers wear glasses?
 - 3) Why do they rely on the giving of people, and not on God for their needs (Mk 6:7,8)?
4. **Miracles** - any supernatural ability that God might need to show that God was behind New Testament Christianity before the Bible was completed.
5. Etc. Any other "showy" performance ability that promotes SELF and not God!
6. This is because those gifts were for the early Christians who were "CARNAL" (1Cor 3), and not mature! These are the LEAST of the gifts, and the Christian is to earnestly covet (desire) the BEST gifts, which definitely are NOT tongues (1Cor 12:31)!
7. And, this is because all the above are SIGN gifts that the Gentile Christians had for the reaching of the Jews!

E. **How to Use God's Gifts** (12:9-21; 1Pet 4:10) - _____

1. Some Preliminaries
 - a. Did you know there is more information given on HOW to use God's gifts, than about the gifts themselves!?
 - b. Did you know God is more interested in the Christian having the right attitude about God's gifts, instead of having the right gift!? God would rather people to be ignorant than selfish!
 - c. So, **Use** your service Gifts - don't hide them! Work them **out** of your beliefs, into your life itself (Phlp 2:12,13)!
 - d. Use God's gifts **for others** - none of the following items has any instruction on how to use any of God's gifts *on yourself!*
2. Some Practical Instructions on Gift Usage (12:9-21)
 - a. Use God's gifts **with true love** - show _____ (12:9)
 - 1) Why? For God, and for others, instead of just *for the gift*
 - 2) How? Without *dissimulation* - without partiality, bias. A servant serves - is not selective "whom" he or she serves.
 - b. Use God's Gifts **without any evil intention** (12:9, _____) - not for selfish gain - The Christian must "abhor" that which is evil about their use of God's gifts (Cf Jude 1:4 - **no shame!**)!
 - c. Use God's Gifts for **good** (12:9) - cleave to (cling) things that are good, and right for your life and others - focus on being a blessing (asset) instead of a curse or thorn in people's sides
 - d. Use God's gifts to **show affection** (12:10; Cf John 13:35)
 - 1) Encourage people - make people know they are loved, not only by God, but by Christians - by mature and real relationships - commitment, realness, and consistency
 - 2) Use *brotherly love* (not just tolerance) go out of your way
 - 3) Honour people - not yourself. Especially prefer Christians (family) above other people, especially of the world!
 - e. Use God's Gifts **fervently** (12:11) _____, excited, joy, energy
 - 1) God hates laziness - especially with those responsible for jobs that **He** has given us (2Cor 5:20)
 - 2) God is diligent, and expects us to be busy in HIS business
 - 3) Remember that we are serving the LORD!
 - f. Use God's Gifts **with the future in mind** (12:12) _____
 - 1) Look beyond struggles, tribulations - "*rejoice in hope*"
 - 2) Focus on the joy of Christ, and in serving (John 13:15-17)
 - 3) Be patient - quit giving-up so quickly
 - 4) Stay dependent upon God - continue instant in prayer

- g. Use God's Gifts to meet other people's needs (12:13) - _____
- 1) Meet other Christian's needs - spiritually (teachers, encouragers), financially, etc. - fill the gaps (instead of the government; Acts 2:44-46). To defeat *emptiness*!
 - 2) Have a desire to *give* instead of only *get* - be given (dedicated, addicted) to hospitality! To defeat *greediness* and *covetousness*!
- h. Use God's Gifts to Conquer Evil (12:14-21) - _____
- 1) Bless those that hurt and curse you (12:14) - use your gifts to overcome - to defeat - no matter the cost! To defeat *anger* and *bitterness*!
 - 2) Be a team - everyone is to be unified with having the mind of Christ (Philp 2:2,5), and the same heart, love (Heb 13:1-3). All of us should be doing these things! To defeat *division*!
 - 3) Forget worldly achievements and soliciting the attention of VIP's (12:16) - To defeat *the world*!
 - 4) Quit thinking of yourself as great (12:16) To defeat *pride*
 - 5) Forget paybacks - to defeat the vicious cycle
 - 6) Live openly - people will see the wrong - to defeat *gossip*
 - 7) Live peaceably with all men - to defeat *war*! Be Christian toward all - treat people right whether they treat you right or not (1 Thes 4:11)!
 - 8) Give place for God to act - don't shut Him out (12:19-21)
 - a) Yield to God's ways, and His timing. God's way is to save people's souls, not damn them (2Pet 3:9)
 - b) Trust that God will take better care of the situation than you ever could (2 Thes 1:6-f).
 - c) While waiting on God, take care of your enemy - treat him better than he deserves. Remember, that when you were the enemy of God (Rom 5:10), He took good care of you (Mt 5:45)!
 - d) Realise that by doing good, you are *really* hurting the other person (Pr 25:21,22)
 - (i) By heaping coals of fire on their heads - if they reject your kindness, then they are digging their own grave - hell!
 - (ii) By winning them from the devil to Christ - the greatest defeat of the sinner - into saint!
3. The Principle - _____ (12:21) instead of always being overcome by evil (by temptations, attitudes, history)!

A SUMMARY OF GOD’S GIFTS

There are four kinds of gifts from God:

1. **Sign Gifts** - Gifts that authenticate God’s word and work to the Jews (Mk 16:15-20; 1Cor 1:22; 14:22). They were temporary because they were intended to get Jews saved during the first Century. They will come back into use in the Tribulation when God’s attention gets focused back on the Jews.
2. **Service Gifts** - These are gifts that enable a Christian to do something for God. These are permanent, and need to be developed, and used by each and every Christian. There are rewards for the Christian that uses their gift for Christ unselfishly to win the lost, and serve the Lord!
3. **Servant Gifts** – These are gifts of leadership that enable qualified people to serve the body, and enable the whole body to work together to reach the world with the Gospel, and disciple them!
4. **Special Gifts** - These are gifts that transform people’s lives. They are permanent - when God gives these gifts, they do not come and go!

GOD’S GIFTS TO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS

Category	Gift	Description	Examples
Supernatural abilities given to people to prove that God’s word was true, and that the person speaking God’s word, was trustworthy	Miracles	Supernatural ability to do anything that people normally cannot do	1Cor 12:10 Casting out devils; drinking deadly things.
	Healings	Ability to completely cure a person of ANY illness or disease; even the unhealable	Matt 10:1; 1Cor 12:9,28,30 Raising the dead (Mk 16:18)
	Prophecies	Foretelling future events, and declaring New testament Scripture before it was written down	2Pet 3:15,16 (Cf 1Cor 13:8)
	Word of Knowledge	The supernatural ability to know things about people, and the future	1Cor 12:8 (Cf 1Cor 13:8)
	Word of Wisdom	Supernatural ability to make decisions when there was no Scripture to tell you what to do.	1Cor 12:8 We now have all the Scripture we need to know what to do in all situations
	<i>Jesus had all of these except for tongues, and interpretation.</i>		
	Tongues	Preaching the gospel in another language than your own	Acts 2 1Cor 12:10
	Interpretation of Tongues	Supernatural ability to understand the language of a person speaking the gospel in tongues so that other people can understand.	1Cor 12:10
<i>All of the above gifts were used in the first Century to establish the New Testament Church when there was not yet a New Testament. All the above gifts are done away with since 95 AD, but will come back into force in the Tribulation (1Cor 13:8,9; Rev 11:1-13)</i>			

GOD'S GIFTS TO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS - Cont'd

Category	Gift	Description	Examples
Special Gifts Gifts given by God to enable us to be forgiven, to help us to mature	Jesus	Jesus Christ Himself was a gift from God - He is the "unspeakable gift!"	John 3:16; 4:10 His life (John 13:15; 1Pet 2:21)
	Eternal Life	Forgiveness, and righteousness	Rom 6:23
	The Bible	A completed revelation	John 17:8; 1Cor 13:8-10
	Suffering	God gives <i>every</i> Christian this gift to different degrees to enable them to know His fellowship	Philp 1:29; 2 Tim 3:12 Philp 3:10
	Grace	The ability to put up with trials, and sufferings	Paul (2Cor 12:7-10)
	Peace	Supernatural ability to be at rest in the midst of great turmoil and persecution	John 14:27
	Fruits of our labours	God rewards us with the benefits of our efforts	Ecl 3:13 Psalm 100:3
	A Christian wife or husband	Just as God gave Eve to Adam, so does God give a person the right mate!	Prov 19:14
	Children	They are a gift from God - not little accidents!	Psalm 127:3
	The Holy Spirit	As a person dwelling in the life of the believer, the Holy Spirit is a great gift!	Acts 8:20

GOD’S GIFTS TO THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE - SERVANT GIFTS

Ephesians 4:7-12

Category	Gift	Description	Examples
<p>Rulers, and Governors of a Church</p> <p><i>These people run the church. They govern it.</i></p>	Apostles	Specially chosen representative of Jesus Christ, who would establish the foundation of the New Testament Church upon Jesus Christ.	The twelve (Mt 10:2)
	Prophets	Specially chosen people whom God would speak through until the completion of the New Testament.	Agabus (Acts 21:10); some of the Apostles had this gift (ie, Peter [Acts 2], Paul, James, etc).
	Evangelists	Church starters. People who went into an area and established local churches. These have the gift of prophecy (preaching)	Philip (Acts 21:8); Timothy (2 Tim 4:5); Paul was an evangelist - church starter
	Pastors	Local people whom God calls to shepherd (guide and help) the lives of Christians in a local area to serve God. They have the gift of prophecy (preaching), and teaching .	Rom 12:7,8 Eph 4:11
	Teachers	People who help the Pastor instruct Christians in the Bible - Sunday School teachers, Disciplers. These have the gift of teaching .	Rom 12:7 1Cor 12:28
<p>Helpers in a Church</p>	Ministers, Deacons	These people do the practical ministries of meeting the physical needs of people	Servants (Rom 12:7) Deacons (Acts 6:1-7)
	Soul-winners	All Christians are given to this world to warn of the wages of sin, and to tell about salvation in Christ!	Every Christian is to be a soul-winner, a witness of Christ’s grace (Acts 1:8)
	Givers	These people give over and above the normal tithe to enable the local church to minister supernatural!	Barnabas (Acts 4:33-37); the Christians in Macedonia (2Cor 8:1-4)
	Governing, Ruling (1 Tim 3:5; 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17)	The ability to operate, or help operate a local New Testament Church	Rom 12:8 1Cor 12:28 Enables the Pastor, Evangelist, Teacher, etc.
	Exhorting, Showing Mercy - Comforting	The ability to encourage and strengthen Christians through preaching, teaching, soul-winning, and praying. They use their God-given talents to help the local body of Christ grow in the good times, and in times of struggle and heartache. They have the gift of Mercy	People with musical talents; people dedicated to pray for the needs of people; people who show great love and compassion. Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:26,27) Rom 12:8 Paul (Acts 13:15) Acts 15:32; Heb 10:25 Gal 6:1,2
	Discernment	Supernatural ability to discern the spirit of a person	1Cor 12:10 1 John 4:1 Peter (Acts 5:3-11)
	Faith	The ability to believe God for wonderful steps of faith in serving Him - not to obtain things for self!	