Musing #68: Romans 12:4-8

Not only has God given us grace, but He has also shown us incredible mercy. By God's design, the church has many members all different from one another for a purpose.

Romans 2:4-8 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the faith God has given us; Or serving others, let us serve them well: or he that teaches, teach well; Or he that exhorteth and encourages, encourage well: he that gives, let him do it generously; he that rules, with responsible leadership; he that shows mercy and kindness, do it gladly.

Throughout the New Testament God has given us insight to the spiritual gift(s) that He imparts to each of His children when they become believers. Paul explained why in his first letter to the church at Corinth. We are all called in different ways to exercise our gift for the good of the church body, whether at home or abroad, depending on our individual calling. There are books, papers, tests, and many other helpful teachings to help us determine our gift and put it to use. I'm including some of that in this Musing and the relevant attachments.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care.

So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

And Peter also reminded us in one of his letters… **1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift He has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.**

Using Paul's list from Romans 12 let's look closer at the gifts along with a very brief description of what we refer to as Primary Motivational Gifts noted in our present Roman's study and how God designed their use in the body.

Prophecy
Serving
Teaching
Exhortation
Giving
Leadership
Mercy

A great deal of research on the gifts has been done over the years with books and papers written on the gifts. Much of the attached information was developed by Bill Gothard in his prime years of the 1970's and 80's—through his ministry and conferences. I have condensed some of his research in testing documents I have used for many years in this Musing—see attachments numbered 3, 4, and 5 which include a personal test analysis, processing your gift, and a brief detailed paper on the descriptions of the gifts. Everything here can be used for yourself, or with family and friends to better understand the prime Motivational Gifts along with their descriptions and how they are a practical benefit to the body of Christ today.

See attachments: 68-R 12-3, 4, and 5