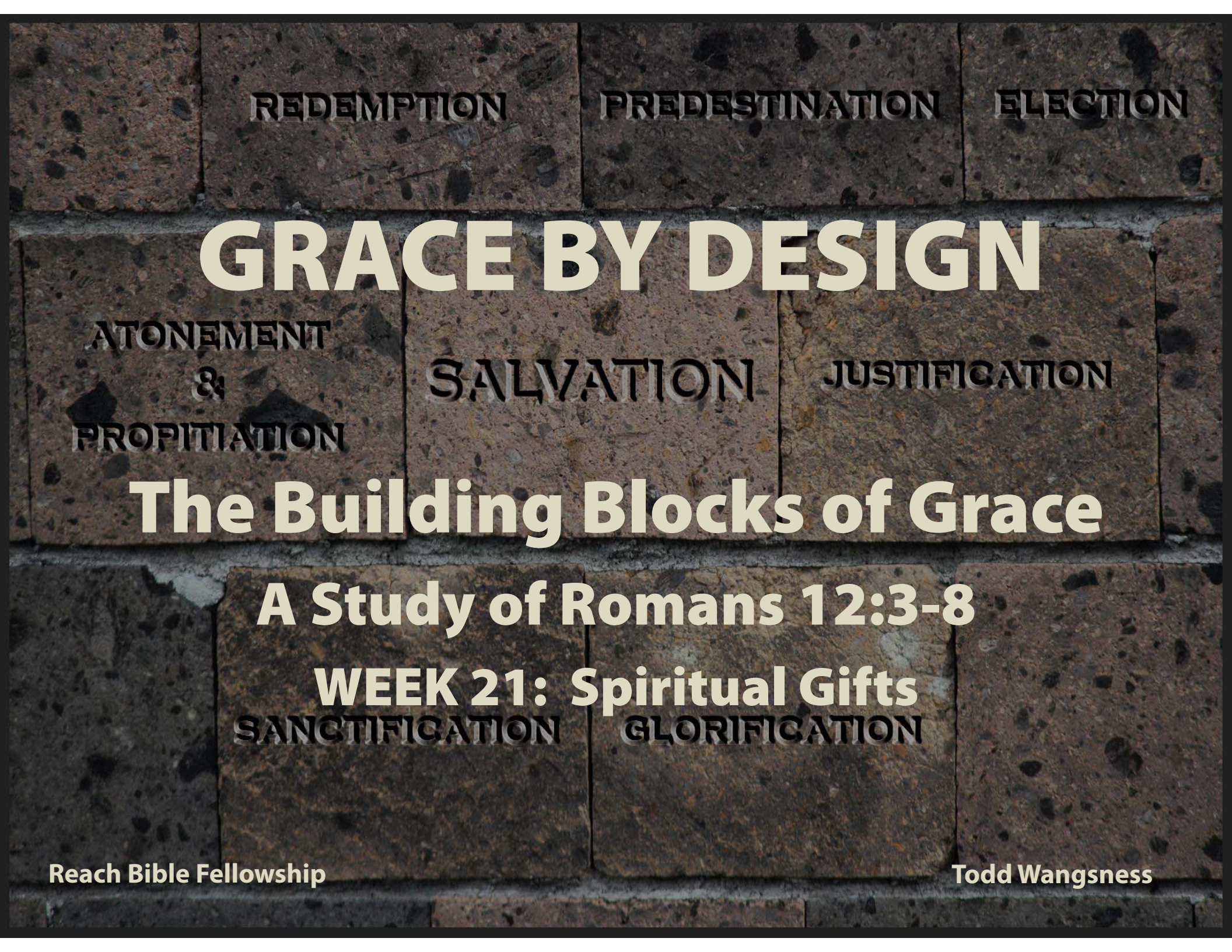


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 12:3-8

WEEK 21: Spiritual Gifts

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

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Notable quotes on Chapter 12:3-8

"In Romans 12:3-8, Paul lays out a profound truth about the church: our individual measure of faith is given by God to enable us to serve one another. This passage is a call to recognize that no one gift is superior; whether it's the one who prophesies in proportion to their faith, or the one who serves, teaches, exhorts, gives with generosity, leads with zeal, or shows mercy with cheerfulness—each is indispensable. The diversity of these gifts mirrors the variety in the human body, and our unity comes from using them humbly for God's glory and the building up of the church."

- **John Piper**

"Romans 12:3-8 is a clarion call to humility and service within the church. Paul reminds us that every believer has received a measure of faith and a spiritual gift from God, and no one should boast, for these are not of our own making. The analogy of the body with its many members illustrates that each gift—whether prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, or showing mercy—has a vital role. We are to exercise these gifts diligently and faithfully, not for personal acclaim, but to strengthen the entire body of Christ, reflecting His love and grace to the world."

- **Warren Wiersbe**

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Chapter 12:3-8 Overview

- Romans 12:3-8, part of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, focuses on the Christian call to humility, unity, and the diverse use of spiritual gifts within the church. Written around 55-57 AD, this passage follows Paul's exhortation to offer oneself as a living sacrifice and be transformed by renewing the mind in verses 1-2.

- In verse 3, Paul urges believers not to think too highly of themselves but to exercise "sober judgment" based on the "measure of faith" God has given each person. This sets the tone for humility as the foundation for Christian living. Verses 4-5 draw an analogy to the human body, emphasizing that just as the body has many parts with different functions, the church—Christ's body—comprises many members, each with unique roles, yet united as one.

- Verses 6-8 list various spiritual gifts bestowed by God's grace. Paul encourages believers to use these gifts diligently and faithfully for the common good, reflecting the diversity and interdependence of the church community.

- This passage underscores the themes of humility, the diversity of gifts, and the importance of serving others, providing a blueprint for a harmonious and functional Christian community.

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12:3-5 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- **The emphasis in verses 3-8 is not so much on the Spiritual Gifts themselves, but rather on the attitude of the Believer**

- **The Believer is to have an attitude of humility as it pertains to the gifting we have received from God**

- **The "For" connects the discussion about spiritual gifts to Paul's discussion in verses 1 and 2 about living a "transformed" life**

- **There is a strong tendency in man where we become prideful about our talents, abilities, appearance, and social status**
  - **This attitude clings to Believers when they become "full of themselves" about any manner of gifting God has bestowed upon them**

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- *"… not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think"*
- **Spiritual gifts are just that – gifts!**
  - **God – in His Sovereign Will – is the one who bestows these gifts**
  - **The gifts are a PRIVILEGE, not a MERIT!**
  - **Should an extremely beautiful woman become prideful because – somehow – she happened to win the gene pool lottery? What did she "do" to inherit her beauty?**
  - **Likewise, if God has gifted someone with an amazing ability to speak or play a musical instrument, should that person become full of pride because of it?**
- **Believers must recognize that it is God who distributes the gifts**

- *"God has dealt to each one a measure of faith"*
  - **He also has allotted to each Believer a "measure of faith"**
  - **Some individuals have tremendous faith**
  - **Others are a work in progress**
  - **Our attitude should be one of encouragement and exhortation for our brethren, irrespective of our faith or abilities**

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- *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function"*
  - **Just as a human body has many parts, so does the assembly of believers**
  - **The "many members" are all believers who have been united into ONE BODY**
  - **Yet, just as each body part has a specific function, so does each member in the church**
  - **Not all believers have the same gifts … and no single believer will ever have ALL the gifts!**
  - *1 Cor 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*
  - *1 Cor 12:15-17 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?*

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- *"we … are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."*
  - **Positionally, each believer is IN Christ**
  - **While all believers – as a unit – comprise the body of the Messiah, we are jointly members of one another**
  - *1 Cor 12:18-26 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?*

    20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

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12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them"*
  - **All believers have diverse gifting in accordance with God's grace**
  - **God's deliberate choice of which believers receive specific gifts fosters mutual dependence within the Church**
  - **If every believer was granted every gift, we would not NEED each other**
  - **God chose to distribute the gifts among the believers so we can minister to one another and be mutually dependent on each other**
  - **Believers cannot (should not) glory in themselves because:**
    - **The gifting we have received is unmerited**
    - **No single believer has all the gifts**

Grace By Design: Spiritual Gifts

- *"If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*
  - **There are five main passages within the NT that address spiritual gifts**
    - *1 Pet 4:10* **Every believer has been given at least one gift**
    - *Rom 12:6-8*
    - *Eph 4:11-16*
    - *1 Cor 7:1-7*
    - *1 Cor 12:12-14*
  - **All totaled, the NT mentions twenty unique spiritual gifts**
  - **Simply stated, a spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service**
  - **The primary purpose of the spiritual gifts is to build up the body of the Messiah**

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- **List of spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament**

– Prophecy	Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; Ephesians 4:11
– Serving/Ministry	Romans 12:7
– Teaching	Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11
– Exhortation/Encouragement	Romans 12:8
– Giving	Romans 12:8
– Leadership	Romans 12:8
– Mercy	Romans 12:8
– Word of Wisdom	1 Corinthians 12:8
– Word of Knowledge	1 Corinthians 12:8
– Faith	1 Corinthians 12:9
– Healing	1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30
– Miracles	1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 29
– Discerning of Spirits	1 Corinthians 12:10
– Tongues	1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30
– Interpretation of Tongues	1 Corinthians 12:10, 30
– Apostleship	1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11
– Helps	1 Corinthians 12:28
– Administration	1 Corinthians 12:28
– Evangelism	Ephesians 4:11
– Pastoring/Shepherding	Ephesians 4:11

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How do I know or identify my Spiritual Gifts?

- **Discovering your spiritual gifts involves a combination of self-reflection, prayer, and practical engagement. Here are steps to help you identify them:**
  - **Pray for Guidance: Ask God for clarity and wisdom to reveal your spiritual gifts. Regular prayer opens your heart to divine insight.**
  - **Study Scripture: Explore biblical passages about spiritual gifts, such as Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, and Ephesians 4:11-13. These list gifts like teaching, prophecy, serving, healing, and administration.**
  - **Reflect on Your Passions and Strengths: Consider what activities bring you joy, energize you, or feel natural. For example, do you love encouraging others (exhortation)? Are you drawn to helping those in need (mercy)?**
  - **Seek Feedback from Others: Ask trusted friends, family, or church members what strengths they see in you. Others often notice gifts you might overlook.**

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- **Discovering your spiritual gifts (continued):**

  - **Take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment: Use tools like online questionnaires or church-provided inventories (e.g., the Spiritual Gifts Test from Lifeway or similar resources). These can highlight potential gifts but aren't definitive.**

  - **Experiment in Ministry: Get involved in your church or community. Volunteer in different roles—teaching, hospitality, leadership, or outreach. Notice where you feel effective and fulfilled.**

  - **Listen to the Holy Spirit: Pay attention to inner promptings or recurring thoughts about specific ways to serve. These may indicate your gifts.**

  - **Consult Church Leaders: Pastors or mentors can offer insight and opportunities to explore your gifts within the church.**

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Questions to ponder:

- **Do we need to "ask" for a spiritual gift?**
  - **Or could we argue that – since it is God that distributes the gifts – whatever gifting we have received after we believe, is already in our possession?**