

# St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. May 22nd 2005

## God's Gifts - the Gifts in practice

### Gifts for all!

### Romans 12.1-13



#### Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

##### **The Giving of Gifts to every member**

**Why ?** we are a body and all parts need to be working for the body to be healthy.

**Gifts are tools not toys...**but they are given by God himself by the power of the Holy Spirit; they are not learnt or earned by us or our own efforts. They are practiced by us once they have been given. Gifts are given to prepare the people for works of service...that the body may be built up

**Gifts are to be used for building not playing.**

The body builds itself up as all members exercise their gifts, there is the joy of working together, and our hope of heaven motivates us in times of great difficulty..

**Gifts are to be shared, not to be kept to ourselves**

We are made to share and to give gifts...why do blood donors give blood.. no pay, no recognition.. if sociologists say it is innate in us to build up society, we may recognise this as God's hall mark on our lives to build up by giving freely. We need to know what we have so that we are able to give, and we need courage to give of the gifts we have been given.

##### **Asking for Gifts, receiving gifts, using gifts by every member**

**Who is everyone ? : what stops us from asking and using gifts ?**

Everyone will be given gifts; we may have them without really realizing it...all ages may receive gifts, all races, both sexes. Do we have prejudices about who receives gifts, and who benefits from our gifts..(e.g. in society when we donate blood we have no control who receives it.. a terrorist who is caught up in a raid and taken to hospital may receive donated blood!).

How do we feel about our spiritual gifts benefiting those who turn away from God?

God's gifts to all members of the body includes children. How can we encourage people of all ages to receive and use God's gifts? Small groups. Families, Friendships.

How do we know what gifts we have and when do we use them? How do we 'perfect' them?

Exercise them. Are we to hang onto them...some gifts are given for a season or an occasion.

We need discernment and wisdom to prevent us from being sucked into finding our identity in our gift/s.

**List of gifts from Romans 12: 1-13 [( ) = repeated.]** Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouraging, Giving generously, Leadership, Showing mercy  
Hospitality

**1 Corinthians 12: 1-30** Messages of wisdom, Message of knowledge, Faith, Gifts of healing Miraculous powers (prophecy), Distinguishing between spirits, Speaking in different kinds of tongues, Interpretation of tongues, Administration to help others.

**Ephesians 4: 1-16** Apostles, Evangelists, Pastors, (teachers), (prophets).

The Body of Christ needs to grow to maturity..and gifts are given to build the body up into maturity.



#### Witness: Questions to discuss

1. Where does our church need to grow up into maturity?
2. What gifts has God given to allow this to take place?
3. In your group **what gifts can you discern ?**.. a suggestion of how to answer this question:
  - a) in pairs who know each other, tell each other what gift you think you have and then tell each other what gift or gifts you can see in one another.. that come from the list above, that are in addition to that list..
  - or b) using a sheet of paper-one sheet for each group member, with the member's name at the top - pass the sheets around the group for everyone to write on each one.. you are to write down **PTO**

a gift that you see in the person named at the top of the sheet.. fold over what you have written and pass it on so that confidentiality of what is written is kept during the exercise. Once everyone has written on each sheet, give the sheets to the people for whom they are written, and then each one may read what others discern in them..

Are you surprised at what you hear / read? As far as you are able share with the rest of the group what has been discerned in you. **Pray a general prayer** for each other that these gifts may grow.

4. **Discuss as a group** how your newly /freshly discerned gifts might be used : in your group/ in your community-at work- in the neighbourhood / and more widely in the church.

5. **VERY IMPORTANT** : Pray for one another one by one( e.g. whole group praying for each one individually or get into groups of three and pray for one another) that God will i) open doors for you to exercise and practise your gifts.

ii) will give you love, confidence and courage to use your gifts .

iii) give you more gifts for the building up of the body.