

What Are My Gifts?

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.

Start by reading the passage from Ephesians above to remind yourself that all you have and are is gift from God. Ask God to allow you to honestly reflect on your gifts and talents.

Call to mind some of the key people in your life – the friends and mentors who have helped you to know who you are and what you can do; people who have been your models of a life lived with joy and integrity; people for whom you are grateful when you look at your life. What have you learned from them about yourself and about the gifts and talents that are special to you? If someone asked them to describe your strengths and weaknesses, what specific ones do you think they would mention? Pretend you are one of these people writing a recommendation letter for you, perhaps the recommendation that would get you the job you have now. What would it say?

After you have done that ask yourself:

Are there gifts you have difficulty acknowledging?

Do you hesitate to use a gift you have been given? What causes the hesitation?

What grace do you need from God to use your gifts more readily?