

Sermon Series: **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

Outline for message 4 of 6, "The Giver of Gifts"

Scripture text, Romans 12:4-8

Introduction: The church is like the human body, cf. 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:8-16

I. Starting with (originating in) Grace, like His fruit and His power (Brief review)

The Holy Spirit's gifts are *CHARESMATA* - "*Grace things*"

II. Several (differing) Functions

A. The Holy Spirit's fruit and the Holy Spirit's power are for all, not the gifts

B. This testifies to the unique nature of Biblical religion

C. Cross referencing 1 Corinthians, neither list is exhaustive

1. Our text list seven gifts that are broad in scope
2. First Corinthians lists more gifts with a narrower scope
3. And includes callings as gifts
4. There is overlap, as per another pertinent passage...

III. Steady Focus: Ephesians 4: 8ff

Biblical Illustration: "Nehemiah's sword and trowel team"

A. Equipping

B. Edifying (building up; strengthening)

IV. Superlative Goal

A. Common participation in Christ's purposes

B. Conformity to Christ's image

V. Summation, in two verses from another apostle

Questions for reflection, study, and further application

1. What "grace thing" – what spiritual gift – has the Holy Spirit given YOU to edify and equip the body? If you are uncertain, how can you discover your gift(s)?
2. Will you make plans TODAY to recognize and affirm another member of the body in the exercise of his or her spiritual gift(s)?
3. Jesus both pronounces the merciful as blessed (Mat. 5:7), and commands all disciples to be merciful (Luke 6:36). Why then is showing mercy listed as a special spiritual gift?