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SPIRITUAL GIFTS



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MAKING A PIVOT

As I listened to our pastors and ministry leaders share how they were pivoting from already-laid plans, I saw God at work as they shared about praying for neighbors, gathering online for worship, and being the hands and feet of Jesus in order to make Him famous.



As the final page proofs for this issue of the magazine were crossing my desk, our world started to change. Almost immediately, the words coronavirus and COVID-19, along with social distancing and shelter-in-place became commonplace in the media, in social media posts, and in conversations (from six-feet apart, if you were talking in person).

We have quickly learned to worship at home via online video streaming and how to communicate with our small groups and Adult Bible Fellowships via Facebook Live, Zoom, or other online conferencing platforms that mostly had been utilized by people in the business world. The store shelves are strangely bare of toilet paper (at least at first) and other necessary items. Our favorite restaurants are closed, but we are encouraged to support them by ordering take-out dinners.

On a recent call with pastors and leaders in the Charis Fellowship, one pastor observed that he's seen more people out and about. He's observed families walking, playing

ball, and spending time together. He wondered how that would impact church attendance post crisis.

Another pastor encouraged us to not have a survivalist mentality. "You have to have eyes for external things," he said.

Most of us have never experienced an international crisis of this magnitude. While I reluctantly admit I'm in the age group that is said to be the most vulnerable to this virus, I've also never lived through a world war, the onslaught of polio, the great depression, or other pre-cold war crisis that brought our country together.

I'm confident that the churches of the Charis Fellowship will survive this moment, just like they banded together during earlier difficult times. As I listened to our pastors and ministry leaders share how they were pivoting from already-laid plans, I saw God at work as they shared about praying for neighbors, gathering online for worship, and being the hands and feet of Jesus in order to make Him famous.

An early question from a pastor on those conversations was, "how do I set up online giving?" It was a service they hadn't had a need for, but now it was crucial.

As you plan your giving this month, consider making a gift to *GraceConnect* as we strive to tell the stories of what God is doing through the Fellowship, whether online, on social media, or in the pages of this magazine. An envelope is provided, or you may go online at graceconnect.us and click on the blue "Donate Now" button. Your financial support of this ministry, like the other organizations of the Charis Fellowship, is now more important than ever!



Liz Cutler Gates, lbgates@bmhbooks.com, is the editor of Grace Connect. Since 2010, she has served as executive director of the Brethren Missionary Herald Company. She and her husband, Doug, live in Warsaw, Ind.

DUTY, DEVOTION, DIVIDENDS

by Kurt A. Miller

Have you ever noticed that God only commands us to “serve him with all your heart and with all your soul”?

Never does He place the burden of results upon our shoulders beyond the realm of faithfulness.

The crying need of the church is not newer and better methods; it is faithfulness.

THE BEST THING YOU AND I CAN DO IS TO STOP LOOKING AT OUR
WATCHES AND CALENDARS AND SIMPLY LOOK BY FAITH INTO
THE FACE OF GOD AND LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY— IN HIS TIME.



Reprinted from *Brethren Missionary Herald*, March 1984 (Access this online at archive.org/stream/brethrenmissiona46112turn#page/n85/mode/2up.)

One of the most difficult tasks a Christian, eager to serve the Lord, will meet is the anxiety accompanied with waiting for results. Our Lord, knowing our weaknesses, has included ample Scripture in His Word to help us through these anxious times. One such passage is found in Deuteronomy 11:13-15 (KJV): “And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.”

DUTY

The Lord has been very clear as to the subject of Christian duty. We are to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...” and “... thy neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 22:37-40 NASB). Further instruction regarding “duty” is found in the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians with regard to gifts and the utilization of them. We are bound, as members of the body of Christ, to function as God has ordained, using the gifts He has provided. For some, the problem lies here. What are we to do? Discovering our gifts and knowing how to use them can be troublesome. For most people,

however, I suspect this is fairly clear. Our text tells us we are to “diligently hearken” unto those commandments He has clearly revealed to us. And, I am convinced that a larger percentage of Christians are very willing to yield their lives to do the will of God.

DEVOTION

As a willing and eager third-grade student, my daughter came home from school with a science project. She was to plant a lima bean in a pot, fertilize and water it, and watch it grow. She tackled the project with exuberance. Every few minutes of the first day were spent checking to see if it had sprouted. The second day included several inspections of the pot with a long face of disappointment. Several days had gone by with no sign of germination. To her the project was a failure. “We might as well dig it up and start all over again with a new bean,” she said. I had assured her that if she would just wait a few more days the bean would probably sprout and her endeavor would be successful.

Have you ever noticed that God only commands us to “serve him with all your heart and with all your soul”? Never does He place the burden of results upon our shoulders beyond the realm of faithfulness. The crying need of the church is not newer and better methods; it is faithfulness. Whatever gift or gifts you have are meaningless without faithfulness. Whether you abound with gifts or have relatively few in comparison with others is irrelevant as long as you are faithful. Whether you have long labored for the Lord or are newly involved in Christian service, your labor is in vain without faithfulness. God has called every Christian to faithfulness. This is the area where most

Christians have a problem. Part of the problem is that we are prone to walk by sight and not by faith. We want to see something happen! If you are faithfully doing what you believe God wants you to, something is happening! God is always at work, and He is working in all things.

DIVIDENDS

This is where “dividends” enter the picture. Our text instructs, the reward for “devotion” (faithfulness) is “dividends.” Our Deuteronomy text says: “I will give you the rain of your land in his due season... that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil... that thou mayest eat and be full!”

Have you labored for the Lord and felt nothing was being accomplished: the church has not seemed to grow because of what you have been doing; the financial picture has not mushroomed because of your service; as a matter of fact, there is no statistic that seems to have improved because of what you are doing? Don’t be discouraged nor deceived. God will honor faithfulness with much fruit! I believe it was F. B. Meyer who used to say, “God’s delays are not God’s denials.” Jesus said, “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev. 22:12). The best thing you and I can do is to stop looking at our watches and calendars and simply look by faith into the face of God and let Him have His way— In His time.

When this was written, Kurt Miller was a pastor in Palm Harbor, Florida. After serving in various churches and ministries in the Charis Fellowship, he and his wife, Anecia, retired in 2017 to Rocky Point, N.C.

INVESTED



“Under Ken’s leadership, GBIF has experienced significant growth and has consistently been the lender of choice to churches and organizations in our Fellowship.”

It was the mid-1990s, and Ken Seyfert had a successful career as an investment banker in Harrisburg, Pa. A morning prayer breakfast where he met Ed Lewis, the director of CE National, changed all that.

“Ed was sitting at my table,” Ken recalls of the event at the Grace Brethren Church in Myerstown, Pa. The two struck up a conversation and eventually agreed to become long-distance prayer partners.

“We decided to call each other once a month,” he remembers. “It was an accountability-type of prayer partnership.” Over the next few years, the two would talk regularly. Ed began to encourage Ken to do more than work in the secular world. “He would say, ‘You really ought to consider doing something more full-time for the Lord,’” Ken says. “He felt I had a lot of gifts. He kept praying and talking.”

Ken and his wife, Donna, admittedly, had some trepidation about moving their family from Pennsylvania to Indiana. But when Jim Johnson retired as director of the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation (GBIF) in 1997, doors opened for Ken to step into that position.

In May, he will retire after 23 years serving the Charis Fellowship through the Foundation.

He was drawn to the position because it required someone with investment and lending experience. (The Foundation, a church-extension fund, serves as a savings and loan for churches and organizations within the Charis Fellowship.)

Photo by Jer Nelsen

IN MAY, KEN WILL RETIRE AFTER 23 YEARS SERVING THE CHARIS FELLOWSHIP THROUGH THE GRACE BRETHREN INVESTMENT FOUNDATION.



“When I put a resume together, I could see pretty clearly. It seemed I was sort of in training for all this because they needed somebody with experience in both areas,” he reminisces. In 1997, he was named managing director, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. With the retirement of Larry Chamberlain in 2013, he was named chief executive officer.

“Under Ken’s leadership, GBIF has experienced significant growth and has consistently been the lender of choice to churches and organizations in our Fellowship,” says Jim Augspurger, executive pastor, Grace Polaris Church, Westerville, Ohio, and a member of the board since 2010. “Ken has diligently navigated GBIF through much market volatility, to deliver a fair loan rate to borrowers, ensuring a good rate of return to our depositors, and through the annual goodwill contributions furthered the church planting and leadership development work of our Fellowship. Ken is a talented leader who consistently delivers strong results while effectively stewarding the assets under his management.”

Ken is more unassuming about his role at the Foundation. Ask him about what has changed over the years, he’ll modestly talk about the Charis Fellowship – expansion within the network of churches, young pastors with a passion for Christ, and the increase of multi-campus sites. The Foundation has had a part – providing funding for much of that growth, but the

reality is that some of the progress has been fueled by Ken’s God-given ability to shepherd investments successfully.

“In general, you can say that the arrows moved in the right direction under his leadership, and in many cases, they moved significantly,” says Ryan Bowell, vice president and director of credit services at the Foundation.

In the past 23 years, the Foundation has increased in total assets from \$42.8 million to \$112.1 million, or 162 percent. The dollars invested has increased by 155 percent, from \$38.9 million to \$99.2 million, resulting in more than \$55 million in interest paid on customer investment accounts. Nearly 200 loans have been made to Charis Fellowship churches and ministries, totaling approximately \$150 million.

“It’s all the Lord’s work,” stresses Ken, “He gets the glory for it all.” He credits local pastors who he says are “guys of integrity but also have been given the vision to believe the Lord for great things, and unafraid, believing Him to take a risk. And we, along with them, have had to trust their visions and believe that God is in these works,” he adds.

Several years ago, the Foundation came through a recession in the U.S. without a dip in investments, a tribute to conservative investment philosophies.

“There’s a lot of risk with church building projects,” he admits. As a result, the loans toward those projects have been structured requiring a lot

of equity. “We encourage raising as much cash [as possible], just pure cash or pledges, in capital campaigns,” he adds.

“I think that’s how we avoided more trouble because we did keep our standards,” he stresses. Many times, the Foundation has required 30 to 50 percent in equity, either cash or capital campaigns, or a combination of the two, along with strong balance sheets and giving of churches.

“We stayed away from speculative investments,” he notes. “We’ve always operated that way very conservatively, too, avoiding losses.” He quotes Warren Buffett, the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, who is known for his fruitful stock picks. “Rule No. 1: Never lose money. Rule No. 2: Never forget rule No. 1.”

Ken also says that advances in technology in the banking industry have allowed the Foundation to expand services, build on its solid history in the Fellowship, and yet not add staff.

“I hear some of the old stories, decades before me even, where you needed an employee to write all these numbers in ledgers,” he says. “We don’t do that any longer. The computers take care of it. The whole software system we have has made it not necessary to hire more people, and [we] rely more on technology.”

While staff numbers at the Foundation have not grown over the last 23 years, it is notable that staff turnover during that time has been low. Four staff members have served 34, 27, 21,

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"IT'S BEEN THE BEST 23 YEARS OF MY LIFE," PONDERES KEN. "I'M GRATEFUL THAT THE DOORS OPENED UP, THAT I COULD BE OF SERVICE."



and 19 years respectively, with the remaining two with seven years or less in tenure.

"It's a team, and everybody knows their roles," says Ken. "Everybody, I think, feels appreciated, and they're all on mission together." He feels that a focus on others, especially the investors and the borrowers, has made the difference.

One hallmark of the Seyfert years has been the increase in goodwill giving to ministries within the Charis Fellowship. "[The board] made a decision more than 20 years ago, together with the executive staff, that we wanted to be a part of helping other ministries in the Fellowship," says Ken. Initially, the decision was to give away up to 50 percent of Foundation earnings.

"The dollars increased over the years because the amount of our income increased substantially," adds Ken. "We started increasing even above 50 percent at times. We've done that to bless the Fellowship, to help with the church-planting efforts, leadership development, and the cooperating ministries and integrated ministries that are part of the Fellowship."

Those who have worked with him will emphasize that Ken has served the Grace Brethren Foundation, Charis Fellowship churches and organizations, and people in a way that reflects the love of Jesus.

"As past chairman of the board, I have especially enjoyed working with Ken at a more personal level," adds Augspurger, who just completed a



four-year term as chair. "He truly loves working with churches to provide funding for the many projects over the years. He has a concern to help these churches to accomplish the great commission. He loves the Lord Jesus, and that shows in his partnership with churches and organizations in the Fellowship."

When Ken steps down at the end of May, he won't be completely leaving involvement in the Charis Fellowship. "I'm still planning to serve the Fellowship part-time," he says. He'll continue to oversee the Retirement Investment Plan for the Fellowship, a role he has held since 1997. The Retirement Investment Plan serves the pastors and staff of Charis Fellowship churches and organizations with retirement savings options. As of December 31, 2019, 377 participants were registered in the plan with a combined asset value of \$9,963,889.

He also looks forward to volunteering in other areas, particularly at Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church (Bruce Barlow, lead pastor), where he and Donna have been active members.

High on the list of activities is spending time with their family, who are all within easy driving distance of their home in Warsaw, Ind. (See photo above.)

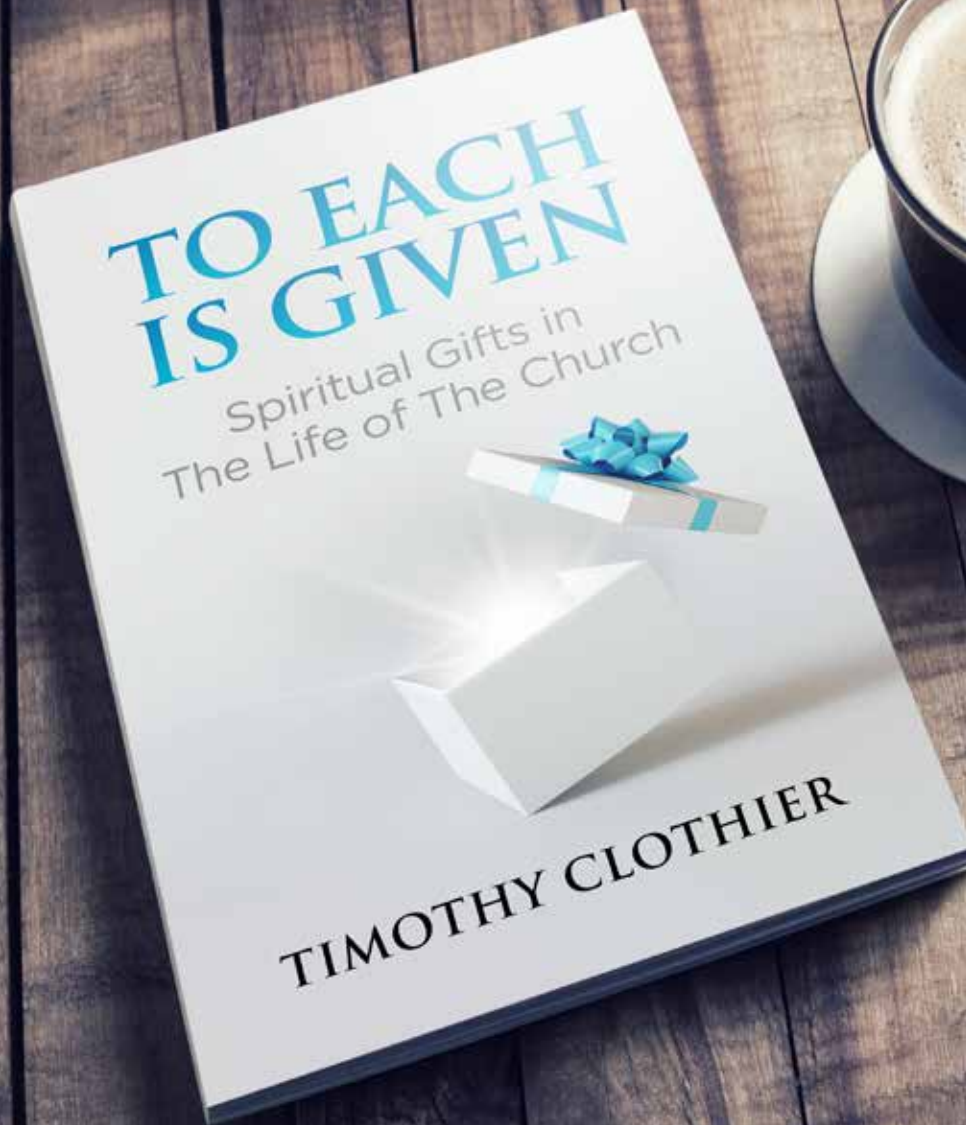
Their daughter, Tara, is married to Jon Rauch, who serves on staff at Grace Community Church, Goshen, Ind. They live in Goshen with their four children.

Son Troy, his wife, Kristin, and their two children, live in Lansing, Mich.

"It's been the best 23 years of my life," ponders Ken. "I'm grateful that the doors opened up, that I could be of service, and all the great people, leaders, pastors that I've been able to connect with. It's just been the most fulfilling part of my life."

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

THEIR SOURCE AND PURPOSE



GIFTS OF HEALINGS ARE APPORTIONED AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AS HE WILLS, NOT AS WE WILL.



This is excerpted from *To Each is Given*, by Tim Clothier, which will be released June 2, 2020. To pre-order the book, see bmhbooks.com/shop/to-each-is-given.

In the New Testament, we see signs and wonders primarily performed at the hands of the Apostles, while spiritual gifts have been given to all believers within the church. We now direct our attention to this last point, considering in greater detail what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4 and how those passages apply to the church today.

As we look at 1 Corinthians 12 and what the Apostle Paul wrote to this church, we must first observe a few important details that will aid our interpretation. By doing so, we will be able to more accurately understand what Paul intended when he originally wrote this letter.

We first note that Paul is writing to a multi-ethnic church in the city of Corinth. In Acts 18:1-17, Luke records facts about Paul's initial visit to the city of Corinth and the church that was planted as a result. Notably, in verse 6 Luke tell us that Paul, after being opposed and reviled by the Jews, "shook out his garments and said to them, 'your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.'" After this Paul went to Titus Justus's house which was next door to the synagogue and despite opposition from certain Jews, we are also told "Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord" and that "many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized" (18:6-8). In verse 11, Luke tells us that Paul stayed with this church for eighteen months "teaching the word of God among them."

The second detail is that the English words *now concerning* (περί δὲ) appear several times in 1 Corinthians.¹ Given Paul's repeated use of this phrase it appears that he was addressing specific questions the Corinthian church had written to him. This would indicate that the Corinthians had questions about *spiritual gifts* (1 Cor. 12:1) and were writing to Paul asking for him to weigh in on the issue.

Thirdly, it is unnatural to the context of 1 Corinthians 12 to split up the list of gifts that Paul articulates, interpreting some gifts as enduring or permanent gifts, and other gifts as temporary sign gifts that no longer function in the church today.² Paul gives no indication in what he writes that he intends the Corinthian church to arrive at such a conclusion. Simply put, they would not have read his words and concluded that gifts *wisdom, knowledge, faith, prophecy*, and *distinguishing between spirits* were permanent while *gifts of healings, working of miracles, various tongues, and the interpretation of tongues* were temporary sign gifts.³

Now, to be fair to those who divide Paul's list of spiritual gifts into these two categories, we must recognize that they are often arguing against the abuses of spiritual gifts that are seen in many churches today. The claim by many hyper-charismatics, for example, that gifts of healings are guaranteed is one that should be rejected because it does not fit what Paul says about gifts in general or gifts of healings specifically. Gifts of healings are apportioned and empowered by the Holy Spirit as he wills, not as we will (1 Cor. 12:11).

Thus, while the conclusions and warnings by cessationists should be accepted, namely that spiritual gifts are not divinely enabled abilities to be god-like and heal at will, the path forward is not found by identifying some gifts as sign gifts and thereby declaring they no longer exist today.⁴

² John MacArthur, *1 Corinthians* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute 1984), 297. Dr. John MacArthur is perhaps the most vocal proponent of this conclusion. I am incredibly grateful for the tremendous impact Dr. MacArthur's ministry has had on my life, but I believe his categories of "edifying gifts" and "sign gifts" are forced into the text. He writes, "A thorough examination will yield the truth that spiritual gifts fill two major purposes: the permanent gifts edify the church and the temporary gifts are signs to confirm the Word of God."

³ In first-hand conversations with those who have attended BSSM, I have learned that at least some within NAR circles see "words of wisdom" and "words of knowledge" as sign gifts, not edifying gifts. They believe that God spontaneously brings specific facts about a person's life to them so that they can shock a person into listening to the Gospel. I share this point here to simply illustrate how the term sign gifts can be defined differently between different theological camps.

⁴ Regarding 1 Cor. 14:22 and tongues being a sign, I will discuss this in greater detail in chapter 12.

¹ 7:1, 7:25, 8:1, 12:1, 16:1, 16:12.



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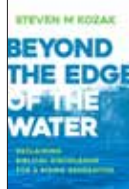
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Reclaiming Biblical Discipleship
for a Rising Generation**

By Steven M. Kozak

\$13.99, 160 pages

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Beyond the Edge of the Water brings readers back to the biblical model of discipleship. Steven Kozak paints a vivid picture of the current cultural context and why efforts to make disciples is largely failing. Then he takes the reader through various passages in Scripture and brings to light aspects of following Jesus that have been neglected or forgotten.

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IF GOD HAS CHOSEN TO COMPOSE HIS BODY IN THIS WAY, WHO ARE WE TO CLAIM THAT SOME GIFTS (OR PEOPLE) ARE MORE SPECIAL THAN OTHERS?



Rather, the solution lies, in part, with seeing a distinction between signs and wonders and spiritual gifts.

Lastly, the argument that the Apostle Paul is making in 1 Corinthians 12 is that there is not a hierarchy of spiritual gifts or spiritual people within the church. D.A. Carson writes, “one conclusion is unavoidable: Paul tends to flatten distinctions between ‘charismatic’ gifts and ‘noncharismatic’ gifts in the modern sense of those terms.”⁵ Seeking to put an end to the Corinthian church’s internal power struggles over which gifts (people) were greater, Paul flattens the list of gifts and drives his point home by writing the following:

1. “...it is the same God who empowers them all [gifts] in everyone” (1 Cor. 12:6).
2. “All these [gifts] are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills” (1 Cor. 12:11).
3. “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...” (1 Cor. 12:13). This point is critical in understanding that there are not “really spiritual” people and “average spiritual” people in Corinth. Furthermore, the distinction between gifts is at the will of the Holy Spirit, not because some have received a greater portion of the Holy Spirit than others. All have been baptized into one body in the Holy Spirit. No distinction exists.
4. “God has arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose” (1 Cor. 12:18). Here Paul is asserting that individuals should not look down on themselves if they have a gift that doesn’t look as good as someone else’s gift. “The foot cannot say ‘I do not belong’ because I am not a hand” (1 Cor. 12:15). Because there is no hierarchy within the body of Christ a person must not conclude that they are less significant than another who may have a different gift or role.
5. “God has so composed the body ... that there may be no division in the body” (1 Cor. 12:25). The point Paul makes in verses 21–24 is that one cannot tell another that they are less important (or spiritual) if they have a gift that doesn’t look as good, useful, or supernatural.

6. “God has appointed in the church ...” (1 Cor. 12:28). Once again, the Apostle Paul is making the point that how the body has been composed is at the appointment of God and his sovereign will.

Six times in 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul makes a statement about how the differences found within the body of Christ are the result of God’s sovereign choice.⁶ The conclusion is hard not to miss; if God has chosen to compose his body in this way, who are we to claim that some gifts (or people) are more special than others, or inversely, that some gifts (or people) are less special than others?

⁶ Paul uses the words empowers, empowered, were all baptized, arranged, composed, and appointed to make his point clear.

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To Each Is Given: Spiritual Gifts in the Life of the Church

By Timothy Clothier

US: \$13.99

205 pages

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A wide range of convictions and definitions exist across the church regarding spiritual gifts. These theological positions range between the belief that some spiritual gifts ceased in the first or second century, to the conviction that believers in the church can operate with the same level of giftedness and authority as the Apostles did.

Many seem to simply assume that signs and wonders are spiritual gifts and vice versa. In this book, the author seeks to define what signs and wonders are, what spiritual gifts are, consider how they relate to one another, and whether each is for the church today.

⁵ D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989), 34.

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COOKING CLEANLY ACROSS THE WORLD



“I have been working on stove development in southeast Asia for six years now. It started in Cambodia and then God led us to the Philippines,” says Joe James, a member of Grace Church, a Charis Fellowship congregation in Ashland, Ohio (Dan Allan, senior pastor). “Now, we’re able to continue our work in the Philippines, expand to Vietnam, and back to Cambodia. Also, a stove was sent to Cameroon.”

In 2010, Joe’s father, Dave James, and the Encompass World Partners field team in Cambodia wanted to create an in-country business to provide financial support for the Cambodia National Ministry Partners. The team also wanted to provide outreach and discipleship for other Cambodians through skill training and job opportunities.

“Realizing that rice husk, a byproduct of rice milling, was a readily available, renewable biomass, and a local resource, we focused on our first idea, which was creating charcoal briquettes from rice husk for use in traditional stoves,” notes Dave. After some experimentation, the team concluded that it would not work well.

The idea then came to develop a biomass cook stove that burns as clean as a natural gas stove. They spent a week at a state university in the Philippines learning about a process called “gasification,” and how researchers were working to adapt the technology to cook stoves.

“We came back excited and started building test stoves,” says Dave. “After creating and testing many prototype designs, we found that creating a gasification stove that used rice husk as fuel (using the design from the Philippines) presented some design challenges that convinced us to look at alternative designs.”

At that time, Joe James volunteered to support the project by creating CAD drawings of the stoves. Shortly after, they learned there were others in Vietnam that were applying similar technology but with a much different stove design. They took a trip to Vietnam to learn about the stove.

With renewed excitement the team started to make test stoves designed differently than before.

“With tweaks here-and-there we were making progress in adapting the technology to a solid working stove,” says Dave.

Joe started working on re-engineering the stove as a senior design project at the University of Akron. He continued working on research and design as he moved into his graduate program.



“Currently, we have five stoves testing in the Philippines and are expecting to have seven more stoves testing in four different countries by March 2020, Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cameroon,” says Joe. “A utility patent has been filed and we have a minimum viable product designed and tested. The factory in Taiwan is already tooled and ready to mass produce stoves. Our next hurdle is developing marketing strategies and connections to large non-government and government aid groups and this requires some additional funds, so we are starting another round of seed funding for \$50,000.”

Through this process, Joe expresses seeing spiritual growth in himself in the form of patience and faith in God’s timing.

“I always wanted to just immediately go to the next design or the next step and if everything went according to my plan the quality of the stove we would have and the areas of impact would be very small in comparison to God’s plan,” he says. “We now have a stove that is much better than I could have imagined at the beginning and potential impact in more countries.”

Joe planned to travel to Southeast Asia in March to visit four countries (the Philippines Vietnam, Cambodia, and Taiwan) to drop off cook stoves for field testing. He is requesting prayer in “seeking God’s guidance and patience as he works and showing us his will.”

This story first appeared in the GraceConnect eNews. To subscribe to the weekly newsletter, which contains stories of God’s working throughout the Charis Fellowship, see graceconnect.us/subscribe/.

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EATING GOD'S WAY

“God put everything on earth that we needed to not only survive but thrive,” says Carolyn Johansen, of Community Grace Brethren Church in Goldendale, Wash. (Greg Howell, senior pastor).

Carolyn became interested in natural health when she developed food allergies. Seeking out medical attention led her to a chiropractor who was able to aid in reversing her allergies and she began to move forward in her exploration of natural health.

Taking a step of faith, she obtained a certificate in nutritional counseling and a doctorate in naturopathy. Carolyn and her husband, Jan (the worship director at Goldendale Grace), moved to Goldendale, Wash. It was at this time that she felt

the Lord leading her to start writing her book, *Eating God's Way*.

The book is an approach to eating the way God intended humans to eat since Creation. The book compares and contrasts the types of food today versus bible times. Each chapter begins with a Bible verse to encourage people to move toward a God-inspired diet.

“I feel like God gave me a message,” says Carolyn, “and I put it in a book.”

Find Eating God's Way at enrichgifts.com.

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