



## How to Continue the Ministry of Jesus

Date: May 12, 2024

Text: Ephesians 4:7-12; Romans 12:6-8

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### BIG IDEA

There is no denying that the ministry of Jesus was incredible; people were being healed, thousands were fed and preached to, and thousands more came to accept salvation. But Luke makes it clear in Acts 1:1, that Jesus *began* the work for us, and it is our calling to *continue* the ministry He began through Him. But how can we, imperfect humans, continue the work of the Son of God?

Jesus did not leave us destitute, rather we have been called and equipped to do every good work through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible makes it very clear, that we may not all have the same gifts, but we are all gifted in some way, and it is our calling and purpose to use those gifts to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

### Conversation Starter

- How does it make you feel that you are a partner in the ministry Jesus Himself began?
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### COMMENTARY #1

**(Verses 4-6)** As believers, we are unified through the Spirit, our calling, and our hope. This unity forms us into one body- an army of

people with different gifts and abilities all marching towards the same goal- Jesus Christ. These gifts are given to all of us through the grace of God. None of us have ever done anything to earn these gifts or abilities, but because of His goodness, Christ has equipped us with them to grow His Kingdom.

### ***Discussion Questions***

1. What does it mean that we are “unified” by the Spirit? How do you see that in our church?
  2. What are your gifts? What gifts do you see in your friends?
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### **COMMENTARY #2**

**(Verses 7-12)** The basis for these gifts is simply because of the grace of God- nothing we have done or will do will ever merit them. But Jesus Himself chose to bless us with these gifts so that we could continue the work He began. Some will do this through preaching, some through teaching, some will reach those outside the church and some will minister to those already sitting in church pews. Every single gift is vital to the whole body so that we might be fully “equipped for the work of ministry.”

### ***Discussion Questions***

1. How does knowing our gifts are only because of grace change your perspective?
2. How does knowing that your gifts are needed by the whole body, by your fellow brothers and sisters, change how you view your gifts?
3. How does using our gifts “equip” us for ministry? Can we do ministry alone?

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## COMMENTARY #3

**(Romans 12:6-8)** Because Spiritual gifts are not earned, but freely given for a purpose, we have a calling to use them for the reason they were given- for the Kingdom of God. Paul also cautions us that our giftings should align with how we live our lives- if we are going to prophecy (not necessarily foretelling but more accurately “forth-telling” the heart of God), then make sure you believe in Him. If you are going to teach or lead, live a life that diligently works to reflect the words you are saying. If you are going to give, give in abundance; if you are going to be merciful, do it with a happy heart. Don’t just do the gifts- live them out.

### *Discussion Questions*

1. What is the difference between “doing” what is expected and living what you believe?
2. Are there times when gifts are used for personal gain? Explain.
3. Why do you think Paul speaks to the heart posture of the gift holder?

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## GOING DEEPER

1. What do you think are the biggest hindrances to people using their gifts?
  2. How do we overcome these hindrances?
  3. Do you believe that you are gifted? Called? Why or why not?
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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Bing Videos](#)- sermon
  - [Open Your Gift \(And Then Give It Away!\) \(proverbs31.org\)](#)- Devotion
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## GROUP ACTIVITY

If you haven't, take the APEST giftings test. Discuss your results with your group. Do you agree with them? Do you see these giftings in your life? Are you using them for the Kingdom?

If you have already taken this test, share your results around the same questions. Make a plan on how you can begin using your gifts for His Kingdom this week.

We believe that we are called to live on mission and Jesus has assigned each of us special giftings so that we may take part in that. Are you willing to miss your assignment? Or are you reading to fulfill the office He has called you to?