

## Biblical Mandates

- ➡ **The Creation mandate**  
*We are stewards of the planet.*
- ➡ **The Commission mandate**  
*We are to make disciples.*
- ➡ **The Cultural (civil) mandate**  
*We are our brother's keeper.*
- ➡ **The Charismatic mandate**  
*We have individual roles & responsibilities.*
- ➡ **The Character mandate**  
*We bear the image of God.*

## Biblical Emphasis



### Matthew 28

#### Jesus' Great Commission

*Bring to faith in Christ*

# Make Disciples

*Bring to maturity in Christ*

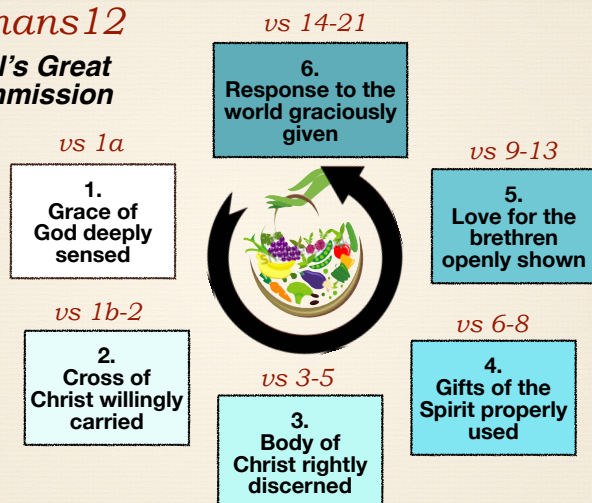
*Ephesians 4      Romans 12*  
**Paul's Great Commission**

### Ephesians 4

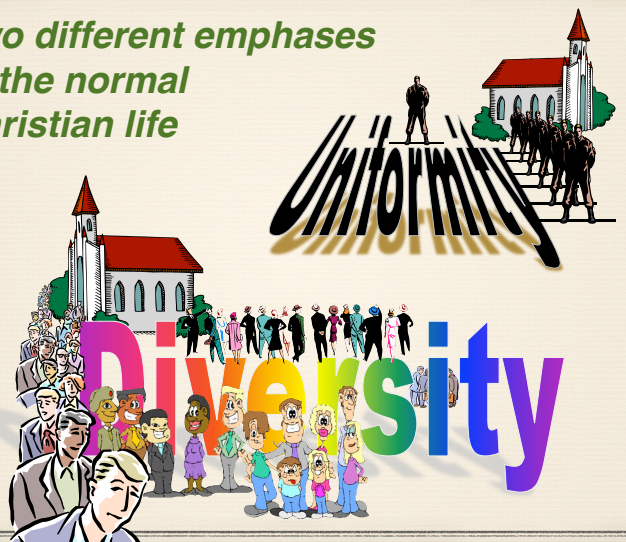
"7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. . . . 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

### Romans 12

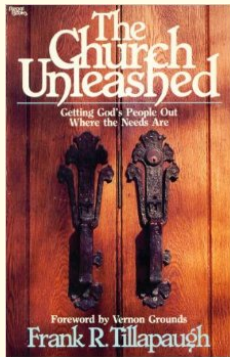
#### Paul's Great Commission



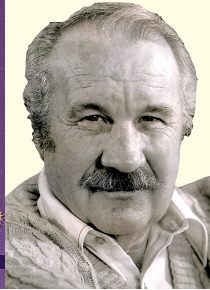
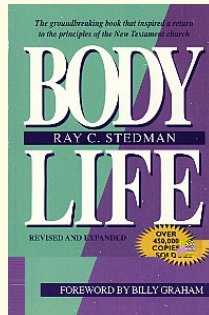
## Two different emphases of the normal Christian life







**In too many churches  
the ministers minister  
and the congregation  
congregates.**



## *Romans 12*

“<sup>6</sup> And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

### *The proper use of spiritual gifts*

“<sup>6</sup> And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly.”

#### **1. We exercise our gifts graciously when we:**

- publicly work in the areas of your strengths.
- relate to each other on the basis of our strengths and forebear with each other's weaknesses.

***Unity and health in the church is conditioned on the sense of mutual responsibility and respect among its members.***

### *The proper use of spiritual gifts*

“<sup>6</sup> And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly.”

**L**istens to concerns

**O**verlooks weaknesses

**V**alues strengths

**E**mpathizes with pain

Desmond Tutu

“Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among His people.”

Robert Kennedy

“Ultimately, America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity, the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired.”

Hillary Clinton

“What we have to do... is to find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities.”

Faya Angelou

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”

### *The proper use of spiritual gifts*

“if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; (a word “**person to person**” not “**station to station**”)

<sup>7</sup> if **service**, in his serving; (**ministering servant**)

or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; (**instruct, explain**)

<sup>8</sup> or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; (**cheerleader**)

he who **gives**, with liberality; (**generous sharing**)

he who **leads**, with diligence; (**protective care**)

he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.” (**empathize**)

#### **2. We exercise our gifts confidently when we:**

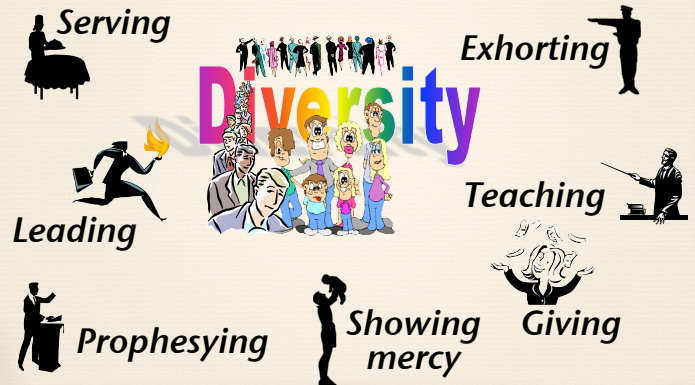
- find joy in our work.
- don't outrun our ability or level of maturity.



## General observations

- The N.T. seldom addresses vocational calling and when it does, it is with regard to Christian ministry.
- It does address the priesthood of all believers, civil responsibility, and ministry functions.
- Not all spiritual gifts are dramatic.
- “Natural talents” & “spiritual gifts” both come from God and should be offered back to Him in service.

*We are not all created equal, nor are we called to the same role, nor do we share the same perspective.*



*Don't confuse character with gifts or fruit.*

**Spiritual gift**  
(individual ability)

**Spiritual fruit**  
(providential blessing)

**Spiritual character** (universal calling)



## Lists of spiritual gifts in the N.T.

Rom. 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28	Eph. 4:11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Serving</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Exhortation</li> <li>• Giving</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Mercy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word of wisdom</li> <li>• Word of knowledge</li> <li>• Faith</li> <li>• Gifts of healings</li> <li>• Miracles</li> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Distinguishing spirits</li> <li>• Tongues</li> <li>• Interpretation of tongues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostle</li> <li>• Prophet</li> <li>• Teacher</li> <li>• Miracles</li> <li>• Kinds of healings</li> <li>• Helps</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Tongues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostle</li> <li>• Prophet</li> <li>• Evangelist</li> <li>• Pastor</li> <li>• Teacher</li> </ul>

- The lists are not meant to be technical or exclusive.
- The lists are focused on our function in the Body of Christ not the secular world.

### 1 Peter 4:11

“Whoever **speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever **serves** is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;”

Speaking	Supervising	Serving	Sign
Prophecy Evangelism Teaching Exhorting Tongues Interpretation	Apostles Pastor / Teacher Administrator	Wisdom Knowledge Faith Healing Miracles Discernment	Miracles Healing Tongues

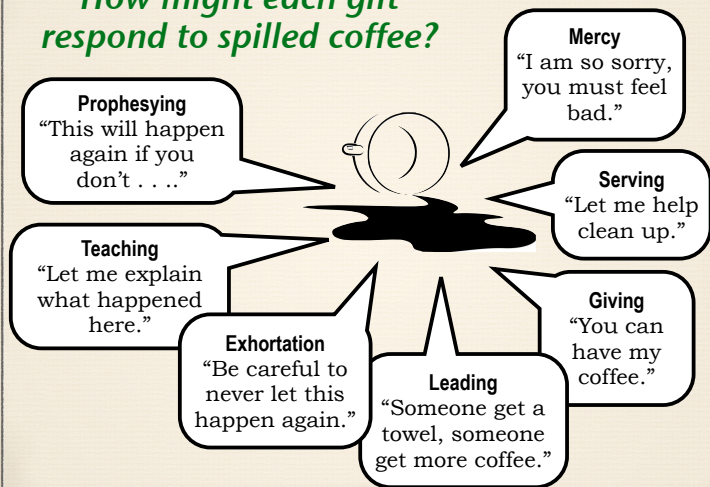
### 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

“Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

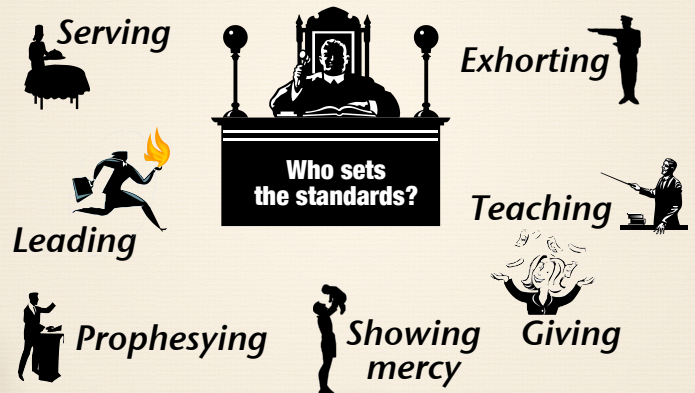
Motivations “gifts”	Ministries “ministries”	Manifestation “effects”
Perspective, Power, Passion	<b>Position</b>	<b>Profit</b>
Rom.12	Eph.4	1 Cor.12



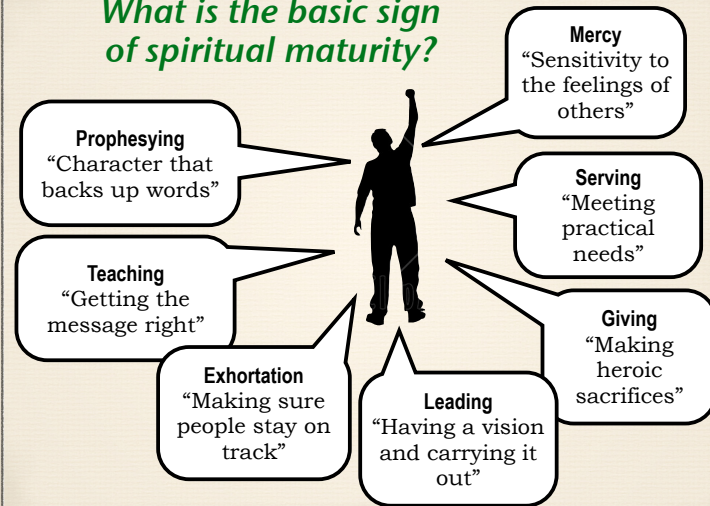
### How might each gift respond to spilled coffee?



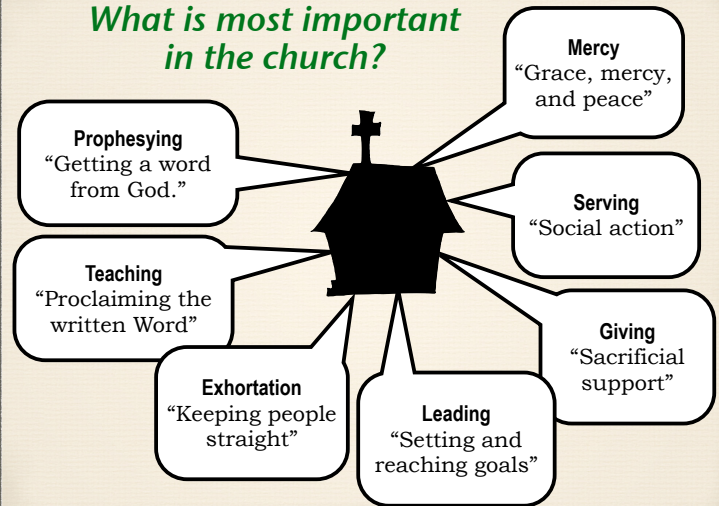
### Each has a different strength which can become a standard for score-keeping.



### What is the basic sign of spiritual maturity?



### What is most important in the church?



**One of God's principle tools in bringing people to faith in Christ is a church that is bringing people to maturity in Christ.**

*John 17:21*

"that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent me."

### Lessons

- Major on YOUR majors in ministry.
- Respect DIVERSITY in the church.
- All that we are and do should be in service of worship to God.
- Don't glorify vocation.
- Don't confuse spirituality with gifts.
- Be a eager disciple, not a spectator, critic, consumer.