

**PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORIA:  
IT'S TIME TO USE YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE OTHERS**

*Houses of Light Church • November 19-20, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez*

**1 Pet. 4:10**

***"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."***

**I. BRIEF REVIEW AND CONTEXT**

- A. Let's see today's verse in its context. Peter said: ***"The end of all things is at hand;"***; the end of the age began when Jesus came and according to what the signs indicate we are now in the last days before the return of Jesus ***"therefore"*** everyone must have a ***"sober mind to pray well"*** (1 Pet. 4:7) and cry out to God to ***"love one another earnestly"*** because His love covers ***"a multitude of sins."*** (1 Pet. 4:8).
- B. Also the way love is expressed in this passage is to ***"Show hospitality,"*** accepting discomfort ***"without grumbling,"*** joyfully (1 Pet. 4:9). In today's verse Peter speaks of a more specific act of love, serving one another with the gifts we have received from God and building each other up.

**II. WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED A GIFT**

- A. ***"Each one has received a gift"***: By the grace of God we have all received gifts; there is no one who can think is that I didn't get anything; What happens is that we compare ourselves and we think that since we don't have a type of gift like someone else, we come to the conclusion that we don't have gifts and this error can lead us to not activate the gift that we do have.
- B. ***"use it to serve one another"*** Each one of us has been entrusted to serve one another with the gift we have received from God. **The gift is not for us but for others.**
- C. ***"as good stewards"*** Being an administrator is being a manager, that is, there is a homeowner who has members in his family and he hires an administrator to take care of the family members with the resources that are Of the owner. In this case, God is the owner and as administrators we supply the needs of the family of God with what belongs to Him.
- D. The fact that stewards administer grace to each other breaks the old idea of religious hierarchy. We have all received grace and are therefore called to use it to bless others. Not just the full-time pastors but everyone, each other.

**III. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS AND HOW DO THEY OPERATE?**

- A. **A gift is a God-given ability to administer God's grace to others.** Grace and the gift are not the same; the gift is the capacity with which we administer the grace that has been granted to us.

**Rom. 12:4 y 6** ***"For as in one body we have many members,[e] and the members do not all have the same function... 6 Having gifts that differ***

***according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith."***

- B. When he says "***each one***" he refers to something unique and although, for example, teaching is a specific gift that many people have this gift is not the same in all; there is a personal way of taking the grace that each of us has experienced and channeling it to others. The individuality of each member of the church and the moment of the teaching gift will not be like that of any other.

#### **IV. UNDERSTANDING THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD (1 Ped. 4:10)**

- A. When you think about discovering your gift, you shouldn't look at a list and ask yourself: is it teaching, administration, mercy, or some other gift? **Perhaps you feel that you do not fall into any category but that is not the correct way to recognize the gift that has been given to you.** The correct way of thinking is: God has shown me His grace, I want to bless other people, I want to administer this grace, so I am going to do good to others with this grace that God gave me and **with time you will discover that you do have a gift in some unique way, which is why Peter calls it "*the varied grace of God.*"**
- B. For example, if I have the gift of serving, I may think that I am limited to that, but we must consider that perhaps when I am in a Friendship Group or at an event, I can be given the ability to bless someone with words of encouragement inspired by the Holy Spirit (prophecy) and it is something that I have not had in another time and perhaps it does not appear so frequently but it is the manifold grace flowing towards others.
- C. So the gift is multiform and can also be temporary and occasional; **That is why we can reach out to the lives of others asking the Lord, do you have a gift at this moment to be a channel of Your grace in a way that I have not been before and that will bless the one in front of me?**

#### **V. PUTTING MY GIFT AT THE SERVICE OF OTHERS**

- A. When Peter says: "***use your gift to serve one another***" he means that we are going to meet each other's needs. When we think of the great number of needs that exist in each group of people, we realize how precious this "***manifold grace of God***" is and we take the position of humility to serve them as good stewards of that grace that has various manifestations.
- B. The Holy Spirit through Peter is speaking of how grace is channeled from one to another through service. **Many people want to know their gift but do not use what they have or the opportunity that is presented, so they are left out of the game. So the suggestion is that when you think about how you can bless other people with your gifts, don't think about falling into one category or another, as something you have permanently, but think about how, in this situation, the grace that you have tasted you want. pour it out in some way that can help and God, who knows this need better than all, make you a means for the blessing of others.**

## VI. IT'S TIME TO ACTIVATE

- A. It is time to see how the gifts that God has given us are building the kingdom of God. **On many occasions we do not see our gifts as something valuable, but they are and it is never too late to multiply them.**
- B. **Grace is God's empowerment to take you beyond your natural ability** so we must always keep in mind that we must depend on God to do what God called us to do. Personally, I did not feel that I had any ability to speak in public, much less to advise, however, the grace of God has made it possible and I see that it was God who gave me this ability.
- C. Timothy was one of the most godly men in the New Testament but he was not operating in his gift, perhaps out of fear and that can happen to many of us.

**2 Tim. 1:6-7 *"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*"**

- D. Being like Christ implies using our gift.

**Rom. 12:6-8 *"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."***

## VII. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FAITHFUL AS STEWARDS OF THE GIFTS

- A. The word **Faithful** means to be: **Constant, trustworthy, loyal, trustworthy, devoted, true, etc.** But the word fidelity is also **MULTIPLICATION** as we see it in the Parable of the Talents:

**Matt. 25:14 *"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[c] and entrusted to them his property.."***

- B. The owner had three employees and did not micro-manage them but did give them an opportunity based on their ability; Nobody is being asked for something that they cannot handle with the grace of God.

**Matt. 25:21 *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."***

- C. Jesus did not speak to his servants of his constancy but of his fruit which is multiplication.

**Matt. 25:24-25 *"He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours."***

- D. The wicked servant did not understand the character of his master. The first reason many don't use his gift is because of intimidation.

**Matt. 25:26** *"But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? "*

1. **wicked:** This is something of the heart and consequently produces the useless being in terms of your gift.
2. **Lazy:** For backing down and becoming hesitant to get involved in something.

**E.** This parable shows how God sees our work and how He responds:

**Matt. 25:28** *"So take the talent from him [of which he did nothing] and give it to him [to the one who did more] who has the ten talents."*

**F.** God does not give to everyone equally because he considers our performance and ability.

**Mat. 25:29** *"For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

**G.** **If you do not multiply, you are being unfaithful:** It is time to multiply the gift that God has given us. God gave the order for his kingdom to fill the earth and the devil hates the multiplication of the holy and wants to sabotage it.

#### **VIII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. What gift do you have that God is calling you to multiply and how are you going to do it?
2. What are the impediments to multiplying your gift and how can you overcome them?

#### **THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Holy58 Youth Service Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Set and fellowship of young adults every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in the House of Prayer building.
3. Come to our special Thanksgiving service: Thursday, November 24 at 11:00 a.m. Our children's ministry will be open.
4. The Worship team of our Church, Casa de Oración and HOLY58 will be holding auditions for musicians and singers on Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. Please register at [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)
5. We remind you that our HOLA Teen Ministry has a service on Sundays during the second service (11:00 a.m.)