

1 **“Saved to Serve”**

Matthew 25:14-30

2

“The very motto of the Christian should be, ‘I serve!’.”

Charles Hadden Spurgeon

3 **Serving is an outcome resulting from salvation:**

■ James 2:20 *“Faith without works is dead”*

■ Eph. 2:10 *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

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■ Titus 2:14 Christ *“... Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”*

■ Titus 1:16 *“They profess that they know God, but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”*

5 **The parables of Christ clearly warn that failure to serve and live a fruitful Christian life is a sign of false profession:**

■ Christ taught that good and evil would exist side by side within the visible church:

◆ The parable of the wheat and the tares [Matt. 13:24-30] & its interpretation by Christ Himself, [vv. 37-43]

■ The parable of the drag net [Matt. 13:47-50]

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7 **Other parables teach that the distinction between the two [i.e. the good and the evil] is determined by the fruit they bear, or the lack of it [i.e. their faithful service in the kingdom, the church, or the lack of service.]**

■ All professing Christians have received something from God

■ Many make a bad use of the privileges and talents they receive from God

8

■ All professing Christians will one day have to give an account to God

■ True Christians will receive an abundant reward in that day

■ False [unfruitful] professors will be exposed, condemned, and cast away in that day

9 ☐ **Serving is a matter of obedience and good stewardship of the gifts we've been given**

■ Scripture teaches that God has given true believers "spiritual gifts," and that it is both an obligation and a joyful privilege to invest these gifts in the service of the church, [the present form of God's Kingdom on earth].

◆ I Peter 4:10 - *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another."*

◆ Gal. 5:13b - tells us we are to *"serve one another in love."*

10 ☐ **Some questions and answers about spiritual gifts:**

■ What is a spiritual gift?

◆ I Cor. 12 gives an extensive discussion of the 'spiritual gifts' [Greek "charisma"]. The root word is "charis," meaning "grace." Therefore, these are unmerited gifts given to us by God.

◆ They are labeled "spiritual gifts," because they are activated and empowered by the Holy Spirit [i.e. they are to be distinguished from natural gifts].

◆ "As to its essence, a spiritual gift is an ability. It is ability to function effectively and significantly in a particular service as a member of Christ's body, the church." - William McRae

11 ☐ **Who gives and receives spiritual gifts?**

I Cor. 12:8-9, 11, 28 indicate that spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit according to God's sovereign will.

The recipients are all true believers [I Cor. 12:7, 11, 18]

12 ☐ **Does the Bible give us a list of spiritual gifts for us to consult?**

■ The answer is yes!

■ I Cor. 12:8-10; 12:28; 12:29-30; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; I Pet. 4:11.

13 ☐ **How do we discover our spiritual gifts?**

■ Be informed - Research the spiritual gifts and be familiar with the possible gifts God may have given you.

■ Be open - God may have given you more than one or two gifts. Be willing to try different ministries and be open to discover special abilities you may now possess.

14 ☐

- **Be available** - Have a willingness to step out and volunteer to be used in different types of ministries regardless of whether you know for certain how you may or may not succeed.
- **Be sensitive** - Carefully evaluate the effect your spiritual gifts may have on others.
- **Be sensible** - Don't force yourself to fit into a particular position which requires giftedness you discover you do not possess.

15 ☐

Suppose we do not exercise our spiritual gifts?

- **We become guilty of disobedience, because Scripture commands us to exercise our spiritual gifts:** *“And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly”* [Rom. 12:6a].
- **Failure to exercise our gifts can adversely affect the Body of Christ and the very glory of God** [1 Pet. 4:10-11].

16 ☐

17 ☐

Some examples of spiritual gifts and the application of them here at GCC:

18 ☐

The gift of helping or serving [Rom. 12:7]

■ **Definition:**

“Serving is the ability to assist and support others in the family of God in practical ways with great faithfulness and delight. ... [the Greek word, diakonos] is used of serving food or waiting on tables.”

Swindoll study guide on “The Spiritual Gifts”

19 ☐

■ **Applications at GCC:**

- ◆ **Kitchen workers, Family Night meal program & other meals**
- ◆ **Deacons and Deaconesses**
- ◆ **Building repairs, maintenance and construction**
- ◆ **Setting up and taking down of tables and chairs**
- ◆ **Cleaning up after church functions**
- ◆ **Moving and storing items, keeping track of supplies**

20 ☐

■ **Making props, costumes for church plays, banners, flags, etc.**

- Sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning rooms
- Acting as chaperones for bus ministry
- Help run men's basketball ministry program
- Serve on the Missions Committee
- Providing Nursery care and child care for church functions
- Voluntary work in church library Resource Center and other ministries

21 ☐ **The gift of mercy [Rom. 12:8]**

■**Definition:**

“... the ability to empathize with the needs, pains, heartaches, disappointments, and sorrows of others and to be an agent of healing and restoration.

Swindoll study guide

22 ☐

■**Applications at GCC:**

- ◆Needs and food pantry ministry
- ◆Care ministry [Nursing, Red Cross, etc.]
- ◆Nursery Care Workers
- ◆Rescue mission ministry
- ◆Grace to the Streets/ Grace House ministry
- ◆Family House ministry
- ◆Prison ministry
- ◆Joy Express - flowers and gifts - visit the sick

23 ☐ **The gift of giving [Rom. 12:6-8]**

■ **Definition:**

“... the ability to be sensitive to and to provide for the needs of the saints with great joy and generosity.”

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24 ☐

■**Applications at GCC:**

- ◆Help meet legitimate special needs of needy individuals
- ◆Help facilitate building new worship center [building fund]
- ◆Assist Needs Committee & help fund food pantry
- ◆Help meet needs of Grace House project and Grace to the streets

◆ Involvement with Crown Ministries program

25 ☐ **The gift of teaching [I Cor. 12:28]**

■ **Definition:**

“... defines, describes, and declares existing revelation.”

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“Explaining God’s truth and how to apply it.”

Kenneth Gangel

26 ☐

■ **Application at GCC:**

- ◆ Awana counselors
- ◆ Sunday Family Education class teachers
- ◆ Bible studies [Couples, Young Adults, Ladies, etc.]
- ◆ Bible Institute Ministry
- ◆ Youth leaders
- ◆ Jr High Ministry

27 ☐

- ◆ Small group leaders
- ◆ E.E. trainers
- ◆ Biblical counselors
- ◆ Crown Ministries
- ◆ Family House ministry
- ◆ Home School ministry

28 ☐ **The gift of evangelism [Eph. 4:11]**

■ **Definition:**

“... one who has a unique ability to share the gospel of salvation with ease, courage, and effectiveness.”

Swindoll's study notes

29 ☐

■ **Application at GCC:**

- ◆ Evangelism Explosion
- ◆ Short-term mission trips
- ◆ Grace to the Streets
- ◆ Small group fellowships

- ◆Awana
- ◆Youth ministry
- ◆Sunday Christian Education program
- ◆Prison ministries

30 ☐ **The gift of exhortation or encouragement [Rom. 12:8]**

■ **Definition:**

“... to comfort or encourage, and to admonish.”

Kenneth Gangel

31 ☐

■ **Application at GCC:**

- ◆BCEC - the Biblical counseling ministry
- ◆Youth leader
- ◆Bible study leader
- ◆Small group leader
- ◆Act as a mentor for the Rescue Mission

32 ☐ **The gift of hospitality [Rom. 12]**

■ **Definition:**

“... to open our homes and welcome each other as guests for meals, overnight, or for whatever the need might be - without complaining.

Kenneth Gangel

33 ☐

■ **Application at GCC:**

- ◆Housing traveling missionaries and guest speakers
- ◆Hosting Bible studies and small group fellowships in your home
- ◆Hosting wedding and baby showers
- ◆Hosting birthday parties
- ◆Having fellow Christians over for meals and sharing time together

34 ☐ **The gift of music** [unlisted, but a gift from God]

■ **Definition:**

“A talent for singing or playing musical instruments in such a way as to enhance worship”

■ **Application at GCC:**

- ◆Praise team
- ◆Choir

◆Children's Choir ministry

◆Solos

35 ☐ **The Gift of Prophecy**

■ **Definition:**

"Speaking forth God's message under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

A. T. Robertson

■ **"... to proclaim openly, to state publicly, to proclaim aloud."**

Colin Brown

36 ☐

■ **NOTE: "Prophecy" is not necessarily a foretelling of the future.**

■ **Application at GCC:**

◆Grace for Life Ministry

◆Grace to the Streets

◆Social Concerns Committee

37 ☐ **When we serve, we are like Christ and we honor His Word by the bearing of the fruit of His kingdom [cf. Rom. 14:17].**

■ **Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."***

38 ☐ **CONCLUSION:**

■ **GCC seeks to build a community of believers whose lives are centered on Christ and His Gospel. - Such a life will include serving others in our church and in our community in order to bring glory and honor to Him!**

39 ☐ **How will you serve?**

■ **Remember, "... we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of what we have done in this body, whether good or evil" [II Cor. 5:10].**

■ **Heb. 6:10 *"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."***

■ **I Pet. 5:4 You will receive *"a crown of glory that will never fade away."***

■ **II Pet. 1:10 and, *"a rich welcome"*!**