

APPLICATION

- A lot of the time, just like my brother, we don't think we are all that special or gifted. The truth is, just like him, you are special and gifted and others would love to have the gifts you have.
- Often we just need the recognition and encouragement of others in order to have the courage to step out and use our gifts.
- Sometimes we fall short of seeing and encouraging the gifts in others. We look down on others because of the way they dress, the way they look, the way they act, the part of town they come from, the family they come from, or any other set of reasons. The truth is that each and every person has gifts that God has given them.
- The amazing thing is that we each could hold the key to unlocking and unleashing someone else's gift. Maybe all we would have to do is recognize their giftedness and encourage them to use it.
- The gifts that we all carry are amazing. They will bless not only your life but will bless the lives of others and possibly even change the world. No wonder Paul wanted us to see the gifts and use them!

Prayer

Lord, help us to see and to celebrate the gifts in others. Help us to see the gifts in people who are overlooked and who's gifts are not celebrated, so that they can be unleashed. Help us to step out and use our gifts to bless others. In Your Name. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. Yet there are many setbacks, heartaches and road blocks along the way. Trying to overcome the issues we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to freedom. Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



Gifts of Grace

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Did you ever learn to read and play music?
Why or why not?
- If you did learn, what instrument did you learn to play?
- Who or what made you want to play music?
- What is a musical talent you would love to have?

WORD

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 12:3,6

As long as I can remember my parents have had a piano in the house. My mother wanted me to learn to play it when I was a young boy. I didn't want to play the piano. I wanted to get and learn to play a saxophone. Piano's were for girls! The sax was cool! The only people I knew who learned to play the piano were girls. My mom, one of my older sisters, and some of the ladies at the church. All girls. No boys. So I had no interest in it. My mom and I both "dug in our heels." I didn't learn the piano and she did not buy me a sax. So to this day I have no musical abilities.

As I remember it, my older brother was pretty much the same. Mom wanted him to learn to play too, but he did not want to either. In many ways my brother and I are a lot alike, even though he is six years older than I am. Obviously there are some differences between us as well. One major difference is the ability to play the piano. Just like me he did not want to learn, but unlike me, he has a gift. He can play music by ear. He has never learned to play or read music, but over time he discovered he could play what he had heard. He can hear a song, sit down at the piano, figure out the music and begin to play the song. From my perspective that is a true gift. He doesn't think it's all that special but I do. I wish I could do that.

My brother and I are different in other ways too. I have some gifts and talents that he does not have. That is just the way it is. We are all different. The key is learning to celebrate and enjoy the gifts that others have while not feeling bad about the gifts you don't have. Trust me, you have gifts others would like to have but don't. That's just the way it is.

1 - It's Grace

³ For by the grace given me ... Romans 12:3a

I do not know what types of musical abilities I could have developed because I never worked at them. Even if I had it would still be different than a gift. Natural gifts (talents) were given to us not because of anything we did to earn them. It is just the way we were made. Yet, if we develop them, they enable us to do far more than just sheer effort alone can do. Gifts therefore are a clear sign of the grace and goodness of God given without us earning them. What are some of the grace gifts, or natural talents, that you see in others that you appreciate the most?

2 - See The Gift In Others

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3b

In this Scripture the Apostle Paul tell us not to think of ourselves too highly but to think of ourselves within the context of the faith that God has given to each of us. Paul uses the singular "you" when talking about not judging yourself to highly. Then he uses the plural "each of you" when talking about God distributing gifts. He is clearly wanting us to see the giftedness of others, not just our own gifts. According to the Apostle Paul, each and every one of us has gifts and we are to look for the gifts in others. Do you find it easy or hard to look for and find the gifts in each and every person? What are some of the barriers that keep you from seeing the giftedness of others? How can we remove those barriers to celebrate everyone?

3 - You Are Gifted! Use The Gifts!

⁶ We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-7

Paul wants us to think soberly but not lowly! He tell us not to think too highly of ourselves but then turns right around and tell us to use our gifts! We will not use our gifts if we think lowly of ourselves or our gifts. You are gifted! Paul wants us to see the giftedness of others while we use our own gifts. We were given gifts so that they could be used and enjoyed. What are some gifts you see in yourself or in those in your group that need celebrated and used more?