



This Sunday, we continued with part two of our Engage Series. Steve used a picture of the various uses of the different tools in a toolbox (hammer, tape measure, spirit level, pliers, screwdrivers, clamps...) to illustrate how we each have a different role to play in building the local church. No one tool is more important than the other, but each has a very specific purpose. Just as a carpenter building a table would use the hammer to drive in a nail, a clamp to hold pieces of wood together, and a spirit level to check that the table top is level; so God has gifted each one of us uniquely for a specific purpose within the Church.

*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. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 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; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 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 12:3-8

### **1. God has uniquely gifted each of us.**

He has gifted us (by grace) because He is a generous God! *We have different gifts, according to the grace*

*given to each of us.* Romans 12:6

### **2. We are to be AWARE of and WILLING to use our gifts.**

Paul refers to “sober judgement” (Romans 12:3). This means we should not think too highly (or too lowly) of ourselves. It’s not about our value, but about the different graces that are upon our lives. If we go back to the toolbox example, the hammer shouldn’t think it’s more important than the pliers; and the spirit level doesn’t think “I don’t really have a place.”

### **3. This results in ME being fruitful, OTHERS being built up and GOD being glorified.**

“...and each member belongs to all the others...” (Romans 12:5). This means that we all have a role to play in helping the local church to grow. In Scripture, the church is referred to as the Body of Christ. In the context of the body, if one arm is bleeding badly, every limb in the body will grow weaker, not just the injured arm. But if the arm is working hard to feed the mouth, every limb will be strengthened.

Not everyone in the Bible felt up to exercising their gifts - some people, for example Gideon, felt very afraid!

The list of gifts in Romans 12 is not an exhaustive list, and neither is it limiting.

**1. Prophecy:** Is not just about predicting the future, but also includes the extraordinary ability to discern and proclaim truth. Bruce Winston defines it as: the ability to quickly and accurately discern

good and evil and the ability to reveal truth for understanding, correction, or edification.

2. **Serving:** Is the God-given ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals. Serving can be people-centered OR task-oriented.
3. **Teaching:** Is the God-given ability to discern, analyze, and deliver information and truth so that others can learn.
4. **Encouragement:** Is the God-given ability to give encouragement, comfort, consolation and counsel in such a way that others feel helped and healed.
5. **Generosity:** Is the ability to manage one's resources of income, time, energy, and skills to give beyond what is considered to be a reasonable standard for giving.
6. **Leadership:** Is the ability to draw others together and work towards a common goal in accordance with God's purpose for the future.
7. **Mercy:** Is the extraordinary ability to feel and to act upon genuine empathy for others who suffer distressing physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual pain.

This doesn't mean that if, for example, teaching is your main area of gifting that you don't need to be generous, merciful or encouraging!

One of the best places we can learn about and use our unique gifts is in the setting of a LifeGroup. On the 11th of February we begin our church-wide series, Better Together. The topics we will cover over the six weeks are:

- What Matters Most
- Reaching Out Together
- Belonging Together
- Growing Together
- Serving Together
- Worshiping Together

We are looking for people (besides existing LifeGroup leaders) to host six-week Better Together groups. To sign up to lead a group please email [admin@cityhill.co.za](mailto:admin@cityhill.co.za). Full training will be provided to ALL group leaders.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your No. 1 takeaway from the Sunday services?
2. "The Bible is full of examples of God's people using the gifts He's given them to bless others for His glory. This list of gifts includes, but is not limited to: artistry, architecture, administration, baking, boat making, debating, designing, embroidering, engraving, farming, fishing, gardening, leading, managing, making music, making weapons, needlework, painting, sailing, selling, tailoring, teaching, writing literature and poetry."
3. What are the things that you enjoy doing? (and are good at)?
4. What are the gifts that you recognise in other people in your group? Spend a few minutes acknowledging the gifts that others have - eg "I really appreciate how creative Sally is etc"
5. Please read Romans 12:4-8. In what ways do you feel you have been able to bless others with your God-given talents?
6. How do you feel God might be guiding you to get more engaged at CityHill church this year?
7. Spend a few minutes discussing who you have invited/are planning to invite to the Better Together series. Pray for those people.

## REMINDER

Next Tuesday (6th) is a day of fasting and prayer. Prayer meeting from 6-7pm at CityHill. Kids welcome. Supper available at 7pm! Who can make it?