



Pointes to Ponder

Homebound Spiritual Gifts?

Romans 12:6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly... (NASB95)

For years, people who are drained of energy when required to be with groups of people have jokingly called for solidarity among their ranks by proclaiming that all introverts should “unite, separately, in your own homes”. The irony is obvious. Being together cannot be sustained in absentia. We simply must gather to experience biblical oneness. But the recent effects of the Coronavirus pandemic have turned humor into reality, namely we must all stay home and are prevented or at least greatly hindered from being in close contact with others. Extroverts, those that find great energizing effect from being with people, may now be feeling blah and find themselves pining for face-to-face interaction. And most likely all of us are growing restless in our desire to be with the bride of Christ on a regular basis.

I am convinced this longing is evidence of our unquenchable desire to fulfill our spiritual gift. It is grace that compels us to serve & teach others. Whether we have a speaking gift or one of service, when we see a need, we are constrained to meet that need. And we do it. But how can we effectively practice our spiritual gifts while apart? Doesn't doing them imply if not require togetherness? Paul's claim in Romans is that spiritual gifts are an individual expression of God's grace to you for others. It is according to this grace that we are to exercise our gift. How we do what we are uniquely enabled to do by the Holy Spirit should be in agreement with the grace we have received from God.

Now, putting this gift of grace into action while in viral exile may take some creative imagination. New ideas have been and will likely continue to be implemented. And with confidence in the Giver of grace, we know we will find ways to be the channel of grace in and to the body of Christ, even though we can't be face-to-face. We may have to look for those opportunities on Facebook or other virtual locations and we could even go old-school and actually dial a phone number (*gasp*). Because the gracious God we serve was not caught off guard. The need to practice the gift we have been given will not take a vacation, there is still work to be done...albeit without physical contact. Until we gather in person again, be the church even though not at church. May whatever you do be in agreement with the grace of God in you. Amen.

Much Love,
Pastor Keith