

Keeping Gifts in Perspective

Gifts were given to make you helpful, not happy

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

1 Corinthians 12:7

Gifts foster interdependence, not independence

Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

1 Corinthians 12:20-21

Gifts are a means to love more than things to love

So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:31

Gifts are to be used to their fullest potential

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Romans 12:6-8