

XII

Use Your Gift

ROMANS 12:6–8

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

READ | ROMANS 12:6–8

THINK ABOUT

The church as a body is one of Paul's themes in Romans 12. A body has many parts which work together to make the body function perfectly. If one part of the body is not functioning, the body grows ill. It is important that every member of the body functions as designed so that the body can carry out the work that God intended.

As believers, we are parts of this figurative body that makes the church function at its peak. It is important that we seek, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to know our giftedness and role within the church. We must, then, humbly accept the gift that God has given us and seek to use that gift to help the church as it functions to lead others to Christ.

APPLY

Paul gives us a list of gifts in this passage. That list includes the gifts of prophecy, service, teaching, exhorting, contributing, leading, and mercy.

Prophecy is telling others about Christ. Service is every day sharing the love of Christ in practical ways. Teaching is best described as explaining the Word of God. Exhorting means encouraging others as they walk as Jesus walked. Contributing is sharing the gifts that God has given you. Leading is humbly and enthusiastically accepting God's call to shepherd His flock. Finally, there is mercy. We must graciously show kindness to others just as our Savior shared with us. Where has God gifted you for service?

ASK

Do you ever wish that you could choose what gift that you had? God in his infinite wisdom chooses which gift(s) you have. Do you humbly accept the gift that He has given you?

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At the core of man's being is pride. We constantly battle with who we want to be and who God wants us to be. Humbly accepting the gift that God has given and using it for His service shows our maturity as an authentic follower of Christ. What will it take for you to give yourself fully in service to the Savior and service within the body of Christ?

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PRAY

Father, I know that my giftedness comes from You! These gifts are to be used for You and Your purposes. Forgive me for not using them. I confess my sin before You.

Make me into Your vessel, an instrument that You can use. Help me find my place in the body of Christ here at Calvary Church. Use me to carry out Your mission in displaying and proclaiming the Gospel to others.

1 PETER 4:10–11

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:24–31

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.



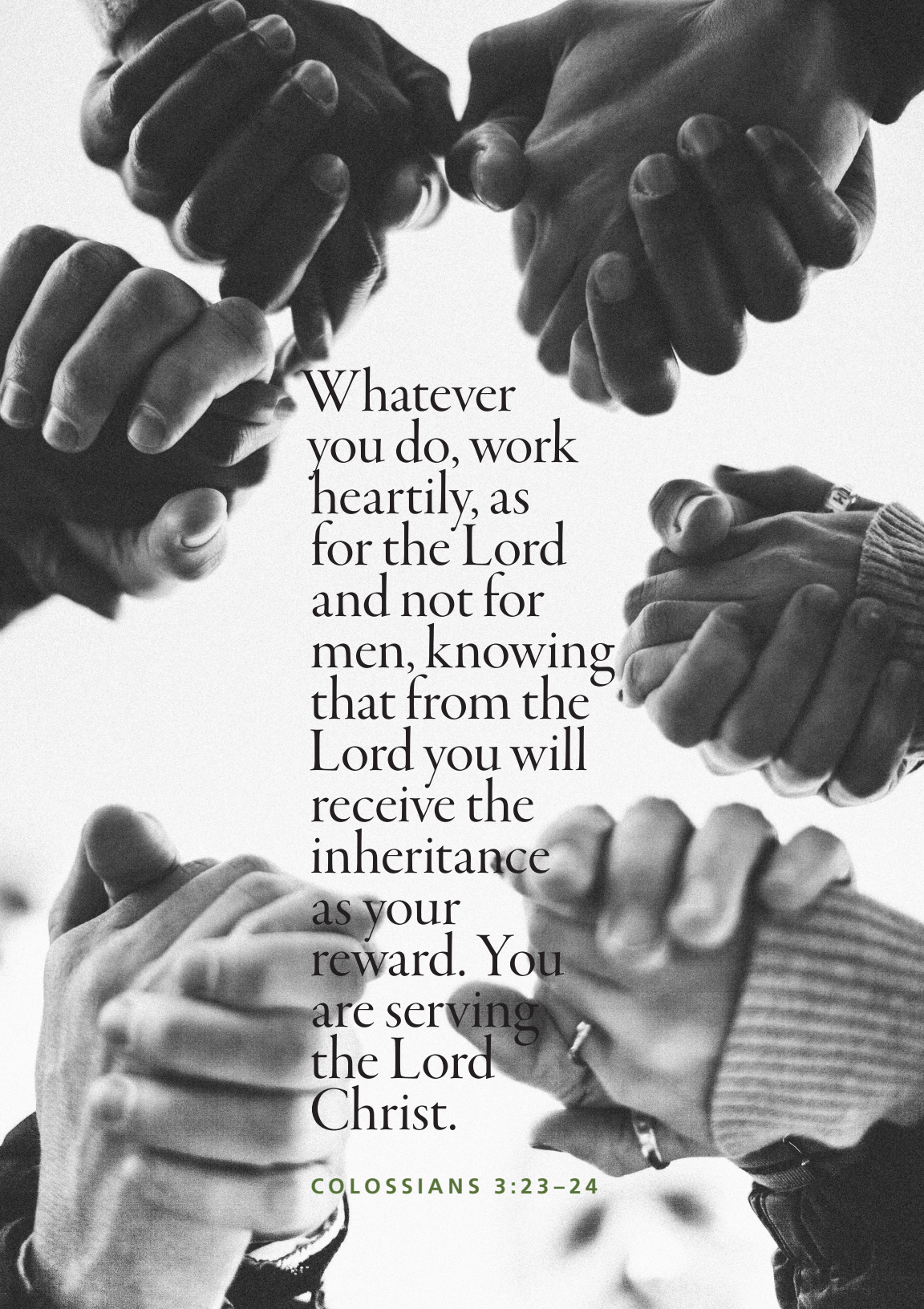
SING

“Grace Alone” — *Scott Wesley Brown*

“USE YOUR GIFT”

Romans 12:6-8

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



Whatever
you do, work
heartily, as
for the Lord
and not for
men, knowing
that from the
Lord you will
receive the
inheritance
as your
reward. You
are serving
the Lord
Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24