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| 1 Peter 4:7-111 Cor 12:1-11 | Principles of the Gifts of the HS (Part 1) | Pinelands – 9am – 22/06/2025 |

**British Atheist…** **Bertrand Russell** (1872 – 1970) said…

 ***“Unless you assume a God, the question***

***of life’s purpose is meaningless.”***

***Reflect*** on that for a moment… *(Repeat the Quote)*

**With that in mind… It is fair to say…**

**LIFE IS NOT ONLY ABOUT YOU?**

**Rick Warren** in his book ***“Purpose Driven life”*** comments…

The purpose of your life is ***far greater*** than…

your own personal fulfilment,

your own peace of mind,

or even your own happiness.

It is far greater than…

your family, your career,

or even your wildest dreams and ambitions.

If you want to know **WHY** you were placed on this planet…

you must begin with God…

You were born by his purpose and for his purpose.

***He goes on to say…***

**The reason why** the search for the **Purpose of Life** is sooo…

Puzzling… *(and has been for thousands of years)* is…

**BECAUSE** we typically begin at the wrong starting point…

***OURSELVES.***

We ask self-centered questions like

*‘What do I want to be?’*

*‘What should I do with my life?’*

*‘What are my goals and my dreams?’*

*‘What are my ambitions for my future?’*

But focusing on ***OURSELVES…***

**WILL NEVER** reveal our life’s purpose.

Contrary to what many…

popular books, movies, and seminars tell us…

You won’t discover your **Life’s Meaning…**

by looking inside yourself.

**THE REASON BEING…**

You didn’t create yourself, so there is **no way** you can…

tell yourself… what you were created for!

Hear these words from **Colossians 1:15-17**

***“Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is***

***the first-born Son, superior to all created things.***

***For through him God created everything in heaven and***

***on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including***

***spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God***

***created the whole universe through him and for him.***

***Christ existed before all things, and in union with him***

***all things have their proper place.”***

**God Created us through Christ…**

 Surely then… God knows what we were created for.

**When we…** become a Christian

 **Or…** Join a Church…

 **We become part of that community.**

The Christian Faith is always expressed in **Community.**

Being part of that community means a few things…

 It means we… *Worship Together*

 *Share Life Together*

 *Participate Together*

In the Community / Church there should be…

 **NO…** ‘Silent Partners’, Pew Warmers,

**Every one… Has a Part to play.**

**God intends all Christians to be…** **active participants…**

and has assigned each one of us…

a function in the Christian community.

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

*Romans 12:4-6…*

**Romans 12:4-6**

***“We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts***

***have different functions.***

***In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in***

***union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as***

***different parts of one body.***

***So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with***

***the grace that God has given us.”***

Paul says… ***“So we are to use our different gifts”***

**There are 6 Principles surrounding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

 That I want to share with you. *(3 this time and 3 next time)*

**Principle 1… Purpose is to serve others and glorify God.**

**1 Peter 4:10-11**

 ***“Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use***

***for the good of others the special gift he has received from God.***

***Those who preach must preach God's messages; those who serve must serve with the strength that God gives them, so that in all things praise may be given to God through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen.”***

Our gifts are given to us, **by God,** **to BLESS other people.**
All our serving should always be towards others…

 And ultimately point to God… To Glorify Him.

**It is NOT about…** our *recognition* or *reputation*

 Our *Egos* and *Ability*

**It IS about…** *Serving* without the need for *affirmation*

 *Serving…* and *Expecting NOTHING in Return*

Some gifts are **more public** by nature…

Preaching, Reading Scripture,

But others are **hardly noticed** or even seen…

 Hanging Banners, Organising group events,

***OFTEN…*** I think those Gifts are more **NB.**

The **key to remember is…**

The purpose of all gifts…

**IS TO…** ***SERVE OTHERS and GLORIFY GOD.***

**1 Corinthians 12:7…**

***“The Spirit's presence is shown in some way***

***in each person for the good of all.”***

 **…FOR THE GOOD OF ALL**

I know it is a long way from Christmas…

But **Oren Arnold** *(American author)* Wrote…
 *“Christmas gift suggestions:*

*To your enemy, forgiveness.*

*To an opponent, tolerance.*

*To a friend, your heart.*

*To a customer, service.*

*To all, charity.*

*To every child, a good example.*

*To yourself, respect.”*

**The Purpose of the Gifts is to *serve others* and *glorify God.***

**Principle 2…** **Every Christian has a gift and…**

**every gift is important.**

God has given a spiritual gift to every member of the Body.

Many have the attitude that they have **NO GIFTS**.

**To say,** *"I don’t think I have a gift"*

***Is to say,*** *"I don’t think I have a place or*

 *function in the Body of Christ."*

The Bible teaches something **very different…**

***God has a job for every believer!!!***

It is tempting to look at other people and **compare… and say…**

**But…** *They do it soo well.*

 *I could never do that.*

**1Corinthians 12:15-18…** Reads…
***“If the foot were to say,***

***"Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body,"***

***that would not keep it from being a part of the body.***

***And if the ear were to say,***

***"Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body,"***

***that would not keep it from being a part of the body.***

***If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear?***

***And if it were only an ear, how could it smell?***

***As it is, however, God put every different part in the body just***

***as he wanted it to be.”***

In this passage **Paul** **shoots down…**

the common tendency to compare gifts with each other
And also the danger of secretly **disregarding or belittling** those…

 with less noticeable gifts.

**1Cor. 12:21…**

***“So then, the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"***

 ***Nor can the head say to the feet, "Well, I don't need you!”***

**In other words…**

 **Every person in this Room is… *GIFTED.***

**Dare we…** Look Down on one another.

 Laud it over one another

**In 2008…** Garbage workers in Naples went on a **2 week strike.**

The situation got **so bad** that the then Italian Prime Minister…

**Romano Prodi** deployed several units of the Italian Army

to clear away rubbish.

***Who is more important…***

**the Prime Minister or a Garbage Collector or a Soldier?**
***Who is more important in our church?***

*The Preacher, Door Steward,*

*The Person serving tea, Society Steward,*

**Or those who…**

*Lovingly minister to one another during the week,*

*Practice hospitality and share their faith 1 to 1,*

*The people who bring the light of Christ into people’s lives*

 *By caring and loving and serving*

*It is the people that are at the heart of our community.*
**Remember,** each gift is necessary and important to God

**Principle 3… Gifts are given by God and with His Grace.**

The Gifts are God Given…

**1 Cor 12:11+18
*“But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this;***

***as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.”***

***As it is, however, God put every different part in the body***

***just as he wanted it to be.”***

None of us…

deserves the abilities and talents we have.

Deserves the gifts we have been given.

They are given by ***God’s undeserved favour…***

to us through Christ.

Our **FAITH**, The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, The **Church,**

 **ALL OF THIS…** *(Sweeping hands around the church)*

**IS FAR MORE ABOUT GOD…** Than about **US**

This brings us almost **full circle… *Life is not about us…***

This is… **ALL** **about God…**

**What** **God is Doing…**

 ***In this place, In this Church…***

 ***Through You and Me.***

**The MEANING OF LIFE…**

**Is found in GOD… Through the exercising**

 **Of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

*(Next time we will look at another 3 principles)*

***1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Gifts from the Holy Spirit***

Now, concerning what you wrote about the gifts from the Holy Spirit.

I want you to know the truth about them, my friends. You know that while you were still heathen, you were led astray in many ways to the worship of lifeless idols. I want you to know that no one who is led by God's Spirit can say “A curse on Jesus!” and no one can confess “Jesus is Lord,” without being guided by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

**1 Peter 4:7-11 Good Managers of God's Gifts**

The end of all things is near. You must be self-controlled and alert, to be able to pray. Above everything, love one another earnestly, because love covers over many sins. Open your homes to each other without complaining. Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God. Those who preach must preach God's messages; those who serve must serve with the strength that God gives them, so that in all things praise may be given to God through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen.