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| 1 Peter 4:7-111 Cor 13:1-7 (Mess) | Gifts of the HS. (part 2) | Pinelands – 9am – 06/07/2025 |

**Story of the recent Pope who Died and Went to Heaven**

 On arrival he is met by the reception committee…

He is shown around heaven and then is asked…

 ***“What he would like to do?”***

The Pope decides he would like to read all the…

ancient and original texts of the Holy Scriptures.

He spends hours poring over every version of the Bible,

working back to the original script.

**All of a sudden** there is a **LOUD** **scream** in the library.

The angels come running to him,

only to find the Pope huddled in a chair,

**crying** to himself, and muttering,

***"An 'R'! They left out the 'R'”.***

God takes him aside, offering comfort and asks him…

***“What’s the problem?”***

After collecting his wits, the Pope sobs again,

***"It's the letter 'R'... the word was supposed to read***

***CELEBRATE* not *CELIBATE."***

***Recap on last week…***

If you remember… ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit…***

 I spoke about… the **first 3 of 6 Principles…**

under the banner… **This is all about God…**

***Everything we do in our faith journey is always…***

***Done for God and In community***

**Principle 1… Gifts are given by God and with His Grace.
Principle 2… Purpose is to serve others and glorify God.
Principle 3…** **Every Christian has a gift and…**

**every gift is important.**

Today we look at the next **3 Principles…**

**Principle 4… All gifts must be developed and exercised**
Even though given by God’s Grace…

We are responsible to **develop** and **exercise** our Gifts.

**Paul** encourages and reminds **Timothy in…**

**2 Timothy 1:5-6…
*“I remember the sincere faith you have… For this reason…***

***I remind you to keep alive the gift that God gave you.”***

**NIV Translation says…**

 ***“Fan into flame the gift God gave you”***

**GIFTS** need to be… ***Exercised, Used, Applied***

If someone gave me a Car… *(Sports car… Ferrari)*

 It would be a useless gift **IF** *I did not drive it…*

 Then too… *I think…*

I would need to *learn to drive it properly.*

I mean it is a sports car…

 The more I drove it the better I would get at it…

 **BUT…** I would need to drive it.

 It needs to be ***USED!!***

There is an **Indian** saying that goes…

***“To be in good moral condition requires at least as much***

 ***Training… as to be in good physical condition.”***

**It is the Same** with our **Spiritual gifts…**

We need to **Develop and Exercise** our gifts…

***PRACTICE using them.***

***PRACTICE applying them.***

**Principle 5… The effective use of every gift is…**

**dependent on faith in Christ**

**Francis Asbury** (1745 – 1816) British/American Methodist Bishop said…

***“We should so work as if we were to be saved by our works;***

***and so rely on Jesus Christ, as if we did no works.”***

**We are** **nothing without Christ…**

We can only do what we do **Through Christ…**

**Because** it is through Christ that we were created… *(Remember last week)*

***Remember last time… Colossians 1:15-17*…**

 ***“For through him (Christ) 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.”***

***All of this…*** *The Church, Our Community…*

**ONLY** exists because of **CHRIST.**

**Without Christ, we can do nothing.**

When we work for **Jesus…**

All we can do is **our best** and… GOD does the rest.

**AND…** *When we fail or let God down…*

**We trust** God for His **forgiveness.**

When we work for **Jesus…**

All we can do is **our best** and…

**We trust** that others *are doing their best.*

**We forgive** them when they *fail and let us down,*

 because it is **not about us**, it is about **Jesus.**

To be EFFECTIVE in Exercising, Practicing and Applying

 Our Spiritual Gifts…

 WE DO IT… Because of who Jesus is to US

 Because of our Relationships with Jesus

AND… IT is God who works through us.

**Principle 6… Only love will give true value to our gifts**
***I have said this often…*** **but hear it again…**

The Spiritual Gifts as explained in 1 Corinthians spans 3 Chapters…

 ***Chapters 12-14…***

 We all know **Chapter 13…** **The Chapter on Love.**

**Of all the Gifts of the Spirit…**

 **Paul** dedicates **a whole Chapter** to the **Gift of** **LOVE.**

**All the Gifts** **are *NOTHING* without LOVE.**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-7…** *(The Message)…*

***“If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy***

***but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty***

***gate.***

***If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his***

***mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing.***

***If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the***

***stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve***

***gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe,***

***and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”***

 To put that into **Perspective…**

 **LOVE…** gives ***Value, Worth and Significance***

to our **Spiritual Gifts.**

**By way of** **Illustration…**

draw a line of zeroes on a flip chart…

***What is the value??* Value = 0.**

***Then add a*** **“1”** to the front… **It changes value completely**

**In the same way…**

If we make ***all the gifts*** in the world… **the zeros…**

**BUT…** **If there is no Love… “1” …**

they have **no or very little** value.

**LOVE…** must **permeate and govern** *every aspect of our lives.*

**LOVE…** is the Context and the Backdrop to Every GIFT

**LOVE…** is the BEDROCK and FOUNDATION of our FAITH

**LOVE is to be *EXERCISED…***

in the home, at the office,

in the classroom, at Church,

in the car, at the shops

**Without *LOVE*** your effectiveness in all things… means… **NOTHING.**

**LOVE** is to be ***exercised all the time…***

in the most mundane duties and activities of life.

 In the most critical of issues and life and death situations

**On the other hand…**

The **ABSENCE OF LOVE…**

in the ordinary duties and relationships of life…

**CAN** and **PROBABLY WILL…**

**undermine and destroy** *the* ***effective use*** *of every spiritual gift.*

**Love must reign supreme** in our hearts…

***OR*** our gifts will be…

***“nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.”***

So the **challenge for all of us…**

Is to **Diligently Exercise the gifts** that…

***God has graciously and generously given to us.***

We must **do so with faith** in **Christ…**

***in order that they may be effective and fruitful.***

 **We do all this in** **LOVE.**

Close in Prayer

**Principles Surrounding the**

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Remember… ***This is all about God…***

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**Principle 1…** Gifts are given by God and with His Grace.
**Principle 2…** Purpose is to serve others and glorify God.
**Principle 3…** Every Christian has a gift and…

every gift is important.

**Principle 4…** All gifts must be developed and exercised.
**Principle 5…** The effective use of every gift is…

dependent on faith in Christ.

**Principle 6…** Only LOVE will give true value to our gifts.

**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.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-7 The Way of Love**

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.