

August 13 2023  
Romans 12:3-8  
Humility Part 2 of Romans 12

## **Romans 12:3-8**

**3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** 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.

Review Romans 12:1-2 (Short Summary)

## **Romans 12:1-2**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

[Short Summary]

The Apostle Paul who has personally encountered the mercies of God. And he didn't deserve to be called an Apostle (leader for Christian mission) because he persecuted Christians.

He didn't care if they were helpless little women. If you believed in Jesus, he wanted you in jail. And it is this same man who **witnessed the transforming power of Jesus** in his heart. And now this same man is willing to die for these Christians. That is the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and when Paul looks back he realized that this was the **mercy of God**.

That is why Paul says **Romans 12:1**, “**I appeal to you, I beg you, and I urge you, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice.**” Remember, you have the “Mercy of God” in your life, it is because you have **surrendered your life to God**.

**And the best** way to know that you have surrendered your life to God is to “**present your bodies as a living sacrifice.**” Why, your “body?” Why does God want us to present our physical bodies?

Because God wants to use our body as a base of operation. You are the main hub of operation. Your body is the headquarter to fight the enemies. **You are the vessel and the instrument in which God will work out His plans.** That is why God wants to give you a purpose in life. He wants to give you a sense of meaning in life because your body has a purpose.

When you present your body as a living sacrifice and not a dead sacrifice (spiritually alive), then the Lord starts to work in you a “renewed mind.” **Isaiah 55:8** says, “**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.**”

And in **verse 2**, when it says, “***Do not be conformed to this world***,” or “***Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world***; and even not to respond like them. (Revenge is common)” Remember, the reason God says, do not be conformed and he renews your mind it is because he wants to **take you to the next step**. He wants to move you forward.

When you have the ***renew of your mind***, “***Then you will learn to know God’s will for you,....***” This is important because all of us have to make decisions in life. “***Am I making the right decision? Is this the will of God?***” So, basically presenting your body as a living sacrifice leads you to knowing God’s will for you.

Then this leads you to Romans 12:3. Interesting God then shifts and takes a different turn.

### **Romans 12:3**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you ***not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think***, but to think with ***sober judgment***, each according to the ***measure of faith*** that ***God has assigned***.

**“Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think”:**

### **Pride**

I want to make this clear. Paul is not talking to non-believers, he is talking to those who believe in Christ. For some people, when they receive the spiritual gift, the **person becomes greater than the gift**.

So let me lay down some ground work about spiritual gifts. The very first starting foundation before the gift is for you to **check your pride**.

- He doesn't want you to be high minded. (Above others mind)

When you present your body, before you receive your spiritual gift is to **“resist pride.”**

## **Ephesians 4:1-2**

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner **worthy of the calling** to which you have been called, **2** with **all humility** and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

[Short summary of Ephesians 4:1-2, you calling is to love others. And that love means for you to **bring the other person to know Jesus**]

You know what is very interesting is the the word **“humility”** is a new concept in the ancient near east. When you look at ancient historical writings and you see that an empire gets defeated by another strong nation in battle, they don't mention their defeat. They don't **acknowledge the defeat**. Like the Romans, they are the conquering empire, so the word **“humility”** is not in their vocabulary. But the word **“humility”** came out from God's Word.

- **Humility** does not mean, **weak** or **timid** or be **living in fear**. In fact Christians are called to be **bold, strong** and **courageous**. Even God told Joshua when facing his enemies to be **strong** and **courageous** and **do not to fear**.

So what does the word humility mean?

## **Humility means “Lowly in Mind”**

- Humility to place your mind under God.

**What is the evidence or fruit that shows you are a person of humility?** [turn and ask person next to you, “*Are you a person of humility?*”]

### **Isaiah 66:2 Amplified Bible**

“For all these things My hand has made,  
So all these things came into being [by and for Me],” declares the Lord. “But to this one I will look [graciously],  
To him who is **humble** and **contrite in spirit**, and who  
[reverently] **trembles at My word** and **honors My commands**.

**Humble** means to **tremble** at **God’s Word** and **honors God’s commands**.

**Contrite** means *crushed, crippled*, or *broken* (human spirit). John 3:30 **He must increase, but I must decrease**. In order for God’s Holy Spirit rise up or shine, my human spirit must decrease, crushed, or broken. In another word, so you can be an **ambassador for Christ**.

So, instead of saying, “*I can do this for God*. You say, “*Lord, I can not do this in my own strength. God, I need you. Give me the faith to persevere and endure and overcome. Through your strength, I can be victorious*.

- *Lord, I have a hard time forgiving this person. I cannot do this on my own strength. I must decrease so your love can increase. Lord, strengthen me to “love” this person.*

When you tremble before God’s Word and honor His commands and your flesh or the humans spirit decreases, God sees your humble heart then the Lord hears your prayer.

## When will God start to use your spiritual gifts?

### 1 Peter 5:6 Amplified Bible

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [set aside **self-righteous pride**], (*humbling yourself naturally*) so that **He may exalt you** [to a place of honor in His service] at the **appropriate time**, (*God's timing. So keep doing the humility and God will in His time place you and anoint you for His service.*)

### Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with **sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

### **Sober Judgment** or **Sound Judgment**

The emphasis is based upon our **thinking, not on feelings**. Many Christians use the words, "*I feel like ... this is what God is saying.*"

So when you present your body, the Lord does not want you to base your service upon your feelings, but on "**sound judgement**" on your "**sound reasoning**" or "**sound thinking**." So God does not want us to use our gifts based upon our feeling.

**Sound judgement means to think soberly or to think soundly. To think sensibly.**

### Mark 5:15 Amplified Bible

They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, **clothed** and in his **right mind**, the man

who had [previously] had the “legion” [of demons]; and they were frightened.

So when you are on a **spiritual battle (negative thinking, or spirits not of God. You have to rebuke that spirit in Jesus’ name)** because your not going to have a **right mind**. When you are so stressed, do you think with a right mind? Or when you are in the middle of an argument, do you reason with the other person calmly.

You cannot serve God when you have so much of non-God stuff inside your mind. You don’t have a sound judgement. **You cannot be humble before God** when you allow other spirits to take reign over your mind.

- So, when you make yourself right before God and He calls you “righteous” and you present your body as a living sacrifice, then you’ll start to think with the “right mind.” *You will start to make good decisions in life because you have sound judgement.*

### **Romans 12:3**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the ***measure of faith that God has assigned.***

**So what does the Lord mean by assigning or distributing the measure of faith?**

- So if I have a little faith in God, then God only gives me the weakest spiritual gift (if there is one)?
- Or if I have a great faith in God, then will God give to me a really good spiritual gift?

- Did you know for a long time that's how I use to think. I use to think that if I put a lot of good hard work for the church, I would receive a great spiritual gift from the Lord.

### **So what does it mean by the measure of faith God assigns to us His spiritual gifts?**

Some people when reading “**measure of faith**” they think of “**saving faith**.” It's not “**saving faith**” because If there were *different measures of saving faith then there would have to be different degrees of salvation*. For example, when you sin as a Christian, people assume that they might not go to heaven, depending on the severity of sin. Its simple, either your saved or not saved.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

[\[ Bring a measuring cup\]](#)   [\[ Bring a weight jacket\]](#)

**Measuring Cup:** illustration with making rice (right amount of water to make the perfect Koran rice): right amount of water, right temperature, and right timing to finish, you will have the perfect rice.

**Weight Jacket:** illustration with two people.

**Measure of faith** = The amount of faith required to use their gifts effectively.

### **Romans 12:6-8**



6 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.

Think of these **spiritual gifts as roles**. God gives us spiritual gifts to fulfill each role and to do it effectively to the proportion of our faith.

- I have a “teaching” gift. [Briefly explain] with the portion of faith that God has given me. There are a lot of preachers who are much more better than me. (**Danny, Jae Hyuk, KP and YG are all different**)
- Our worship director Wu, can sing, play the drums, guitar, and keyboard and many others. The last person you would want someone to lead a song is me. You don’t want Pastor Joseph singing.
- My wife, Jackie is another example. She is given an amazing gift of service and **mercy** and her role is very different than mine. But we are all one body, working together. I am not greater than Jackie and nor is Jackie greater than mine, but we are all one body.

## **Romans 12:4-5**

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

So as you present your body, humbling yourself before God, and as you think with the sound mind, God give to you in the **measure of your faith**, **God starts to distribute and assign His gifts**.

## **Hebrews 12:2** Amplified Bible

[looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the **Author and Perfecter of faith** [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].