

## **"I Am Significant"** **1 Corinthians 12**

**Purpose:** Our purpose is to glorify God. (Isaiah 43:7) *Even every one who is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him, yea I have made him.* (Revelation 4:11 KJV) *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure, they are and were created.* (2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NKJV) *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ; as though God were pleading through us: We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (NLT) "We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"* 21 *For He made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Timothy 1:9) "Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."*

**Assignment:** Whatever God has willed for my life. (John 4:34 KJV) *"Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish His work."* (1 Cor 3:9 NIV) *"For we are co-workers (laborers) in God's service;" Working solo and outside of the will of God, become works of the flesh.* (Galatians 5:20) (1 Samuel 15:23 KJV) *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

It is a critical time in the world and souls are at stake. God's clarion call to everyone is to turn your faces, hearts, and minds to Him, to seek Him. (Isaiah 55:6 KJV) Jesus is soon to return! We are closer now than ever before. (Hebrews 9:28 and 1Thes 4) We must be unified in our efforts. (1Cor 15:58 NIV) *"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know your work, in the Lord is not in vain." (Isaiah 50:7) Set your face like a flint: be disciplined, loyal to God and follow in Christ's footsteps who was unwavering and had resolute determination as He pressed His way to Calvary to do His Father's will. *Let us build ourselves up in our most holy faith, praying in the Holy spirit, keeping ourselves in God's love as we wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us to eternal life. (Jude 20,21)**

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-14 Notes**

The human body is a picture of Christ and of His church. One organism, one person, one being, one life. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into one body, Christ Himself. Study the Word of God. Get to know Him intimately and learn of the plan He has for you. To live a Spirit filled life, (Eph. 5:18) we must allow the Holy Spirit to permeate our hearts and minds and relinquish full control of our lives to Him. Each and every member is significant and vitally important to the body of Christ.

**24-27** *For our comely parts have no need; but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ,*

*and members in particular.* God has tempered/ blended/ mixed the members together to keep them from clashing. There should be no jealousy, pride, or divisiveness within the church.

**Romans 12:4** *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

Knowing your gift and purpose in life should glorify God and compliment our relationship with Christ. If you do not know your gift, increase your time and effort searching out the word of God, seek God in prayer, and look for opportunities to volunteer in the church and community. The Holy Spirit will help, strengthen and encourage you. (**Acts 1:8**) God promised to give us all the tools we need to serve Him and each other. Make time for new discoveries about yourself. It is The Holy Spirit who empowers believers in the church by creating ministries and opportunities to serve Christ whether with natural talents or Spiritual gifts. **John 15:5 NIV** Jesus taught, *"I am the vine; you are the branches, if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* We have all been called to glorify and bless the Lord. Every Christian has a gift. These gifts are used to magnify and lift up the name of Jesus. We were all created for God's good pleasure and will. Before we were formed in the womb, God knew us. We must grow spiritually if we are to have fellowship with God. The Lord wants us to be conformed to His image, therefore He expressed His love by giving His life to purge us of our sins. We can show our love and devotion to Him by living a holy and acceptable life unto Him which is our reasonable service. To aid us in the ministry of Christ, we have received gifts, *"this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us"*. We have the light of the gospel, the message of Christ. We do not all have the same gift, but each member has at least one.

**These gifts are:** marked and sealed, gracious gifts of the Lord, should never be mishandled, neglected nor misused. If we fail to see and use these gifts of grace we risk causing schism and distress in the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit endows the gifts to every believer as He desires. He knows what gifts are needed in the church and around the world. They should complement the other gifts in the church, and should function in harmony to serve the Lord effectively.

#### **Ephesians 4:11**

And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

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

**6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; **(7)** if it is serving, then serve; If it is teaching, then teach; **(8)** If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

### **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

**8** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; **9** To another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit; **10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues:

### **1 Corinthians 12:28-30**

**28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

**29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? **30** Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But covet earnestly (desire) the best gifts;

**However, there is a more excellent way that surpasses all gifts combined. And it can be exercised by every believer, no matter who he/she is, the gift of "Love".** The thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians gives us the most excellent quality of life: Love, not Gifts: **1** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.* **2** *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.* **8** *Charity never faileth:* **11** *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.* **13** *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these, is charity.*

Love must be sincere, and purpose driven. If you have not discovered your purpose in life, **start** here. (**2 Tim 1:6**) As Paul reminds Timothy, "*Stir up the gift of God which is in you...*" It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to serve God, and through Him we can overcome fear and weakness. *The Ministry of Reconciliation* (2 Cor 5:17-18) is seeking volunteers every day. It is futile for us to try to serve God with ulterior motives and without the Holy Spirit who gives liberally the power for witnessing and service. Pray to God daily, volunteer in church ministries, in your community, and spend time alone with God. Before you realize it, you'll stop trying to find your gift, and simply become a gift. It is an inside job.

Songs: "Lord, Give Me Just a Little More Time" and "Please Be Patient With Me, God's Not Through With Me Yet"