

# ***“All People Deserve Special Attention”***

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***“That pastor spends all of his time trying to buddy up to the rich people. I wish he’d just do his job!”***

***“I would love to help the church support its mission—but it’s like pulling teeth to get any information around here!”***

***“Why don’t we ever have any money in this church?”***

I love church people. We are like all the other people—and sometimes more so! Take the area of spiritual gifts. If a person has a gift for teaching, it is the church’s responsibility to help this person develop this gift. If another person has a gift for music, the church would be neglecting its ministry if it didn’t help this person develop this gift. We have entire institutions within the church designed to develop the gift of leadership within our members. The examples go on and on—until we get to giving. We give special attention to every other spiritual gift—until we get to giving. The church grows uncomfortable when we get to the area of money and giving.

Yet our scriptures plainly proclaim giving as a spiritual gift. Romans 12:4-8 celebrates that “we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.” It goes on to list the various gifts, when what do we find right in the middle? “Giving in Generosity.” That’s right—stuck right between “exhortation” and “leadership.”

So giving is a spiritual gift given by God to support the one Body of Christ. So why are we so afraid to admit this and help those who have it? It hurts everyone when we don’t. It hurts the member who has a gift that is left unattended and unused. It hurts the church because we have fewer resources to fulfill our mission.

Let’s get going! Let’s talk with our pastors about helping members who may have this gift of “giving in generosity” and help them to identify their gifts and to share opportunities to practice them. Let’s discuss spiritual gifts—all of them—within our session meetings and devise ways to encourage all of our members to use their God-given gifts for God’s mission in the world. Let’s get over ourselves and our hang-ups with money, and celebrate together that God is alive and working in our midst—even among those who have more than we do! Let’s give special attention to everyone—they need it—they deserve it.

God is very good to us, and has given us many gifts. Let’s use these gifts to further our mission—God’s mission—so that more people may experience Unconditional Love and begin the journey of discovering and perfecting their own gifts. After all...

***We’re all in this together!***