Faithful Stewards of God's Grace

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1 Peter 4:10–11

As each one has received a *special* gift,
employ it in serving one another
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
Whoever speaks,
is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God;
whoever serves
is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;
so that in all things God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ,
to whom belongs the glory
and dominion
forever and ever.

Amen.

1. You have a special grace-gift.
   Yes, even as a woman.
   Yes, whether single or married.
   No, it is not a talent with which you were born or which you have developed.

   a. Use it to serve others.
      It is not for self-gratification.
      It is not for self-advancement.
      It is not for self-improvement.
      It is not limited to your family.

   b. Be a good steward of God's grace.
      Be aware of His grace.
      Understand His grace.
      Nurture His grace in your life.
      Reflect His grace by your life.
      Be a channel for His grace.

2. What gift have you received? [See Chart 3.]
   a. If speaking, stick with the Word of God.
      Make the Word of God the core of everything you say.
      Teach the Word of God in every sphere (home, church, neighborhood, community).

b. If serving, rely on God's strength.
Depend on God, not yourself.
Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.
When exhausted, look to God for strength.

3. The result: Glorifying God through Jesus Christ.
   a. The glory belongs to Christ—He is the doer of all service through His servants and the recipient of praise and glory for His work.
   b. The dominion belongs to Christ—He is in control.
      In the past, the present, and the future. "Forever and ever."
      Over you, your family, your church, your seminary, your community, your nation, and the world.

Chart 1
Sign Gifts According to 1 Corinthians 12–13

1 Cor 12:8–10 **Sign Gifts Classified**		**1 Cor 13:1–2** **Sign Gifts Qualified**		**1 Cor 13:8–9** **Sign Gifts Terminated**
to one is given **the word of wisdom** to another [ἄλλῳ] **the word of knowledge**	⇨ ⇨	**know all mysteries** **all knowledge**	⇨	**knowledge**
to another [ἑτέρῳ] **faith** to another [ἄλλῳ] **gifts of healing** to another [ἄλλῳ] **the effecting of miracles** to another [ἄλλῳ] **prophecy** to another [ἄλλῳ] **the distinguishing of spirits**	⇨ ⇨	**faith** **prophecy**	⇨	**prophecy**
to another [ἑτέρῳ] ***various* kinds of tongues** to another [ἄλλῳ] **the interpretation of tongues**	⇨	**tongues**	⇨	**tongues**

- ἄλλῳ = "to another of the same kind"; ἑτέρῳ = "to another of a different kind"
- **Observation:** Certain sign gifts stand out as most characteristic of their group. Therefore, they are used to represent the entire group in 1 Corinthians 13.
- **Note:** All sign gifts ceased at the completion of the New Testament (1 Cor 13:8–12).

Chart 2
Cessation of Spiritual Gifts
1 Corinthians 13:8–12

Representing Group #2 (1 Cor 12:9–10a)	Representing Group #3 (1 Cor 12:10b)	Representing Group #1 (1 Cor 12:8)
Prophecy *will be done away* [1 Cor 13:8, καταργηθήσονται]	**Tongues** *will cease* [1 Cor 13:8, παύσονται]	**Knowledge** *will be done away* [1 Cor 13:8, καταργηθήσεται]
"we prophesy in part" (1 Cor 13:9a)		**"we know in part"** (1 Cor 13:9b)
"when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away [καταργηθήσεται]**"** (1 Cor 13:10) ["perfect" = τὸ τέλειον: neuter = "complete"] [Same word used for "the perfect law," James 1:25.]		
Speaking, thinking, and reasoning like a child (1 Cor 13:11) [These illustrations deal with communication and reason, just like the revelatory gifts.]		
"we see in a **mirror** dimly" (1 Cor 13:12) [Same word used in James 1:23 of the Word of God.]		

Chart 3
Lists of Spiritual Gifts

Rom 12:6–8	**1 Cor 12:8–10**	**1 Cor 12:28–30**	**Eph 4:11–12**
		Apostle*****	Apostle*****
	Word of wisdom*****		
	Word of knowledge*****		
	Faith*****		
	Healing*****	Healing*****	
	Effecting miracles*****	Miracles*****	
Prophesying*****	Prophesying*****	Prophet*****	Prophet*****
	Distinguishing spirits*****		
	Speaking in tongues*****		
	Interpreting tongues*****	Tongues*****	
			Evangelist
Serving			
Teaching		Teacher	Pastor-Teacher
Exhortation			
Giving			
Leading			
Showing mercy			
		Helps	
		Administration	

***** Gifts that have ceased—see Charts 1 and 2.

Chart 4
Levels of Ministry as Related to Spiritual Gifts

Level 3: Gifted **The exercise of a specific spiritual gift.**	Some believers are gifted as evangelists.	Some believers are gifted as teachers.	Some believers are gifted as givers.
Level 2: Non-Gifted **Ministries performed by some believers.**	All pastors are to do the work of an evangelist.	All pastors are to teach the Word.	Some believers are led to give special gifts.
Level 1: Non-Gifted **Ministries expected of every believer.**	Every believer is to evangelize, be a witness for Christ.	Every believer is to teach the Word of God to someone else.	Every believer is to give offerings to the Lord.

- **Observation:** Operating in the realms of multiple gifts does not mean that the believer has all of those gifts. He or she may be operating in Levels 1 or 2.
- **Observation:** Not possessing the gift of evangelist does not excuse the pastor from evangelism.
- **Observation:** Not possessing the gift of pastor-teacher does not exclude a man from holding the office of pastor-teacher.