

3 Making A Decision The Deacons Commitment

1 Peter 4:10-12

September 23, 2018

I'm a huge fan of Lord of the Rings. I won't go into the details of the story here, but I will highlight one little scene from the story that might relate to all of us at one time or another.

Picture the scene: The heroes take a moment to find their bearings, after weaving their way through the dark caves of Moria, through dwarvish mines that delve deep into the heart of the mountains. Their wizard guide, Gandalf the Grey, sits on a rock quietly talking with Frodo, our brave hero.

Frodo is the kind of guy we all imagine ourselves to be sometimes: not apparently cut out for the task at hand but having it thrust upon us anyway. It's something that has to be done and we're the one to do it.

So there they are seated in a cave, lost, waiting for Gandalf to remember the way forward. Frodo and he have a little heart-to-heart.

Poor old Frodo is carrying this heavy burden, a ring of immense power, and it's weighing him down. Evil follows him and threatens to bring him down. He has already been dealt a blow that almost killed him—a horrible injury to his shoulder. It will never be fully healed. But he must continue on to finish his destined path. Their conversation goes like this:

Frodo: *I wish the Ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened.*

Gandalf: *So do all who live to see such times; but that is not for them to decide. **All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.** There are other forces at work in this world, Frodo, besides the will of evil. Bilbo was ***meant*** to find the Ring. In which case, you were also meant to have it. And that is an encouraging thought.*

Focus on this: “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.**”**

Many of you may say: “I’m not worthy to serve God!**”** On your own you are not. But with Jesus Christ living in you, you now have the **Potential** to accomplish God’s purpose for your life! **“All YOU have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to YOU.”**

1 Peter 4:10-12 As each has **received a gift**, use it to **serve one another**, as **good stewards** of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies-- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To **him belong glory** and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ¹² Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

I. **Will you decided to reach The Potential in Your **Special Gifts**. (10a) As each has **received a gift**,**

Gift here is the word **charisma** **Meaning:** a favor with which one receives without any merit of his own

Spiritual Gift, Grace Gift or Special Gift!

There are actually **three biblical lists** of the “gifts of the Spirit,” also known as spiritual gifts. The three main passages describing the spiritual gifts are Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; and 1 Corinthians 12:28.

- The spiritual gifts identified in **Romans 12** are prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy.
- The list in **1 Corinthians 12:4–11** includes the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues.
- The list in **1 Corinthians 12:28** includes healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

II. Will you decided to reach The Potential in Your Serving Gifts. (10b) use it to serve one another,

Doing **Good Works** flows from your Spiritual Gifts!

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and **glorify** your Father in heaven.

All gifts are for service to the Lord and His' people.

III. Will you decided to reach The Potential in Your Stewardship of Gifts. (10c) as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Good Stewards are those who manage their spiritual gifts wisely to edify the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

IV. Will you decided to reach The Potential in Your Strengthening of Gifts. (11) whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies-- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The two broad categories are:

- **Speaking Gifts**: Those who speak must communicate not **Humane Opinion** but the **Utterances of God As revealed only in Scripture**. Not **God told me** to tell you!
- **Serving Gifts**: Those who Minister through areas such as administration, prayer, mercy and helps.

All Spiritual Gifts are to be exercised, not by **humane power** but by the **strength that God supplies**!

We are to be totally dependent on the **Holy Spirit**.

We are created to **Glorify God!** When we serve Him in His Strength that He gives us we do so **(11b)** in order that in everything **God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ.

V. **After you have decided** to reach Your **Potential You will be Engaged in Spiritual Warfare.** (12) Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the **fiery trial** when it comes upon you to **test you**, as though **something strange** were happening to you.

- **Beloved** is a expression of Pastoral Love, tenderness and compassion.
- **Don't be surprised, You will be Attacked by the Enemy!**
- **Fiery Trial** has a double meaning. It can portray a painful experience, but it better paints a picture of a furnace melting down metal to purge it of impurities such as a silversmith purifying silver.
- **Something Strange** indicates that you will be persecuted and not to think that you are above going through suffering.

When a believer becomes **obedient** the enemy becomes **active**.

Illustration You have your gifts not so much for your own sake as for the sake of others. You are like an apple tree that produces fruit not for its own consumption but for the consumption of others.

Your gifts are given so **you can bless others** by ministering to them.

If you have the gift of **teaching**, you have it so others in the body will be taught.

If you have the gift of **hospitality**, it is because others need the gracious welcome they receive from you.

If even one gifted person fails to function, the body of Christ is deprived of a ministry it needs to function well.