

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 39 “God’s Presence Brings Presents”

I. Introduction and Review - We are continuing our series on *Romans* today. We have been focusing on reformation and how Paul sought to reform the church in Rome.

A. The specific issue Paul was dealing with was strife between the Jewish and Gentile home churches. The Jews kept trying to get the Gentile to keep the the law, while the Gentiles had an attitude of superiority because the Jews were the ones who crucified Jesus. They sort of thought God was done with Israel. All of this created a ton of strife and kept them from impacting the culture in Rome the way they should have.

B. After spending 3 chapters explaining God’s redemptive plan which included both the Jews and Gentiles, Paul makes a shift in *Romans 12* about how these people should live in the light of everything God had done for them.

1. Two weeks ago we talked about being a living sacrifice (we yield everything to Jesus, which is a work of the spirit, not a work of the flesh).
2. Once we endeavor to yield everything to Jesus, the next step to live out God’s plan for our lives is to renew our minds or transform how we think.

C. Today, we are going to try to drill down further on discovering God’s will for our lives from the general (identity in Christ, live holy, walk in healing) to the specific. What on earth am I here for? What is my called vocation and location, etc? How do I serve in the body of Christ?

1. What I’m going to show you is its not a mystery. It was a mystery to me for years because I felt all this desire and passion for ministry/teaching the word when I sought God with all my heart, but I never heard an audible voice. I was scared to self call myself. I didn’t realize the godly desire I had and leadings of my heart were the voice of God so it took me longer to step into my destiny than it should have.
2. God wants us to use the gifts He puts in us. His presence brings presents and these presents bless us and make the world around us a better place.

II. The Presence Brings Presents

A. **Romans 12:3-8**

1. *Verse 3* be humble (don’t think higher of yourself than you should). God gives each of us the measure of faith.

- a. If I had a ladle to pour soup. You would all get the same measure of soup. We all have the same measure of faith. **2 Corinthians 4:13.**
- b. Some people's faith is more apparent and it looks like they have more because they've developed the measure they have.
2. **Verses 4-5** Paul compares the body of Christ to a human body. What do we call a body where parts of it don't function properly or at all? Sick, diseased. Puts stress on the rest of the body which can cause it to break down.
3. **Verse 6** Gifts differing. They are all from the Holy Spirit. He's the light and we are the filters. Some of us are blue lights, some green, some orange. Some of us when we get passionate about Jesus and feel His presence want to primarily sing, some want to primarily teach, some primarily want to go help someone. None of these are wrong. They are our different motivations.
 - a. The gifts God has given you bring joy, peace, strength, and cause you to come alive. They move your emotions.
 - b. Prophecy -speak under divine influence or by revelation in proportion to our faith.
 - c. We'll grow in faith to the extent separate or give ourself entirely over to our gift and calling.
 - d. God seperated Paul to his called Paul in **Acts 13:1-2**. This was approximately 14 years after the original call in **Acts 9**. ***What was he doing for 14 years? Developing in his grace, learning the New Covenant so he could teach it to us. Acts 11:29***
 - e. Kenneth Hagin and Andrew Wommack examples of separation.
4. Ministry - practical service (helps - feed the poor, usher, greet), teaches - make the complex simple - Andrew Wommack.
5. Exhort - encourage by the power of the spirit (Joel Osteen), gives (money) - give a lot of it, leaders are to lead with great effort/care - My role, shows mercy (be cheerful) when showing mercy.

B. These are not all of the presents of God. ***Ephesians 4:11*** and ***1 Corinthians 12:28-31*** discuss others. My personal opinion is none of these lists are exhaustive as God is bigger than His lists.

1. So what do we do? Get alone with God and let Him show you what causes you to come alive. He wants you to be a light to the world around you, but you can't do it wearing Saul's armour. You have to be who God created you to be.
2. Step out by faith. If you've never prophesied at all, God isn't giving you a worldwide prophetic ministry tomorrow. It starts little and grows. The kingdom is like seed.
3. If you still aren't sure, try something you think might be right. God can't steer a parked car. You may pick the right thing, you make pick the wrong thing, but if you get in motion He will redirect you.

III. Conclusion - God's presence in you brings presents which bless you and the world around you. Walk in your purpose by discovering your gifting and step into it.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer.