

A CHARISPHOBIC, A CHARISMANIC OR
A CHARISMATIC?
Rom. 12: 3 - 8

Open your Bibles to Romans 12. We're studying one of the most exciting sections of the Bible today. We're going to be dealing with V. 3 through 8. But first, I want you to look at the overhead at a three point outline on this tremendous section.

¹⁻²
FIRST: A HOLY DEDICATION (V. 3, 4). That God requires of us.

³⁻⁵
SECOND: AN HONEST EVALUATION OF OURSELVES AND THE BODY OF CHRIST. (V. 5).

THIRD: A HAPPY PARTICIPATION (V. 6, 7 & 8). This is really the use of our Spiritual gifts.

This is one of the most vital sections of the Bible, for our lives, if we want them to count for the Lord. Now I would remind you that the first two verses of Rom. are absolutely fundamental, in understanding our Spiritual gifts and in using our gifts. You see, if we do not present our bodies a living sacrifice unto the Lord, how can we use our gifts? For instance, suppose you have the gift of teaching - can you really teach the Word of God unless you have placed your life at the disposal of the Lord? You can't do that.

So Paul begins with the Holy dedication by calling upon Gods people; he says

V. 1 (read) give the Lord your body. You say 'well, I thought it should be my spirit'. No, it's our bodies. This physical body, presented to Him, Holy, acceptable unto Him, which is our logical worship (that's what this word 'reasonable service' means - logical - not illogical in view of what He's done for us) that we present our bodies. Then he says in

V. 2 (read) we defined all this last time. That is seeking for ourselves. And if we do not check ourselves, we'll live our lives for ourselves rather than for Christ and others. But then he says 'but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind' and our mind, our thinking, must be changed through the Truth. We need the mind of Jes. We need to see things as He sees them. Then, having pointed out this Holy dedication, which he calls on us to do,

and oast Sunday, we took a whole hour in going into this and I can't do this today. Then he moves into this section of 'Honest Evaluation' I call it! He says there in

V. 3 (read) notice, he's speaking of the grace given unto him. What grace was given unto Paul? Well, he, of course, was saved by grace, but that's not what he's talking about here. The grace given unto him here is the grace of apostleship. God has made him an apostle. He's authorized by God to speak to you and me, indeed. He says in Eph. 3: 8 (read) so he says 'I am a trophy of grace and I just want to say something to you'! He says 'I say to every man that is among you NOT to think of himself more highly than he ought to think'. Is there a tendency to do that? Well, there is on the part of some. You know the loud mouthed bragger!

He thinks so highly of himself; who thinks he can do anything; a superiority complex! That's not good at all. That's pride. We have that. We have it in the church. Paul warns us against that. But you know there's another area and that is to say that we can't do ANYTHING! That we don't have ANY gifts - both of these are wrong. But how are we to think? He says 'but to think ^{sensibly} soberly'. Do you know what the word 'soberly' means? To think sanelly or sensably. But he goes on to tell us what it is: according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. He says we are to think of ourselves according to faith - not according to our feelings.

Now we look at ourselves and we can be greatly discouraged but we're not to look at ourselves, according to the way that we feel. We are to look at ourselves through the eyes of faith! What have we already learned about ourselves in the first part of Romans? Well, we've learned something wonderful! we have learned as the children of God, that we have been justified; we've been declared righteous in the sight of God; and not only this, we have been regenerated; we've received the nature of the Lord; we've been adopted into the family of God; we're heirs and joint-heirs with the Lord; we have the H. S. living in us! We should not downgrade ourselves! We should not exhalt ourselves but we should not downgrade ourselves!

We, indeed, are blessed and we ought to think of ourselves in that light. We ought to think of

ourselves in that light. We ought to think of ourselves through the eyes of Faith. Not through the eyes of our feelings or even other peoples estimation of us. Now, having said that, he goes on to say in V. 4 & 5; he reminds us of our relationship to other believers in the Body of Christ. He says

V. 4 (read) 'many members in one body (as we have many parts to our physical body) and all members have not the same office' (or same function and that's very obvious to all of us). We have many parts to this physical body and the parts of this body do not have the same function. They have different functions. He says in

V. 5 (read) look at these words 'every one members one of another' - that is: each member belongs to all the others. Now I want you to see this. Each member of the Body of Christ belongs ^{to} all the other members. Now here he is, comparing the church to our physical body. Do you want to understand the nature of the church? We've just examined a young man for ministry. We asked him 'what is the church?' Well, here it is: Rom. 12: 4 & 5. This is as fine a description of the church as I've ever seen in my life. Now we were brought up on the definition that a church is a body of baptized believers who covenant with one another to carry out the Great Commission and to observe the Ordinances.

SM - Nude Body

Well, I'd like for you to give that definition to Paul and see how he'd have reacted. Now the church IS a body of baptized believers in covenant to carry the Great Commission and to observe the Lords Supper and to observe Baptistism. But, my goodness, that doesn't even begin to describe the church, as it's described in the N. T. You want to understand the church? I'm gonna tell you how you can do it. This may sound a little crude, but I don't think it would be crude for you to do this, in the privacy of your bedroom.

Go home tonight and just get in the nude. Nothing wrong with you being in the nude with yourself. Get in the nude and stand before a mirror and look at your physical body and just think of how your physical body represents the church. All right, you're standing there and you're

looking at your body in the mirror. ^① You will notice one body - there your body will be. It will have one head; it will be one entity, connected. It will be one body. But as you examine that nude body before you, ^② you will discover that body has many, many parts in it. You will notice the head and eyes, hears and hands and face and all the parts of it. You will see those parts, there in that mirror.

^③ But as you study it a little further, you will note that each one of these parts have a different function. You will notice that the eye does not have the function of the ear. And neither of them have the function of your arm or leg but each one of them has a different function, but you will also note, if you keep studying, ^④ that every function is absolutely essential to the function of the total body! That you would not have a body really a complete body if any one of those members or parts were removed. But you will also notice something else.

^⑤ You will notice the inter-relationship of those parts. That one needs the other or you would not have a body. There is an inter-relationship. Just like he says: that each one of us belongs to the other. My eye belongs to my leg and everything else I have. Every part of my body needs my eye and so, this is the beautiful picture that Paul paints of the body of Christ. Now make it the local church. Make it the First Baptist Church. I want you to see this as First Baptist Church. Or as your church, whatever your church is.

That it's one and yet, it's made up of many, many members and each member has a vital function and each member is to perform that function and each member is inter-related to the others and we need one another in the Body of Christ. So, having said this, he goes on, now, in the next verse, to apply this Spiritually.

V.6: (read) You see the word 'gifts'? That's the word 'charismatic'. That's the Greek word 'charismata' and here's where our word 'charismatic' comes from. Having then, charismata, differing according to the grace that is given us'. He's saying we have different gifts, just like the physical body has different parts and different functions, so we, as members

of the Body of Christ, we have different gifts. What is the gift of the eye? To see. What is your gift as a believer? Well, I don't know. I know what my gift is. My gift is one thing but it has a definite function that's needed in the Body. Say, it's teaching - what I'm doing now. The Body must have teaching. Maybe yours is mercy. But notice, it is according to the grace that's given to us. It's by grace entirely; the word 'charismata' means 'grace gift' and that's all it means.

You just have the word grace with a plural ending on it. And when you receive a gift, it comes to you by the grace of God. Just like we're saved by the grace of God, we receive a gift to minister in the body, by the grace of God. This same way. It's not something that we earn; it's not something we're educated to do; it's not something that somebody else bestows upon us. It's bestowed upon us entirely by the grace of God and notice, it ~~says~~ ^{says} 'we have gifts different, according to the grace of God' which indicates that ^{when} we are given a gift; that God will give us the grace to perform it.

Sometimes we don't see how in this world that we can measure up to what God requires of us. Many times in my ministry, I've said 'Lord, how can I?' How can I attend to the many things that are upon me?' But the Lord will say 'My grace is always sufficient'. God will NEVER call us into anything or give us a gift that we cannot discharge. Now we may feel unworthy and people may discourage us, but don't let them keep you, EVER, from exercising your gift, because it's by grace and God will give you power to perform it. He says here that we have gifts different, according to the grace that is given us and then he mentions seven great gifts

FIRST: PROPHECY. This is the primary gift in the church, according to Paul in 1 Cor. 14. The gift of Prophecy. Paul says that prophecy is THE important gift. Why? Because prophecy is the gift whereby the Word of God is revealed to the Body of Christ. The word 'prophecy' literally means 'cause to shine'. It's the ability to explain Divine Revelation. That's what it is. The most - most pastors have this, who are effective in teaching and preaching. The layman may have the prophetic temperament. The prophet is one who is very concerned about Truth. VERY concerned about what the Bible says on a subject. He can spot sin. He can be

really severe. You hear a person who has the gift of prophecy; you may feel that he doesn't care sometimes, for you, when he's really bleeding on the inside. That's the prophet. The prophets of the O. T. - they came on just as if they were angry. They weren't angry; they were just so obsessed with the Truth of God and overwhelmed with it until they were sharing it, but inside, they were bleeding. They were absolutely weeping for the people.

The gift of prophecy is a gift. It is a gift that God gives and a person doesn't learn to preach or to prophecy. You say 'well, what's the Seminary for?' Well, they'll tell you at the Seminary they don't make preachers at the Seminary. No one should go to the Seminary except they already HAVE the gift. The Bible doesn't say not to develop the gift. The gifts can be developed tremendously. They grow and they develop but they must be given and they are given at the time that we are born again. Just like my hands were given to me when I was born of my mama and our gifts are given to us when we are born again and we are placed in the body of Christ, through the baptism of the H. S., to be a functioning part of that body.

That's what the baptism of the H. S. is. Not only does the H. S. regenerate us, but the H. S. places us into the living body of Christ, where we can use our gifts. In our local church - let's just make it in our local church - because it doesn't mean anything unless it's applied in the local situation. He goes on to in the next place

(Service)
SECOND: MINISTRY. V. 7 (read) let us wait on our ministering or just let us minister,

is what he's saying. He says 'if you've been given the gift of ministry - minister!' Now a what is 'ministry'? It's a gift of service. I think it's the gift of helps that's mentioned

in 1 Cor. 12. Here's a wonderful gift. How does it operate? Well, a person with the gift of ministry, (sees) the needs of people. Looks into the heart. Studies people. Knows the likes and dislikes; knows whether a person likes cherry pie or apple pie. What's their favorite color? Is concerned about the needs of people and seeks to meet them, from the Truth in the Bible and in the Name of Christ.

It's a marvelous thing. Carol Wylie has the gift of ministry. Sam told me today that she just

yesterday, she worked so very hard, in cooking for singles. This church here could not stay open a week, except we have people who have the gift of ministry. You say 'well, everyone can do that'. No, they were not called to do this. Ministry is a wonderful, wonderful gift: Sometimes it's not up front and people don't even know about it, but it's a WONDERFUL gift! It's the same word as the word 'Deacon'. A deacon is a servant. He is to serve the church and serve the pastor and serve the people of God. It's the very word 'ministry' here, that's used here as a gift of a whole body. That's the word that's used to describe the deacon.

And, of course, if a Deacon's not a servant, he's not a deacon. That is what he's called to do - is to serve the flock of God. He goes on to say in this same verse

THIRD: TEACH. 'He that teacheth, on teaching.' He that has the gift of teaching, let him teach. What is the difference in say - in preaching or prophecy and teaching? Well, the prophet has a greater responsibility. He speaks to the will. He calls for the decisions, with an urgency maybe the teacher doesn't. The teacher takes the Word of God and breaks it down, aligns it up, illustrates it, puts it on a blackboard - trying to convey the Truth. The factual Truth of the Bible. It's a marvelous gift. It's a foundational gift, like preaching.

Paul,

~~Paul~~, in 1 Cor. 14 leaves the impression that it's first prophecy and then preaching, a -teaching. If you have the gift of teaching, you have one of the greatest gifts in the world. You can't really have a church without it because the Word of God MUST be taught. It MUST be broken down; it must be explained. Do all have this gift? Why, no, they don't. Most of you went to college and did your college professors have the gift of teaching? Why, some of them didn't. They had their PHD degree, but they didn't necessarily have the gift of teaching.

It's a gift. It is a gift. It is something that God gives to a person and when a person has this gift, he enjoys doing it and people enjoy hearing him - it's very obvious that it is a gift of God. It's not a matter of understanding; it's not a matter of information. I remember some of the biggest professors I've ever had, who wrote books and were world-famous

scholars who could not teach at all. I'm thinking of a man by the name of Ray Petry (bless his heart). He was so very good to me. He asked me to be his assistant. He wrote the great work on _____. He wrote a book on the Middle Ages that's used all over the world. He could speak ten languages. He could not teach at all. He had more information than any man I've ever known in my life, but he could not teach. He could not systemize; or line it up and it was -- oh, it was a trauma to take his exams because he didn't teach you anything.

He KNEW so very much and it's not a matter of knowing; it's a matter of being able to communicate what you know and to line it up. It's just a gift from God. It's a gift of God. The young man we're going to ordain said he thought he had the gifts of prophecy and teaching. Now if you bring the two together, it's a marvelous thing! All right. He goes on to say in

FOURTH: EXHORTETH. V. 8 (read) this is exhortation. He that hath the gift of exhortation, let him exhort. Now what is that gift? Here's a beautiful gift - exhortation. This word 'exhortation' is often translated 'encouragement'. Is that a gift? It's a marvelous gift. Is it needed in the body of Christ? I don't know of any gift that's more needed today than the gift of encouragement. I see several of you people who have it. You encourage me tremendously. Everybody doesn't have this gift. They're not sensitive at all. They do not feel related to other people or to reach out to them, as an exhorter; to build them up or to edify them.

You remember Barnabas? That means 'encouragement'.

5/11 - Joseph called Barnabas, meaning "encourager."

His name was Joseph, but they didn't call him Joseph. They called ^{him} Barnabas. You know why they called him 'Barny'? Every time you see him, he's got his arm around somebody. Trying to encouraging them. Trying to urge them on. It's a marvelous gift. Now, Ray Stedman, who's written the best gift on the gifts of the body that I've ever read - if you want a book on Gifts in the Body, get his book 'Body Life' - but he says exhortation is not a thing but Spiritual counseling. My wife has this gift and I'm just amazed, seeing her use it. She'll come to the church and she'll, sometimes, sit here and she'll sit -- I don't know where she sits. I say 'honey, who do you do that?' She'll say 'I do that to get among the people'.

I say 'that's wonderful'. She'll sit here; she'll sit right here; sometimes she'll sit over there or in the back; sometimes she'll sit in the balcony. You know what she says? As we go home? 'I realize that so and so has a need'. I say 'how did you know that'? Said 'I was just sitting beside them and the Lord showed me. I'll get in touch with them this week'. She calls them up; has lunch with them or talks to them over the telephone and then I'll run into them somewhere and they'll say 'my, your wife talked to me this week'.

Oh, how she helps me! That's a gift. That's just a gift, that God has placed within her life. She would love to be full time in this. She would ^{LOVE} to spend all her time just exhorting. It's an amazing, marvelous thing; just exhorting. The ability to see the need of an individual. To relate to that need. To hear their story and to bring all their need together and to give an answer based upon the revelation of the Truth of God. Do we need that today? Do we need that in the body of Christ? Indeed, we do. We generally think of an exhorter as someone getting up and teaching. The teacher teaches a lesson basically.

The exhorter is dealing with human needs. With human needs. I don't mean the teacher doesn't deal with human needs, but there is a difference. The Exhorter is one who just gets right down on the level of the people and seeks to encourage them. This is a gift. Some people simple don't have it, who might have the gift of teaching or preaching or other things. Then Paul says the next gift is

FIFTH: Giving. 'He that giveth, let him do it with ^{liberality} simplicity'. What does it mean 'simplicity'? Don't make any do of it. Yes, give unto the Lord. Well, what is the gift of giving? You say 'well, that means that certain people in the church ought to give their tithes and offerings?' No. If you are obedient, you will give your tithe and offerings every week. If you don't you're disobedient. Don't ask God for any blessings, if you don't do that. I ~~can~~ can tell you right now that God will never bless you, unless you give your tithes and offerings. I've followed it for more than twenty five years! I know it in my own life. Don't ~~never~~ let ANYTHING keep you from giving your tithes and offerings to your local church.

But that's not what this is talking about. There are some people in every local body that's been given a gift of making money, a lot of money. Some of you probably have this gift. But also of giving this money and people who have this gift, they don't want any recognition for it. You know I discovered this in people who've had the gift - even before I found it in the Bible: people who have the gift of giving, they do not want to be recognized.

If a person wants to be recognized and get recognition, he is giving it out of pride and the flesh. He is not giving it as a ministry. Then he wants his money to be invested wisely. He's very practical about it. Say that he buys a tractor for a missionary on the Mission field. He will probably want to go out and buy the tractor himself, to be sure it's a good tractor. He's the man that wants to give matching funds saying 'listen, you trying to raise a thousand dollars? Raise nine hundred; I'll give the last one hundred'. See? It's a marvelous gift.

You take in our 'Together We Keep Growing'. It was beautiful. God blessed that thing tremendously. This church committed almost three million dollars. Now the beautiful thing was the widows and the people with just a little income, they came through. It was marvelous! It was marvelous, my friends! But there were several people with the gift of giving - I mean who just gave liberal gifts. There was one family who learned they had the gift of giving, who didn't even know it. When I came to this church, they weren't giving anything! It was amazing. They didn't even give their tithe and they just came to me quietly and in tears and said 'listen, God has enabled us to make this large gift. Don't say a word about it, pastor but we want to give it unto the Lord'. It's just beautiful.

It's marvelous, the gift of giving. It's given unto the Lord, not just a man that has a gift like this, he doesn't go around saying 'well, listen, I gave this big gift; you gotta preach like I say.' We have that, you know. Yes. People who say 'well, you know I give my money, you know, you got to listen to me. You got to preach like I do and you've got to make decision because I've paid my way!' That man has no -- you know what I mean, Bro. King, you're chairman of the Deacons here in the church. But that's not the gift of giving at all. People who have

the gift of giving will never, never try to bind the hand of the pastor. These people that I'm talking about and you'll never know any man and you don't know WHO I'm talking about. But you'd be amazed! You'd be absolutely amazed!

But let me tell you this: these people I'm talking about and the ones that I've known, they won't ask for ANY authority, whatsoever. ~~XXXXXX~~ They're humble people in the church. It's a marvelous gift - the gift of giving, when it's given unto the Lord. And then he goes on to say

LEADERSHIP or

SIXTH: HE THAT RULETH. You know what 'ruleth' means? The one that stands out in front. Let him do it with diligence or let him do it earnestly. This is the gift of leadership. Is this a gift? It certainly is. There are many people who can be a part of a group and follow but not many can stand out in front and lead. Take an important committee in your church. There are many people that can SERVE on that committee, but there's only a few people who can be Chairman of a crucial, important committee and _____. But if that person has leadership ability, when you meet in a committee meeting, it's a joy to meet. You know this person has organized it. He's thought it out.

He knows where's he's going. Do you need this? You can't do anything without leadership.

It's a marvelous gift and the one who has it, he says 'let him do it earnestly, not take it lightly, but it's a call of God. Then he says

SEVENTH: He that showeth MERCY. Now what is his gift? What is the difference between Mercy and Ministry? In Ministry, we show a type of Mercy; it's reaching out and meeting human needs. But Mercy is a different expression than Ministry. Mercy is the God-given ability to ~~impathize~~ impathize and to sympathize with those who are at a disadvantage. Those who socially, economically are below us. ^{SPM} For instance, here's a member of our church that every Sunday morning brings a crippled woman to this church - a poor crippled woman. Isn't that beautiful. Here's another person that brings a retarded child.

Here's a whole group of people in the Bus Ministry who go out in the homes of this city and visit and bring poor little children whose mother and daddy won't come to church. They visit them on Saturday; they pick them up on Sunday morning and they bring them to the church. I have just been in the sophisticated FBC of Oxford, Miss. Five blocks off of the prestigious Univ. of Miss. This is ^awhite collar church, filled with students from wealthy families. The clout of that town is in that church.

I turned to the pastor when I was speaking on the gifts of the H. S. and I said 'do you have a bus ministry?' He said 'no'. I said 'Pastor, you need this. The First Church, Oxford, desperately needs a bus ministry!! This church needs to draw out of this congregation those who have the gift of mercy to remind the church that there are poor people and suffering people and hurting people.' I remember in this church, when we began the Bus Ministry. I wish I had taken notes on the evolution of our ministry in this church. You just wouldn't believe it. You come in to this church today and see what we have compared to where God has led us; not to mean that we didn't have a lot when we came to this church -- this church didn't begin with me, I don't mean this. But I've been here 18 years and a lot of things have happened.

We began the Bus Ministry - that was a radical thing. Some of the teachers were saying 'well, listen, we're not gonna tend to those snotty nosed children.' The Minister of Education came to me and said 'Pastor, we've got a problem on our hands. Some of our teachers, they don't want to teach these'. You know what I did? I wrote every S.S. teacher in this church and I said 'God has given us these precious children. Let's be patient. Let's minister to them'. Well, I'm not criticizing the teachers. Would you have done it? Could you have done it?

Let me tell you, it's a real test and if you don't have the gift of mercy; well, the teachers took it to heart and they ministered to them and we've got one of the longest and - one of the oldest Bus Ministries in this - in America today - or in the SBC. It started about '70 and during those years, churches by the hundreds began bus ministries but you don't find them

today. You know what happened? People got into them and they didn't have enough mercy in churches to keep it going. To keep it going. Steve Gaddis and his group of people - listen, they are to be admired beyond words. The gift of Mercy. One of the wealthiest women in this church has the gift of Mercy. I mean who lives in a mansion and can do anything in the world, is a woman and you don't even know who she is. Oh, there might be a few of you who've been around here for years and years, who would know. It's one of the most beautiful things I have ever known in my life.

She goes over here on third and fourth and fifth and sixth streets and she's dealing with unwed mothers and poor people all the time and yet, she was reared in wealth and she has all the wealth in the world and she's doing this all the time. Now, I see some of you whispering and you think you know. Well, don't do that! I'm just trying to illustrate this. Mercy. It's a wonderful gift. Well, these are the gifts that are in the body. Now going back to this picture of the body in the nude - you see it here, now? Here's your body standing there; and you see all these parts? All right, here's the eyes, the ears - you're looking at **your** body. All right, now these are the gifts.

These individual parts of the physical body; the gifts correspond to them. Are all of the parts of our body needed? Indeed. Are all of the gifts in the church needed? Indeed. What happens if they all operate? MY, what you have! You have the body of Christ. You say 'but is this all the gifts?' No, this is just a sampling of them. You've got to turn to 1 Cor. 12: 8 - 10 and 20 - 30 and you've got to turn to Eph. 4: 12 and you've got to turn to 1 Pet. 4: 9 & 10 to get all the 21 or 22 gifts. But these are very basic gifts. These are the basic gifts here. What if all the parts of your body are functioning at full speed - what kind of body do you have? Power! Health!

What if the church - all the gifts in the church are being used, what kind of church do you have? Just have a powerful body of Christ! What if part of your body is shut down. Now, for instance, my father-in-law - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ he can't hear. Oh, how that's affected his body. He can't hear. He can't hear! What if parts of the body of Christ are shut down and people

are simply not exercising their gifts? See how sad it is? It means that you have a shortage of S. S. teachers; you'll have a shortage of bus workers; you'll have people who are hurting and some will say 'well, the staff is hired to do that'. Well, the Bible doesn't say that! We're just to give leadership. We do all we can - take this ministry of exhortation. You couldn't HIRE enough staff people to do it. Take the men of true Mercy. The church has to have all these gifts; unless it has it, it's crippled. It's crippled.

SM

Dr. R. G. Lee used to say 'if the average car didn't have any more parts operating than the average, local church, that it wouldn't run down hill'. I think we're doing a pretty good job, considering what we have. Because you mention the subject of gifts and many people will say 'well, I don't have a gift' or they're not even using it seriously in the Body of Christ. They're just looking to someone else to use their gift to bless them. Your gift is indispensable! The church cannot do without your gift, without really suffering.

Now you've got to use it under the authority of the pastor and the structure of the church, but listen, I've never known anybody who wanted to serve Jes., who didn't have that opportunity. Now I've known some people who wanted to tell the pastor what to do and who wanted to run things that God put on the shelf and wouldn't use. But I've never known a person in my life who wanted to serve Jes., in the local church, that was not given that opportunity. As a matter of fact, as new people come into our church and it's obvious that they are servants, do you realize that they are put into service, almost over night.

They're almost embarrassed. I just tell the staff to wait on them just a little. And in our church, no one is discriminated against. Now, in some churches, you got to be around for ten or fifteen years or you've got to have gray hair, but not in this church. You can be a deacon in this church; ~~XXXXXX~~ if you prove faithful in one years time. YOU can teach a S.S. in just a matter of weeks, if you really prove that you love the Lord. We're just wide open to people to serve the Lord and that's what it is all about.

Now in conclusion, let me just point out now some things about the gifts. Now there are three

views of the Gifts of the H. S. in the world today. This is one of the most vital subjects in the world today, is the Gifts of the H. S. I'll be talking with Dr. Cho in Korea, this week. I'll be seeing him in a city close by. And that's what we'll talk about - is the great work of God in Korea and I'm inviting him to our church this fall. I do hope he can come! What a man he is. I'm on international board and I thank God for this relationship.

Well, there are three views of the Charismatic Gifts of the H. S. Now you see this word 'charás' on the board? That is simply the Greek word 'grace'. And you put mata at the end of that and you've got 'Grace Gifts'. Alright. Using this word 'charas' as Grace Gifts, there are three views of the gifts today:

FIRST OF ALL: CHARISPHOBIA. Phobia meaning 'fear'. We have many people in our world today who are just scared to death of the gifts of the H. S. Why are they scared? Well, there's various reasons. The gifts have been greatly abused. There are things that are happening that are just heart breaking. People claim many wonderful revelations; then it's revealed they're homosexuals. It just happened this week. It's heart breaking. One of the most visible pastors in the South. Everybody took him to be a man of God; just seemed to be doing a tremendous work of God, confessed to his church last Sunday 'I'm a homosexual'.

Well, naturally, this just concerns people. You see the gifts are very susceptible to being used of satan and people just abusing them. And so you have a Charisphobia - a real fear! Now some people are afraid because they're not willing for God to do what He wants to do in their lives. They just want a formal, set religion and they don't want this super-natural dimension. They just want to come to church and want to hear a preacher preach and want to hear a choir sing and they want to go home. They're in a rut and they don't want to be -- you see, this is very challenging. This places a great responsibility upon people. It's dynamic, it's moving.

But this is very, very wrong, is to have the attitude of fear or charisphobia about the wonderful gifts of the H. S. Then there's another extreme that's equally bad and that is

SECOND: CHARISMANIA. That means an over obsession of the gifts. Especially the miraculous gifts. Say the gift of tongues. Some people experience what they call a prayer language and they just go crazy about it. That's all they see in the Xtn life and there are even people who try to ~~XXXXXX~~ coach other people in speaking in tongues. You see, the Gift is NEVER to be worshipped. We're not to talk about our Gift, but talk about the Giver, Jes. And we won't get into trouble and especially, if we begin to promote unusual things in our lives. And if we tell people 'you're not Spiritual, if you don't do these things'. This has nothing to do about our Spirituality. If I have the gift of teaching, you don't have it, that doesn't mean you're not as spiritual as I am!

For someone to have some sort of supernatural experience and try to impose it on someone else and look down on somebody else, and say 'you're not Spiritual, if you don't have it' that's so very, very sad! And so very, very bad! Yet, we have this. We have this. So you have the extreme of fear of the gifts and then you have the extreme of almost of worship of the Gift. I watch this a long time. I tell you, God teaches you a lot of things as you go along the way and I've never known anyone who just got obsessed with the Gifts who didn't really run into REAL problems. Often the people who do this, have real problems in their own lives.

People who have gifts and are rightly related to the church, they just serve the Lord. They serve the Lord with them. They don't talk about their gifts and go around strutting all the time and trying to sell other people on their gifts and they certainly don't go over here to the side and say 'well, you know I'm more Spiritual than the pastor and I'm more Spiritual than the deacons and my S.S. teacher and I'm got a revelation here and I'm gonna start me a little church or something'. The Gifts unite the Body and they're always under the authority of the church, never our own individual program, but we're very conscious that they belong to the church. My gift belongs to you. Your gift belongs to me.

It doesn't belong to myself to ~~XXXXXX~~ exalt myself or to start a movement; but it belongs to the Body of Christ. Charisphobia and Charismania are wrong. What is the right approach?

THIRD: CHARISMATIC.

SIDE TWO OF TAPE

Now these are mentioned in other places in the Scrip., but there in V. 6, Paul speaks of the Charismatic gifts and he mentions seven. When we speak of Charismatic, we simply mean the 'grace gift' that Gods given an individual. I'm not to say that God does not give the gift of tongues to some people. But that's only one minor gift. There are twenty one or twenty two gifts and God has gifted His people with them. The attitude we need to take is that Gods given me a gift; He's given it to me of His Grace; He's given it to ME to edify the Body and to build up the Head; He's given it to me to be a blessing; He's given it to me of His Grace and of His love and I humbly accept it and I exercise it unto His Glory, and to glorify Jes.

When we take that attitude toward the gifts, they will never divide; they will never exalt our pride, they will always serve the Lord and they will always build up the Body of Christ. Now if you summarize from the Scrip. the characteristics of the Charismatic Gifts, you would discover:

#1. THERE ARE SALVATION GIFTS. If you have been saved, you have one of these gifts. The Bible plainly says that in the reference I've given you.

#2. THERE ARE SUPERNATURAL GIFTS. You say, well, I don't have a gift or I don't have a talent. We're not talking about talents. We're talking about gifts. The Bible plainly says that Gods supernaturally bestows (that's what the word 'charismatic' means - Grace Gifts) they're given of His grace, just like salvation.

#3. THERE ARE SOVEREIGN GIFTS. God gives them without consulting us. When God called me to preach, I did not feel I was qualified to preach at all. You do not choose the gift, you do not take a list of twenty one gifts and say 'I want the gift of faith'. Only God knows the gift that you can wear and you can discharge. The greatest mystery in my life is my calling. I've never understood why God called me. People who receive gifts don't

understand. God knows though and don't try to be that which God has not called you to do. But that which He's called you to do, indeed you can do whether you feel like it or not. So there's Sovereign gifts. And then

#4. THERE ARE SINGULAR GIFTS. That is to say; they're given to us as individuals and it does not mean that other people will necessarily have your gift. The worst heresy that's ever been taught has been the teaching that everyone must speak in tongues, if they're filled with the H. S. The Bible doesn't teach that. It teaches the very opposite of that! Yet, there are people who say that if you don't speak in tongues, you're not filled with the H. S. There are twenty one gifts and God gives the gift to us as individuals. That is made very clear in the reference that I gave you here.

#5. THERE ARE SATISFYING GIFTS. Satisfying indeed. You will never be satisfied until you're doing what God called you to do as a Xtn in the ~~XXXXX~~ Body. But when you find the gift and you're doing the gift, you'll enjoy and others will enjoy. Then

#6. THERE ARE SERVING GIFTS. Why are these gifts given? To serve. Only to make us better servants of the Lord. To serve. To serve. The Bible doesn't tell us how to discover the gifts, but you know what the Bible says? It says 'serve'. It says 'SERVE'. It says 'don't come to church to be served but serve'. And if we want to serve, we will find our gift. And if we've been instructed out of the Bible, indeed we will come directly to the gift. We are to SERVE. It's not to serve ourselves, not to exhalt ourselves, not to call attention to ourselves, but to serve! Serve Jes. To serve one another. That is exactly what these references says.

You take in the church at Corinth, they were tremendously taken up with speaking in tongues. And they just thought there was nothing like speaking in tongues. You know what Paul said to them in 1 Cor. 14: 12? (read) that's the bottom line! If anybody wants to build up the Body of Christ, you need not worry about them. Now if they want to build up themselves and they want to build up a certain system of theology and they want to draw attention to themselves

it's a different thing. But when we want to build up the church, God will always honor that.

Do you know your gift? Do you KNOW your gift? Are you exercising it? Well, many of you DO know your gift and you're exercising it and there's no limit to how that - your gift will grow and grow and grow and become a blessing to you and to others. Some of you don't know your gift. Well, why don't you? Well, I can't say. I can't say. Maybe you've never heard the Truth. You might be exercising the gift and you don't even know it's a Spiritual gift. You think it's something the pastor asked you to do - like the nominating committee.

Let me say this: ~~the~~^{thing} is to be open to this Truth. Be willing to serve the Lord. Recognizing that you have an indispensable place and when you fulfill it, oh the blessing that's gonna come to your life and one day we're gonna stand before Jes. and we're gonna answer for the use of our gifts. If we fail, we fail Jes. We've failed our brothers and our lives are gonna be burned up before us in the Judgment Seat of Christ. What a wonderful Truth it is today and by all means, don't ever be misled - don't EVER follow anybody or be misled by a man or a movement that gets out of the orb of the Bible!

That is the quickest way I know to sorrow and hurt and division. Many have been hurt because they did not know the Truth of the Scriptures.

Let's stand and pray.