

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Part 5 - To Serve With Unhesitant Diligence

Romans 12:11-13

Introduction:

- Verses 9-13 are connected with _____ the previous spiritual gifts, listing three spiritual qualities that must accompany them:
 1. An unhypocritical love of a _____ toward our fellow-believer (Greek – agape) – verse 9
 2. An unmatched love of a _____ toward our fellow-believer (Greek – philadelphia) – verse 10
 3. An unhesitant d _____ - verse 11a
 - a. There are no action words in the Greek text in verse 11a
 - b. Literally – as to diligence, no lazy people
 - 1) The word lazy is in the p _____ and so we must supply the word people.
 - 2) The rest of verse 11-13 instruct us how to develop this kind of diligence.
- Question: How can you serving with unhesitant diligence?

Connect Your Enthusiasm with the S _____ (11)

- Most versions translate: *fervent in spirit* (NIV – *spiritual fervor*)
 1. The word translated “fervent” literally means b _____, giving the idea of having an obvious enthusiasm,
 2. The word “spirit” has the word “the” before it in the Greek text and so I understand it as referring to the Holy Spirit not the human attitude (see Acts 18:25 for this exact Greek phrase where Apollos displayed this fervency by teaching God’s word a _____).
 3. A literal rendering of verse 11 – *as to diligence, no slow pokes but enthusiasm in the Spirit while serving the Lord*
- Applying verse 11
 1. Serving each other is serving the L _____ (are we not the body of Christ? – verse 5)
 2. The source of enthusiasm must NOT be:
 - a. From those we s _____ (our enthusiasm will vary depending on how well we like them)
 - b. From the t _____ we do (our enthusiasm will vary depending on how well we like what we do)
 3. Our source of enthusiasm must be from the Spirit who never c _____. Here is what it might look like:
 - a. Service – an obvious enthusiasm for the p _____ of God (e.g. - careful stewardship of the church building)
 - b. Teaching – an obvious enthusiasm for the w _____ of God (e.g. – explaining God’s word accurately)
 - c. Exhortation – an obvious enthusiasm for the w _____ of God (e.g. – magnifying life changing principles)
 - d. Giving – an obvious enthusiasm for the w _____ of God (e.g. – sacrificing money to get the gospel out)
 - e. Leading – an obvious enthusiasm for the w _____ of God (e.g. – directing people to grow spiritually)
 - f. Showing mercy – an obvious enthusiasm for the c _____ of God (e.g. – instrument of comfort)

Fuel your Service with P _____ for Christ’s Return (12)

- Many are wrongly fueled by r _____
 1. This may cause us to try to r _____ the outcome
 2. The results must be left to G _____ (how many positive results did Moses get from Pharaoh or his people?)

●The right fuel source

1. H_____ - a word study on this word shows that when connected with God it refers to the certainty of Christ's coming (Acts 24:15; Col 1:5; 1Thess 5:8-10; Titus 2:13)
2. This enables us to e_____ tribulation or adversity.
3. P_____ for Christ's return must accompany our service
 - a. We are to be d_____ to prayer
 - b. 2Pet 3:11,12 connects our service with h_____ on the day of Christ's return (living holy and godly lives)
 - c. We serve in the body of Christ so that God will bring about Christ's coming!

Function with Others in Meeting N_____ (13)

●We must function as a body with interdependency

1. We must not get t_____ in our ministry but see all ministries as interconnected
2. The word translated as "contributing" is the Greek word "koinonia" meaning "having in common" and so requires c_____ with others in meeting needs

●The word "needs" can refer to:

1. P_____ needs (service, giving),
2. S_____ needs (teaching, leading, counseling),
3. E_____ needs (mercy)

●Practicing hospitality goes hand-in-hand with meeting needs

1. The word "hospitality" literally means "f_____ to strangers"
 - a. The strangers were those who v_____ the church
 - b. It was not uncommon in Paul's world for Christians to travel for the purpose of commerce.
2. Is this church body characterized as a friendly church?
 - a. How do you respond to visitors?
 - b. Visitors should not feel neglected nor overwhelmed with friendliness, but i_____

Conclusion:

●How do we develop an unhesitant diligence in our service?

1. Deriving e_____ from the Holy Spirit alone as opposed to the people we serve or the task we are doing.
2. Realize that your service is being used by God to bring about Christ's return – so p_____ for that "hope" as you serve.
3. Understand that only through c_____ can all needs be met.

●What will you do with God's word that you have heard today?