

**Seven Life Changing Disciplines**  
**#6 Serve Faithfully – 1 Peter 4:7-11**

Peter begins this section with these words (7) “But the end of all things is at hand.” The coming of Christ for His church is connected to the judgment seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”

1. Faithful Service Is Our Personal Identity

***Every True Believer Is Included***

(10) “As each one”

In scripture our faith in Christ is always connected to real life. Salvation is far more than just having one’s sins forgiven and the hope of heaven upon death. Salvation is a life transformation.

James 2:14, “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?”

(17) “...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

• **Service and salvation are \_\_\_\_\_ together by God**

Ephesian 2:8-10, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

God through the Holy Spirit creates a desire within us to serve God with our lives. We have the responsibility to respond to God’s commandments and leading. Philippians 2:12-13, “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

**Salvation Is a Personal Regeneration that Brings a Personal \_\_\_\_\_**

2. Faithful Service Is a Spiritual Opportunity

***Every True Believer Is Equipped***

(10) “As each one has received a gift”

• **Every Christian has been given a \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Corinthians 12:7, “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one...” This cannot be earned or generated by human effort.

A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given by God to each believer at the moment of salvation. God is the One who decides what gift each believer receives.

1 Corinthians 12:11, “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Paul identifies the gifts in I Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:7-8, and Romans 12:5-8. Peter reveals the two broad categories of spiritual gifts: **Speaking gifts and \_\_\_\_\_ gifts**

(11) “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies.”

• **Every Christian has been \_\_\_\_\_ gifted**

There are about 12 gifts that are still active in the church today. There are millions of believers around the world yet each one is uniquely equipped.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

MacArthur writes “The Spirit gives the gift, the Lord gives the ministry and God works the effects.”

**God Sovereignly Superintends Every \_\_\_\_\_ of Our Spiritual Gift**

3. Faithful Service Is My Personal Responsibility

***Every True Believer Is Obligated***

(10) “As each one has received a gift minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

The word “minister” is *diakoneoi* which means to serve or to wait upon.

• **Gifts are given to \_\_\_\_\_ others**

1 Corinthians 12:7, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."  
Ephesians 4:12, "For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..."

Since this is a divine command why do so many believers not obey it.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ – they spell service s-e-r-v-e u-s. If they do use their gift it will be only occasionally and when it is convenient.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ – they will use their gift only if they get recognition, most ministry is like an iceberg, only God sees the major part of it

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ – they are not willing to pay the price of service. Service costing nothing accomplishes nothing.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ – they are afraid of failure or more likely of criticism

John Piper says that too many people are trying to avoid a wounded life instead of trying to avoid a wasted life.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ – all ministry involves a major aspect of routineness, we can become weary in well doing

Galatians 5:13, "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

**You Will Discover Your Gift through \_\_\_\_\_ More So Than Discovering Your Ministry through Your Gift**

• **Faithful service \_\_\_\_\_ God**

(11) "...that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

God has placed each of us in this local church for a purpose. 1 Corinthians 12:18, "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased."

**When We Serve Faithfully the Church Is \_\_\_\_\_ and God Is Glorified**