

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 23rd August 2015

USING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO GOD'S GLORY

As We Gather

It is not enough that we understand Paul's writings, we must translate our learning into living and show by our daily lives that we trust God's Word.

Reading Scripture **PSALM 84** **ROMANS 12 : 1-13**

Thinking together

The person who loves God sees all of life as an opportunity to experience God's faithfulness; a daily putting aside of self and trusting in Him with all that we are and have (1 Samuel 15:20). The key to this is relationships.

- Relationship with God [Romans 12:1-2]

Dynamic devotion to God comprises

- Giving God your body [v1]

The Holy Spirit indwells us, therefore our body is the instrument through which He functions as we willingly yield ourselves to God (Philippians 1:20-21)

Discuss the sentence "Real worship is the offering of everyday life to God"

- Giving God your mind [v2a]

To be able to do this requires a radical change within our personality so that we no longer live for ourselves but live Christ-centred lives

What part does Scripture (the Word) play in our changing? Discuss (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

- Giving God your will [v2b]

The mind controls the body and the will controls the mind. When we yield our will to God we can draw on His power through the Holy Spirit

What part does prayer play in surrendering self to God? Discuss

- Relationship with others [Romans 12:3-13]

Christian relationships are built on lives marked by humility and faithfulness. We belong to each other, we minister to each other, and we need each other.

Essentials for spiritual ministry and growth in the church / body of believers are

- Honest evaluation and acceptance of self [v3]

Spiritual gifts are given by God's grace. We need the faith and grace to acknowledge what we can and cannot do, and to use the gift(s) given us without envy of others abilities

How can / do you use your gift(s) to honour God's name? Discuss

- Faithful co-operation (vv4-8)

Each member of the church has a different gift so that the local church can grow in a balanced way. Even if we do not see the results of our ministry we must use our gift(s) in faith.

Have you ever wondered if your ministry / function in the church is really necessary / helping in any way? Discuss

- Loving participation [vv9-13]

Love is the guiding principle in the everyday actions of Christian life. God calls us to practice sincere and generous love. The emphasis lies in our attitude while exercising our spiritual gifts. Honest love is humble and puts others first.

Paul lists a number of rules for everyday life in these four verses. Which do you find

- **the easiest to apply? Discuss**
- **the most difficult to apply? Discuss**

In Closing

God's living presence is our greatest joy and help as we grow in strength and grace.

By refusing to conform to the world's standards and behaviour, and being open to the Holy Spirit we learn that our self-worth is based on our identity in Christ, and we learn to honour others when / as we honour God

