

Sermon Notes: 12/21/25 HONOR THE GIFT: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11

Honoring your gift is when you maximize it for the benefit of others.

The definition Pastor Taylor shared with us is: the proper placement of value, recognition, celebration, and sacrifice.

I believe there's a lot of unnecessary suffering because too many people aren't honoring their gifts!

Consider this: If you don't like what you see in the world, you may be part of the problem.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”

1 Corinthians 12:4–6, 11 (ESV)

In week one we focused on Honoring the Lord. A.W. Tozer said, “The most important thought you could ever have is what you think about God.” What you think about God determines how you honor the journey He has you on. And the next best way to honor God is by fully expressing and manifesting your gifts!

What if I told you this: The way we honor our gift is a reflection of our faith.

In our launch text, the word “gift” used by Paul is the Greek word charismata, which means “free gifts of grace.” They are unmerited favors from God. You probably figured out it's the plural form of charisma. Every believer has charismata, and the world needs your charismata.

Imagine if we put full confidence in the gifts God gave us for His purposes. If we're aligned with His purpose and it doesn't work, it's not our reputation at risk.

“But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”

Hebrews 10:38 (ESV)

David didn't approach Goliath hoping it would work—he said, “I come in the name of the Lord!”

Suffering was happening. The Living God was being defiled. And no one was using their gifts or abilities. Not honoring the gift leads to suffering. The world looks different when we're not operating in our gifts but instead operating in our comfort.

“Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.”
Numbers 14:24

Refer back to Numbers 13:30, when Caleb and Joshua were the only two who gave a favorable report of the Promised Land—because they believed God. They believed in the One who made the promise, the One who gave the land.

Your Gift Is Designed to Bless Others

Joseph had a few gifts—just like we all do—and often we elevate one gift over the others. Typically, it’s the one that opens doors for us (a supporting gift) rather than the one that keeps us in the room (the primary gift).

“From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master’s household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar’s household for Joseph’s sake... his crops and livestock flourished.”
Genesis 39:5 (NLT)

One of Joseph’s gifts was dream interpretation—that opened doors. But his major gift was administration. We spend a lot of time on his dreams and not enough on how he honored the anointed gift of administration and stewardship.

Honoring his gift allowed him to bless his family and preserve two nations.

Joseph was treated unfairly, mocked, hated, and left for dead—yet he still redeemed his brothers.

What they meant for evil, God meant for good. Does that remind you of anyone else?

Joseph redeemed his family in a way that foreshadows how Jesus redeemed us.

What if your gift is necessary right now—today—to preserve two nations?

People may celebrate you when you use the supportive gift, but not when you use the administrative, exhortative, prophecy, wisdom or leadership gift.

This is why you should also honor your brother’s or sister’s gift—you never know... it may save your life one day.

A Prayer and a Charge

My prayer today is that we all discover our purpose and assignment for life, along with the inherent gifts and abilities that come with that assignment. That we commit to serving our gift to the world in order to enhance the lives of many.

We expend so much time and energy waiting to launch, waiting for “one day.”

That day doesn’t exist on any calendar. But there is a Day 1.

Choose this day... honor the gift.

As 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us, every person was created to fill a need. Everyone has an ability that no one else has and is indispensable to the world. Because of your unique gifts and perspectives, you are a solution to a problem that must be solved.

You are the solution.

****Youth**—**you don’t have to wait until you’re an adult. Your life will be better the earlier you honor your gift. You will bypass pain, suffering, and unnecessary trials if you do it now. All our biblical examples today—Joseph, David, and Caleb—were gifted as youth!**

We learned in week one that our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

This Christmas, honor your Father by honoring your gift—including the gift of salvation—and becoming who you were created to be, doing what you were predestined to do.