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Sermon Notes

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Discover, Develop and Deploy Your Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:7-16

The ancient Greeks crafted a MYTHOLOGICAL story for how the city of Athens got its name

Two deities were competing for the right to be the protector of the city... the human king, Kekrops, decided that whichever deity gave the city the most valuable gift would be chosen as the patron of the city

The god of the sea, Poseidon, took his powerful trident and struck the top of the hill that became later known as the Acropolis, and a fresh water spring bubbled forth. The people were impressed with this valuable gift

THAT IS... until Athena, the goddess of wisdom gave her gift. She had chosen wisely... a new kind of tree they had never seen before... the olive tree. Its fruit was nutritious and delicious for eating; its pressed oil useful for burning in lamps; and its wood excellent for construction. It could multiply into groves which grew abundantly in that climate... and thus it would provide a lucrative cash crop in trade with other nations. Athena's gift won, and the city was named Athens in her honor

Christ's gifts to us, however, are infinitely more valuable than those given by these fake man-made deities

Ephesians 4:7 BUT to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Ephesians 4 portrays Christ as a VICTORIOUS CONQUEROR who rides a victory parade to heaven and lavishes gifts on the adoring population:

Ephesians 4:8-10 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

For the third week, we are going to contemplate the powerful doctrine of SPIRITUAL GIFTS... one of the most astonishing truths imaginable, if you take the time to ponder it scripturally. Christ has specifically pondered YOU, and has made you and shaped you and prepared you to play a specific role in his glorious church. And you MUST play that

role if you are to grow into maturity, and if the church as a whole is to grow into final perfection. Spiritual gift ministry is not optional. This is not window dressing... this is not some extra frill in the redemptive plan of God. It is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL that each part does its work.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE special abilities given differently to each one of us by the special grace of God through Christ and through the Holy Spirit that God uses to build up the Body of Christ.

So this text is staring you in the face... like a mirror. And you are called to study your life... study the way you spend your time, the way you engage the church, other Christians. ARE YOU FULFILLING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT PURPOSE???

REVIEW:

1) Living a life WORTHY OF OUR CALLING:

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:2-6 Strong sense of UNITY

Ephesians 4:3-6 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Then... ***"BUT..."*** = DIVERSITY... spiritual gifts, specialization

Ephesians 4:7 BUT to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Vs. 7 "to each one" = universality of spiritual gifts... EVERY SINGLE CHRISTIAN has a spiritual gift

"grace has been given" = spiritual gifts are amazing grace from God to the church (both to us individually and to the church corporately)

"as Christ apportioned it" = according to the wise measure of Christ; not all gifts given equally, but all gifts given intentionally, as the fruit of careful consideration by Christ of each of us... WHAT GIFT YOU GET, and HOW MUCH OF THAT GIFT... a wise measurement

Vs. 8-10: Paul quotes Psalm 68 and applies it to Christ... these spiritual gifts are part of Christ's resurrection victory!!

Ephesians 4:8-10 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the

very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Vs. 11: “*He gave some to be Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers...*” = examples of spiritual gifted servants that Christ has given to the church, to build the church up to maturity; also, all of those gift have one thing in common: THE WORD of GOD!! They are a delivery system for the Word of God

Vs. 12: “*to prepare God’s people for works of service so that the Body of Christ will be built up*” = as the Word primes the pump, the people do the works, and as the people do the works, the body of Christ is built up

Goal... perfect conformity to Christ

SPIRITUAL GIFTS are special abilities given by Christ through the Holy Spirit to individual Christians to enable them to build the Church to spiritual maturity...

Flourish not function:

Like the wind at the perfect angle to the way your sails are set

I. God’s Goal: Perfect Conformity of the Church to Christ (vs. 13, 15)

A. Concept: Hostile, fractured human race brought into perfect UNITY by CONFORMITY to Christ

Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The word “mature” is sometimes translated “perfect” ... the Greek of verse 13 is fascinating...

^{ESV} Ephesians 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

^{CSB} Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.

“to a mature man” = the concept of a male who has grown from infancy through toddlerhood, to boyhood, through the teen years, to early manhood... finally to MATURE MANHOOD

[Paul chose a strongly masculine image here... perhaps to link back to Jesus’ own development to perfect humanity

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Fully mature in ALL RESPECTS... mature in mind, heart, body, relationships with other people and with God

Unity comes by our increasing CONFORMITY to Christ as we grow more and more like Him

Also, verse 14-15...

Ephesians 4:14-15 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

A strong picture of growth to maturity... not an infant, but a mature adult...

Unity by conformity to the Head... we will all be made LIKE CHRIST... LIKE HIM

B. Conformity to Christ

Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

1. **Conformity of the MIND**: to think what Christ thinks about everything... to agree with Jesus about everything there is to think about; to ponder what Christ ponders, to think only what is TRUE, NOBLE, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY, ADMIRABLE... all the time
 2. **Conformity of the HEART**: to love what Christ loves and hate what Christ hates with the same intensity with which he loves and hates... perfectly conformed to Christ's heart in everything... yearning for what he yearns for, celebrating what he celebrates, willing what he wills, rejecting what he rejects
 3. **Conformity of the BODY**: to have a resurrection body as glorious as his...radiantly shining with the glory of God; completely free from all corruption and from death itself
- C. Who? ALL THE ELECT... from every tribe, language, people, nation... all over the world... that every elect male and female will be brought to perfect conformity to Christ and therefore to each other... NOT A SINGLE ONE LOST!!
- D. When? Progressively now... perfected only in heaven
- E. Goal: Doctrinal Unity

Ephesians 4:13 *until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

1. Unity in “THE FAITH”
2. Unity in the faith **AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God**

F. Doctrinal Maturity Clearly in View in verse 14

Ephesians 4:14 *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*

G. Speaking the Truth in Love

Ephesians 4:15 *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

H. All This Maturity Happens as each Member Uses His/Her Gifts

Ephesians 4:16 *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

1. The Process of Actually Using Your Gift is the Matrix of Your Own Growth
2. AND Your Exercise of Your Gift is Essential to Other People’s Growth
3. Paul Strongly Emphasizes Human Works Here
 - a. He knows that God builds the church

Psalm 127:1 *Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.*

- b. He knows that Christ builds the church

Matthew 16:18 *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

4. But yet, he says the church **GROWS AND BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE... AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK**
 5. Our spiritual gifts are essential to this growth

I. As all these **WORKS OF SERVICE**, this work of the ministry is done, the **WHOLE CHURCH GROWS UP** into maturity in Christ

II. Discover Your Gifts (Romans 12:1-8)

Romans 12:1-8 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ ¶ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS COMES NEXT!!!:

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

So, this is a great passage to turn to to answer the question, "How can I discover my spiritual gifts?"

A. Step 1: Live in light of God's gospel...

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy...

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Matthew 6:31-33 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 16:26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

B. Step 2: Present your body to God

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to PRESENT your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

SACRIFICE is something costly, offered to God as His

This means to give your physical body to serve God's purpose in this world... to give him your strength, your mind, your hands and feet, your mouth, your time and effort and money and everything...

LIVING SACRIFICE: as opposed to the dead sacrifices of the OT... I think of it as a CONTINUAL sacrifice... constantly, moment by moment saying to God, "I am yours to command... whatever you want from me, I will do!"

This continual presentation of YOURSELF to God is the essence of your life of WORSHIP... this is PURE RELIGION, a REASONABLE/SPIRITUAL sacrifice offered continually to God

PRAYER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Asking God what His will is for you!!!!

HOLY and PLEASING to God: if you are living in sin, God will not use your spiritual gifts... he will not teach you what your gifts are, or he will not put them to use

SO... NON-CHRISTIANS: repent of your sins and come to faith in Christ;

Christians: be certain that there is no known sin in your life that you are not actively starving to death by the Spirit

C. Step 4: Don't be conformed to this world

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world...

The word is literally, "do not masquerade" or be PRESSED INTO THE FORM of the world

Understand the wickedness of this worldly system... of the selfish pride and burning lusts for sinful pleasures that are continually corrupting the hearts of sinful people in this world

TO DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, you need to turn away from the pattern of this world, to repent from the sinfulness of the worldly mindset that dominates the question: "Why am I alive? What am I living for? What do I want in this life?" If you think like a worldly person, you will not discover, develop, or deploy your spiritual gifts!

D. Step 5: Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Amazing "transformation"... made like Christ, glorious in your mind, able to think as Christ does... to see yourself and your life as Christ does...

The renewing of the mind is ESSENTIAL to discovering your spiritual gifts...

This happens by the STUDY of God's holy Word... by the constant flowing of truth through your brain:

"river rock"... made gradually perfectly smooth by the word of God

As you study the Bible every single day, you are made more and more able to understand God's overarching purposes in the world, and your specific place in it... this will result in the next step

E. Step 6: Made able to DISCERN God's will for you

Romans 12:2 Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

One Greek word, but the NIV 1984 nails it with two words... "by testing its nature, you will approve it..."

Illus. "assayers office" during California Gold Rush of 1849... bring him your rocks, he will be able to test and prove its nature... is it real gold or fool's gold?

If you want to DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT, you have to follow these steps

You will find out how the Lord Jesus Christ has APPORTIONED GRACE to you, and you will DELIGHT in it, and approve it and embrace it!!

F. Step 7: Do Not Think Too Highly of Yourself!!

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought

God means for us to be BOTH HUMBLE AND INCREDIBLY FRUITFUL in the use of our gifts... so as we seek to discover our spiritual gifts, we have to be continually HUMBLE and not arrogant... and we need not to covet gifts that are NOT GIVEN to us...

G. Step 8: Think of yourself with sober judgement

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Easy to miss the simple, clear instruction given to each one of us... THINK OF YOURSELF!! Ponder who you are, what you are good at, what you enjoy doing for the Body of Christ! Do it with SOBER JUDGEMENT, but do it!

Ponder your track record of service to Christ... ponder your level of fruitfulness, the results that have come from your service... ponder where you FLOURISH and where you merely FUNCTION

George MacDonald: "A man ought to try to look at his own work as if it were none of his, but not as with the eyes of other people. That is an impossibility, and the attempt a bewilderment. It is with his own eyes he must look, with his own judgment he must judge. The only effort is to get it set far away enough from him to be able to use his own eyes and his own judgment upon it." *The Seaboard Parish, Chapter 27*

C.S. Lewis in *Screntape Letters*:

"Thousands of humans have been brought to think that humility means pretty women trying to believe that they are ugly, and clever men trying to believe they are fools. [God] wants to bring the man to a state of mind in which he could design the best cathedral in the world, and know it to be the best, and rejoice in the fact, without being any more (or less) or otherwise glad at having done it than he would be if it had been done by another. [God] wants him, in the end, to be so free from any bias in his own favor that he can rejoice in his own talents as frankly and gratefully as in his neighbor's talents." (Chapter 14)

The key concept here is that all of your spiritual gifts are just that, GIFTS from God... He gave them to you as a stewardship... and someday God will call you to account for what He gave you

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

You are supposed to assess your work objectively, with sober judgment... see what God has put in you, and what He expects of you

Christ is the ultimate fruit inspector, and He will judge all of our works on Judgment Day... but He is eager to give you a sober assessment of your works now so you can discern your spiritual gifts

i) "sober judgment" is the way you should assess your life

ii) With God's help, you will discern what gifts He has given you

b. By the measure of your faith

i) "according to the measure of faith" means recognizing by faith what God has put in you

- ii) Not everyone has the same measure of faith or the same measure of spiritual gifts
- iii) Not all preachers equal each other in gifts, nor do all givers, or encouragers or administrators etc.

H. Step 9: Get Input from the Body of Christ... have OTHERS ponder you

KJV Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works

We are to PONDER ONE ANOTHER... and encourage each other's gifts and service to help each other DISCOVER our spiritual gifts... what they are, and what they aren't

Having pondered each other, we are to SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON to love and good deeds... and getting other people to use their spiritual gifts is a great way to do it

ENCOURAGEMENT is a great "spur" to love and good deeds

Mark Twain: "I can live for two weeks on a good compliment, with nothing to eat!"

Encouragement is a tremendous spur to action... if brothers and sisters ponder your patterns of service and speak words of encouragement:

- [Hospitality] "Dear sister, you have a tremendous gift of hospitality! Every week you open your home to our home fellowship with such warmth and thoughtfulness, we feel like we are doing you a favor to come... but actually it is you who bless us!"
- [Service] "Brother, thank you for preparing the coffee for the whole church week after week! Very few people see you do it or know that you do it, but we all benefit from your humble service! You do so many things behind the scenes to help us flourish as a church!"
- [Evangelism] "When I go out witnessing with you, I am strengthened and encouraged! You have such a loving boldness and directness... you easily get into spiritual conversations with total strangers and they seem to like talking to you. Getting into those conversations is so hard for me... but you have such a gift!"
- [Mercy] "You have such a heart for the poor and needy. I am ashamed to admit it, but I can easily drive by this neighborhood and not notice all the struggles these folks are having. But every week, you pour yourself out to

bless the poor in this community. I learn so much from watching your heart of mercy.”

- [Prayer] “I love praying with you! You have such a strong faith; you seem to pray as though you can actually see the invisible God! And when I hear you pray with such faith, it makes me sense God’s power and love and presence too! It makes me want to pray as I never have before!”
- [Leadership] “I love the way you lead our church! You have such a clear vision of where we need to go, and you give clear directions for that in a way that is winsome and powerful... it makes me want to follow! And God has given you such a wisdom in knowing where we need to go and how to get there!”
- [Giving] “You have such an amazingly generous heart! You see that God has lavishly blessed you financially, but you also are so open-handed and generous... you know that every dollar you have has come from God and you give so much to invest in eternity... you support missionaries and Christian works, on top of faithfully giving your tithes and offerings to the church.”
- [Teaching] “Whenever you open the scriptures, I feel like new things are just jumping off the page! I must have read that passage a hundred times and never saw what you explained to us tonight at Bible study! I understand much more clearly what Paul meant when he wrote that passage!”
- [Music] “I am so blessed by your musical gift! The way you present your skill so plainly to the Holy Spirit to use you, and the way your music just flows into my heart, carrying the words with astonishing power, I am lifted up to the heavenlies in worship by your gifts!”
- [Administration] “The Caring Center ministry is so complex, with lots of people and lots of moving parts! I see how skillfully you put that whole outreach together, calling people, getting everything to run so smoothly, looking after a thousand details I would never have noticed. In fact, whenever you organize something, it runs so smoothly! Thank you!!”
- [Counseling] “Honestly, our marriage was really struggling, with so many conflicts we couldn’t resolve. But you showed us God’s wisdom from scripture and we could see our sin more clearly, and specific steps we needed to take to live more tenderly with each other. Thank you for saving our marriage!”
- [Healing] “

I. Step 10: Do lots of these kinds of ministries... SERVE IN A WIDELY VARIED WAY

Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

III. Develop Your Gifts

A. Spiritual Gifts Need to Be Developed

Perhaps the most overwhelmingly talented musical genius in history was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. At the age of five he was already beginning to compose minuets. At the age of six, he was traveling all over Europe with his father giving concerts for kings and archbishops. But he was also fanatically serious about developing his God-given talent... he devoted himself to fourteen hours a day of practice on the piano

Charles Spurgeon was perhaps the most naturally talented preacher in history. Possessed of an astounding eloquence, a powerful voice and a remarkable intellect, he was preaching to huge crowds of thousands before he twentieth birthday. But he never stopped developing his craft, studying the techniques of preaching... of powerfully reaching the hearts of men and women with the life-changing gospel. He developed his gift to a sharper edge more and more with each passing year.

Over and over again in history, we have seen incredibly talented men and women take those gifts and develop them to the glory of God...

But I have also seen God-given talents go wasted...

When I was a student at MIT, I studied with some of the best and brightest students in the country. But I noticed that there were some lazy geniuses who had the ability to coast and did so... they got by, even with excellent grades... but their gift was not fully developed

1. Spiritual gifts do not come fully developed
2. The lesson of Paul's advice to Timothy in several places is clear: you must develop your spiritual gifts to full maturity

2 Timothy 1:6 ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1 Timothy 4:14-16 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers

3. The work and effort and zeal involved is a large measure of the worship we give to God in using our gifts
4. It also is in complete harmony with God's usual way of dealing with us... all things grow and develop

B. We Develop Them by Using Them

C. We Develop Them by Studying Them

1. Timothy's gift of teaching.... NEEDED DEVELOPMENT!!

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

- a. Those with the gift of administration still need to learn the best way to organize ministries and to lead people winsomely
- b. Those with the gift of giving still need to study the best way to earn money and the best way to give it away

Illus. Gift of giving... Randy Alcorn *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*... small group; DVD of giving warriors from history... R.G. LeTourneau

R.G. LeTourneau (1888-1969) was the father of the American earth moving industry, inventing and developing HUGE machines for moving earth... mostly responsible for equipping the Allied invasion of Normandy with machinery during World War II. His life was changed by the realization that he could serve God as a businessman. LeTourneau's first business went bankrupt, sending him into debt by \$5,000, a large sum in his day. However, a pastor friend told him that God needed businessmen as well as pastors. Eventually he found a construction job and became successful. Amidst his success, LeTourneau remembered God's faithfulness and gave 90 percent of his earnings to Christian endeavors. LeTourneau lived by the statement, "If you're not serving the Lord, it proves you don't love him; if you don't love him, it proves you don't know him."

Someone with the gift of giving DEVELOPS his/her own gift by studying how others have done it

- c. Those with the gift of hospitality would still need to study how to minister to people of different cultures, perhaps, or with different lavish display of welcome and greeting... they can learn from some women, perhaps, who have been making guests feel at home for decades

D. We Develop Them by Submitting to the Input of Others

1. We should submit our ministries to more skilled and more mature Christians who also have those same gifts
2. We should submit our ministries to the Body as a whole for help in discerning the best ways to grow

E. Bottom line: we must DEVELOP our spiritual gifts so we become even more skillful at them

IV. Deploy Your Gifts

A. Deploy... STARTS WITH "D"!!! USE your gift... be deployed like a soldier on D-Day!!

Romans 12:6-8 If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

B. Non-Christians: trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

1. Spiritual gifts are given to Christians to help build up the Body of Christ
2. If you are not yet a Christian, you are on the OUTSIDE of this glorious building project... you are excluded, under the judgment of God for your sins...
3. God sent His Son into the world to die on the cross for sinners like you and me
4. TRUST IN CHRIST! God raised him from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to all who call on his name
5. If you call on his name, he will forgive you... and he will give you the gift of the Holy Spirit... you will be immediately involved in building the Church by your gifts!!

C. FBC Members... DO YOU HAVE A MINISTRY?

1. Is there a regular pattern of service in your life?
2. Are you devoting yourself to the use of your spiritual gifts?
3. LOOK IN THE MIRROR:

James 1:22-25 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes

away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.