



Introduction: Discovering Your God-Given Gifts

An Invitation to Serve, Reflect, and Step Into Divine Purpose

What if your gifts—those abilities that seem to flow naturally, those instincts to help or lead or create—weren't random at all? What if they were placed in you on purpose, by a loving God who knows you intimately and intends for you to thrive, not just survive?

Scripture assures us:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

— **1 Peter 4:10**

This simple yet profound verse holds a truth that often gets overlooked in our busy, comparison-driven world: **you have been entrusted with something eternal**. Not for self-glory, but for service. Not for self-promotion, but for Kingdom impact.

In this second ebook of the *By His Grace* series, we explore the topic of **God-given gifts**—not just in terms of spiritual gifts as listed in Scripture (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4), but in a broader light: how humanity, as God’s creation, was gifted from the very beginning.

Despite the fall, despite the reality of sin, humanity carries the imprint of our Creator. We were made in His image and called to **steward His creation** (Genesis 1:26–28). That calling was never revoked. Even after the fall, God continued to equip His people—not only to survive a broken world, but to **live wisely, prosper, create, heal, lead, and build**.

This ebook is written with a humble hope:

That as you reflect on your own life, your gifts, and your calling, you’ll be stirred to **look deeper—into history, into Scripture, and into your own heart**. You’ll see how God has gifted humanity not only individually, but collectively, to overcome challenges, to invent and inspire, to govern wisely, and to live lives that point back to Him.

You’ll find here:

- A scriptural framework for understanding spiritual and practical gifts
- A gentle guide for self-reflection and discernment
- Encouragement to explore how God has moved through human history to equip us for flourishing—even in a fallen world

- A reminder that the gifts you carry are not just for you—they are for the people around you

If we come to this topic with open hands and humble hearts, we'll begin to see what God has been doing all along: **equipping us to be faithful managers of His creation**, to bless others, and to bring glory to Him.

This book is not the final word on spiritual gifts. It's a beginning—a spark. May it stir in you a fresh motivation to discover, develop, and dedicate your gifts back to the One who gave them.

A Moment of Clarity About Gifts

I find myself here again, writing—and today, it's about *gifts*.

Over the past few weeks, I've been quietly reflecting on my past choices. And to be honest, there's been a lot of shaking my head in disappointment. Moments when I can only sigh at myself, followed quickly by whispered prayers of repentance.

“Dear God... all those distractions I've chosen—things I used to call ‘entertainment,’ ways I found to delay growth, the foolishness I kept repeating. How childish I've been.”

It's painful to realize how easily I let the world pull me off course. These days, sin is often dressed up as freedom. We're told to “choose our own poison” like it's self-care. Casual relationships are marketed as empowerment. Darkness is repackaged as art. And I ask myself—*how did I let myself get so far from the truth You've already given us in Your Word?*

But even in that moment of honest grief, one thing grounds me:

God's faith in me has never wavered.

Even when mine faltered. Even when I was distracted. Even when I acted like I knew better.

That realization, in itself, is a gift. One I don't want to waste.

The thing is, maybe I've been a little too harsh on myself. After all, in today's culture—especially in the new age space—many of the choices I now question wouldn't even be considered “wrong.” Some would just call it *enjoying life*—being aligned with what's current: dating casually, playing the latest video games full of demonic images, decorating with symbols or “lucky charms,” and consuming entertainment that objectifies people like it's nothing.

Back then, before I fully surrendered my life to Christ, I didn't give these things much thought. They felt harmless, even fun. And in terms of this world's standards, maybe they *are* harmless. But spiritually, looking back now, I see how they quietly chipped away at something much deeper—my sense of righteousness.

That's a word I haven't used in a long time. I think I avoided it, maybe because deep down, I didn't want to give up the lifestyle I had grown to like—especially in the comfort of new age thinking. But now that I've given my life to Christ, I see that righteousness isn't about following rules to be “better”—it's about walking in alignment with God, through His Spirit, not my own whims.

And now that the Holy Spirit is with me, I *can* start to correct my course—not in shame, but in grace.

We often take for granted the very things we've already been given. One of the most overlooked gifts? Free will.

God has blessed us with the freedom to choose, a divine gift rooted in love. Yet tragically, this same freedom has often been twisted into a tool for spiritual bondage. The enemy has used humanity's liberty to claim souls, distort truth, and sow corruption throughout the physical and spiritual realms.

If you take time to dig deeper into this, what you'll find is both shocking and sobering. But for now, let's stay focused on the theme of gifts—and return to that deeper exploration another time.

Among the many gifts we've received, generosity stands out as one of the greatest. In fact, I believe it's second only to free will, for true generosity reflects the creative, giving nature of God Himself.

Matthew 25:40 (NIV) says:

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

This verse, part of Jesus' teaching on the final judgment, reveals a profound truth: caring for others—especially the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the poor, the stranger, and the imprisoned—is not just charity. It is a direct act of love toward Christ.

When we give with the right heart—guided by love and discernment—our generosity becomes more than a gesture. It becomes sacred. It becomes a reflection of God's heart.

Generosity isn't confined to material things. It can be expressed through our time, our attention, our presence, our compassion, and especially through sharing the Word of God. These are gifts that endure, gifts that touch both body and soul.

Still, we must be watchful. The enemy often seeks to twist even good intentions—whispering fear, judgment, and pressure into our giving. Fear that we're not doing enough. Fear that we're falling short. But true generosity is never performative. It flows freely from a heart led by the Spirit and bears fruit in its appointed season.

Today, there are many in the world who are physically hungry, thirsty, sick, or imprisoned. But beyond the visible, there are also deep spiritual needs all around us. People starving for truth, parched for hope, imprisoned by fear, addiction, sin, or despair. Some feel like strangers in their own lives—spiritually isolated, impoverished in faith, or wounded in spirit.

To care well is to see both the seen and the unseen. And to give not from pressure or guilt, but from love—responding to God's leading.

Religious institutions and communities are uniquely positioned to help meet these needs. They offer spiritual nourishment, guidance, and support. So, don't feel the burden to address every kind of suffering alone. Instead, be open to how God personally calls you to give.

Whether through a word, a prayer, an act of service, or a listening ear—your generosity becomes an extension of Christ's compassion.

Pause and consider:

- Who around you is spiritually hungry?
- Who thirsts for truth, healing, or hope?
- Who feels like a stranger in this world or trapped in silent pain?
- *Be mindful about religious practices and fake religions.*

Reach out. Offer what you can. And remember this: whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Him.

Free will and generosity are two of the greatest gifts God has given us—yet they are also among the most misunderstood and often taken for granted. In a world shaped by self-interest and confusion, these gifts are frequently misused or ignored. But both hold immense power to transform lives and restore what is broken. Let me share a list that highlights how generosity and the freedom to choose can be used for good, in alignment with God's will.

GOD-GIVEN GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

1. Spiritual Gifts (Charismata) – For Ministry and Building the Church

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (by the Holy Spirit):

- Word of Wisdom
→ Brings clarity in confusion, guiding communities away from destructive decisions.
- Word of Knowledge
→ Exposes truth that heals and prevents the spread of deception and division.
- Faith
→ Strengthens perseverance in the face of fear, disaster, and despair.
- Gifts of Healing
→ Restores health, relieves suffering, and renews hope in broken lives.
- Miraculous Powers
→ Reveals God's intervention and inspires belief amidst hopeless situations.
- Prophecy
→ Warns against sin and reveals God's will, steering people away from destruction.
- Discernment of Spirits
→ Guards against evil influences and deception that lead to ruin.
- Speaking in Tongues
→ Breaks barriers and unites believers across cultures in crisis and praise.
- Interpretation of Tongues
→ Ensures understanding and prevents confusion in the midst of spiritual or social chaos.

Romans 12:6-8 (by grace):

- Prophecy
→ Confronts sin and calls people back to righteousness, preventing moral

collapse.

- Serving
→ Alleviates suffering by meeting practical needs in times of hardship.
- Teaching
→ Dispels ignorance, which often breeds fear, violence, and division.
- Encouraging (Exhortation)
→ Uplifts the weary and gives strength to endure trials and loss.
- Giving
→ Provides resources that rescue others from poverty and despair.
- Leadership (Administration)
→ Brings order, vision, and protection in times of chaos or uncertainty.
- Showing Mercy
→ Softens hardened hearts, reducing conflict and fostering healing.

Ephesians 4:11–13 (to equip the saints):

- Apostles
→ Lay foundations that guide communities toward lasting peace and unity.
- Prophets
→ Reveal God's direction, helping nations and people avoid disaster and judgment.
- Evangelists
→ Share the gospel, bringing salvation and transformation to broken lives.
- Pastors (Shepherds)
→ Care for souls, preventing spiritual and emotional abandonment.

- Teachers
→ Impart truth that overcomes deception and moral decay.
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2. Natural Abilities and Divine Blessings – For Everyday Life

- Wisdom (James 1:5)
→ Resolves conflict, prevents mistakes, and leads societies toward just decisions.
- Understanding (Proverbs 2:6)
→ Builds empathy and unity, healing divisions caused by ignorance and pride.
- Creativity & Craftsmanship (Exodus 31:1–5)
→ Rebuilds what is broken and beautifies the world after disaster.
- Strength (Isaiah 40:29)
→ Helps endure trials and support others in times of weakness.
- Courage (Joshua 1:9)
→ Empowers people to stand against evil and injustice despite fear.
- Peace (John 14:27)
→ Calms the storm of human conflict and fear.
- Joy (Romans 15:13)
→ Uplifts hearts in sorrow, making light shine in dark places.
- Faith (Romans 12:3)
→ Anchors souls during spiritual storms and human disasters.

- Salvation (Ephesians 2:8)
→ Delivers us from eternal suffering and brings us back into communion with God.
 - Eternal Life (Romans 6:23)
→ Offers hope beyond death and meaning through all pain.
 - The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
→ Guides, comforts, and empowers us to overcome evil and live righteously.
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3. The Fruit of the Spirit – For Godly Character (Galatians 5:22–23)

- Love
→ Ends hatred and brings healing where bitterness has been destroyed.
- Joy
→ Restores inner strength in the midst of external suffering.
- Peace
→ Ends strife and prevents the cycle of revenge and violence.
- Patience
→ Reduces anger and impulsiveness, fostering healing and understanding.
- Kindness
→ Breaks the grip of cruelty and brings light to hardened hearts.
- Goodness
→ Counters corruption and restores integrity in personal and public life.

- Faithfulness
→ Rebuilds trust and stability in relationships and communities.
- Gentleness
→ Softens conflict and disarms hostility with humility.
- Self-control
→ Prevents destructive impulses and choices that lead to ruin.

The Bible reveals that all gifts—both spiritual and practical—originate from God and are given for a purpose: to glorify Him and serve others. Spiritual gifts such as teaching, encouragement, healing, and prophecy are described in passages like Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Yet Scripture also honors practical skills—like craftsmanship, leadership, wisdom, and hospitality—as divine provisions (Exodus 31:1–5, Proverbs 22:29, Acts 6:3). Together, these gifts reflect God’s multifaceted grace and show that every believer is uniquely equipped to build up the Body of Christ and bless the world around them.

Encouragement to Explore How God Has Moved Through Human History to Equip Us for Flourishing—even in a Fallen World

Despite the reality of original sin, humanity still bears the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and with that comes an enduring call to steward the earth and care for one another. Across history, we see that God has not left humanity adrift. Instead, He has continually equipped individuals and societies with gifts—intellectual, creative, and spiritual—to advance human well-being. Scientific discovery has been one of the most powerful tools in this unfolding story. The laws of physics, the intricacies of biology, the vastness of the cosmos, and the marvels of the human brain are not chaotic accidents, but reflect a designed order waiting to be understood and applied for good. From the early use of fire and tools to modern achievements in medicine, space exploration, clean energy, and digital communication, God has

allowed us to uncover truths embedded in creation—truths that can help us feed the hungry, heal the sick, connect communities, and protect the planet.

Yet, with great power comes great responsibility. Technological advancement alone does not lead to flourishing. When detached from moral and spiritual grounding, science can be weaponized for destruction, exploitation, and division. But when aligned with godly stewardship, innovation becomes an act of service. Scripture teaches that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it (Psalm 24:1), and humanity was charged to “work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15). We were never meant to dominate through greed or violence, but to manage creation wisely, reflecting God's character. The fight against evil—against disease, injustice, and environmental destruction—is not solely God's battle to fix for us. He invites us to join Him. As people of faith, we are called to use our gifts and discoveries not to build Babels of pride, but to serve our neighbors, lift the oppressed, and preserve the earth for future generations.

Ultimately, our efforts point to a greater hope. Jesus Christ came to redeem not only individual souls but all of creation (Romans 8:19–21). The good news is that He has already begun this redemptive work through the cross, and He will return again to make all things new (Revelation 21:5). In the meantime, every scientific breakthrough, every act of compassion, and every righteous innovation can become a glimpse of that coming renewal. We are not helpless victims of a broken world—we are co-laborers with Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring light into darkness and order into chaos. Through God-given wisdom and grace, humanity is still being equipped to flourish—and to help others remember that we were made for more than survival. We were made to reflect the glory of God.

Ultimately, our efforts point to a greater hope. Jesus Christ came not only to redeem individual souls but to inaugurate the restoration of all creation (Romans 8:19–21). His death and resurrection are not mythical metaphors—they are historical and physical realities that have withstood centuries of scrutiny. From a medical standpoint, the details of His crucifixion, as recorded in all four Gospel accounts, align with what we now understand about Roman execution methods. The

scourging He endured with a flagrum—embedded with metal and bone—would have caused deep tissue damage and blood loss. The nails driven through His wrists likely pierced the median nerves, triggering unbearable pain. His final cause of death—likely a combination of asphyxiation and hypovolemic shock—is consistent with modern forensic pathology. The Gospel detail of "blood and water" flowing from His pierced side (John 19:34) reflects fluid buildup around the heart and lungs, a medically accurate sign of traumatic death. These details, beyond the awareness of ancient laypeople, have been confirmed through modern medical analysis—providing empirical grounding for what the Scriptures have long testified.

The resurrection, likewise, is supported by strong historical evidence. The empty tomb was acknowledged even by Jesus' critics, and multiple independent eyewitness testimonies—some recorded within just a few years of the event—affirm that the risen Christ appeared to individuals and groups, including over 500 people at once (1 Corinthians 15:3–8). The radical transformation of the disciples, the conversions of skeptics like James and Paul, and the explosion of the early church under severe persecution all testify to a real, world-shaking event. People may die for a cause they believe in, but they do not die for what they know to be false. These realities are not obscure or unreachable today—thanks to the very technological advancements humanity has been gifted with. Tools like artificial intelligence can now assist researchers and curious seekers in rapidly gathering, comparing, and verifying evidence from history, medicine, and theology. AI can illuminate overlooked connections, synthesize large bodies of knowledge, and help anchor future studies in truth rather than speculation—accelerating learning and helping truth-seekers find a clearer path toward what is real.

This is not merely an intellectual exercise. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a theological hope—it is a grounded, historical fact that confirms His identity as the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world. When He declared, "*Behold, I am making all things new*" (Revelation 21:5), He was inviting us to join Him in that renewal. Our discoveries, our tools—even our algorithms—can become part of that redemptive mission when they are guided by wisdom and truth. Until He returns,

we are not powerless. We are participants. Through the gifts God has placed in us—and the tools He's allowed us to create—we can help others rediscover their identity, restore what has been broken, and reflect the glory of the One who overcame death itself.

A Message of Hope and Eternal Truth

When we receive and use God's gifts in love, they become instruments of healing, not harm; of wisdom, not confusion; of unity, not division. Spiritual gifts build up the Church, while wisdom, leadership, and mercy heal communities. The fruit of the Spirit transforms hearts, reducing hate, greed, and pride—the roots of much human suffering. If every person sought to live by the Spirit and apply these gifts selflessly, the world would see less conflict, less injustice, and fewer disasters caused by human error or sin.

Yet it must be understood: suffering, evil, and destruction do not come from God. God is perfect in His nature—holy, just, and full of love. No evil can dwell near Him because His essence is utterly pure. The brokenness of the world comes from sin—our turning away from God, our misuse of the free will He gave us. In His great mercy, God sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from our sins, so that by His righteousness we could be made clean and come back into fellowship with our Creator.

Because God is eternal and unchanging, and because He is light in whom there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5), those who reject Him—who resent or denounce His love—choose separation from Him. Since all is energy and spirit, a soul that dies in sin, not having been cleansed by the blood of Christ, cannot return to God. Not because God is unwilling, but because it is incompatible with His holy nature. To dwell with God, one must be made new.

This is why hell is not merely a punishment—it is a state of eternal separation, a torment born of one's own choices. The soul that clings to sin cannot abide in the presence of God's perfection. In the end, each person must decide: to receive the righteousness offered through Jesus Christ—or to remain bound to the corruption of self and sin.

In short, God's gifts are not just blessings—they are His tools to bring peace, purpose, and healing to a broken world. And through Jesus Christ, they are also the path back to the Father—for those who will believe, repent, and receive.

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father,

We lift up to You all who are hungry, thirsty, sick, poor, and imprisoned. May they find strength, hope, and healing through Your grace. Let Your will be done in their lives through the unwavering guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Stir the hearts of those around them to act with compassion, inspired by the truth of Your Word and the holiness of Your nature. May the light of Christ shine through every act of love and mercy, bringing clarity, comfort, and redemption through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Thank You, Lord, for the blessings You've given us today—for provision, peace, and the enduring gift of faith that anchors us in You. May we never take Your presence for granted.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

"Our stories, shaped by God's grace, have the power to inspire and overcome, reminding us that through our testimony, we share His victory and love."