

Sister Talk Faith: Loving Others

Going Deeper into Share

Gifts

Reflection Scripture

Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it -- because it does. Give yourselves to the gifts God gives you. Most of all, try to proclaim his truth.

1Corinthians 14:1 The Message

Reflection Thoughts

Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it -- because it does.

The Reflection Scripture begins with an encouragement to move. What in your life have you gone after? Education? Skill? Marriage? Material possessions? What did you do to get it? How hard did you try?

Are you doing the same to love God and others? What would it look like for you to “go after love as if your life depended on it”?

Give yourselves to the gifts God gives you.

Make a list of three gifts or talents God has given you. When did you first recognize the gift? Does it look different today than ten years ago? Have you taken the time to practice or improve the gift? How?

Is there a gift you are reluctant to use? to give yourself to? Why?

How could you share your gifts in the pursuit of loving others?

Most of all, try to proclaim his truth.

Imagine wrapping your gifts in a beautiful package and presenting them to God. Ask God to show you How to share your gifts to proclaim His truth.

Prayer of Praise

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. --Psalm 100:4

Truthful

:telling or disposed to tell the truth

God is truth-full, declaring nothing but the truth all day long.

For God there is no choosing to tell the truth, it is His inclination, His nature. Jesus was born full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Write a prayer of praise to the only One who is Truth-full.

Return to your prayer of praise daily.
Add to it as you feel led.

Day 1:

Read 1Corinthians 1:4-9

What comes into the lives of Believers in conjunction with the grace of God? What is its purpose in their lives?

Look up the definition of **enrich**.

Consider the gifts you've been given to use in fellowship with Jesus. How do you see Him using your spiritual gifts to sustain the church until He returns?

Note: "You" in these verses is plural. In what case will the church not lack anything?

Day 2:

Read 1Timothy 4:14-15

Paul encourages Timothy in the use of his spiritual gifts. According to Paul, what benefit comes from constantly practicing your gifts?

The Greek translated as neglect, also means to disregard or ignore. Have you neglected the gifts you've been given? Do you know what they are?

The Greek translated "Immerse yourself" literally means: *be thou* (Enhanced Strong's Lexicon). What would it look like for you "to be" your spiritual gifts? letting them become your identity?

What keeps you from giving yourself wholly to your gifts of divine grace? What might you be missing out on?

Day 3:

Read Ephesians 1:16-23

How are Jesus and the church related to one another?

Consider how your head and body function. What happens when communication from the head to the body is interrupted or prevented?

Read the passage again. List what we gain when we come under the lordship of Jesus as the Head of the Body. What bearing does this have on the use of our spiritual gifts?

On a scale of 0-10, 0 being unconnected, how well connected are you to the Head? How can you improve connection to the Head when it comes to sharing your spiritual gifts?

Day 4:

Read Romans 1:8-12

What did Paul do, without ceasing, for the church in Rome? Why did he long to visit them?

Look up the definition of **encourage**.

Paul was a spiritually mature leader in the church, but looked forward to not only encouraging but being encouraged in the fellowship of new Believers.

What does this tell us about the importance of spiritual gifts and leadership in the church?

Are you positioning yourself in fellowship to be encouraged or to encourage others when it comes to spiritual gifts?

Day 5:

Seeking Perspective through Examen

Begin your prayer time by focusing your mind and body on Him. Breathe in... Breathe out...

Did you recognize or notice your gifts this week? Were you surprised? scared? do you feel anxious about one in particular? Why? Is there a gift you would rather not acknowledge or use?

The Father's perspective: You were created and gifted for eternal purpose. What gift did you use this week to invest in eternity? Which gift caused you to pause? maybe even leave neatly wrapped on the shelf? Why? What eternal purpose does He have for this gift? Will you trust it to His use?

The Son's perspective: Each gift given is a gift of grace. In Christ our gifts become grace to others. What moment this week did you find joy or surprise in a gift you used? Why? Did you miss an opportunity to use your gifts? How did it feel? Will it be different next time?

The Spirit's perspective: Most often we think of gifts as something to give someone else. We give them away. But the beauty of God's gifts to us is the Spirit's ability to use them to draw us near to God. What moment did Holy spirit use your gifts to bring you closer to the Sacred this week?

Close your time of prayer gazing at Spring's beauty. Give thanks for your gifts and the beauty they bring to God's Kingdom when you share them.