

I. POINT: ELECTIONS CALL US TO USE *OUR* GIFTS

II. INTRODUCTION

A. *WHOLE* BODY (1Cor.12:17; Eph.4:16)

B. *EVERY* PART (1Pt.4:10f; 1Cor.12:4f,7,12,25,27; Rom.12:4,5f; Eph.4:16)

C. OFFICES *FOR THE SAKE OF THE PARTS* (Eph.4:11,12f; 15,16; see 1Cor.12:28f)

III. PRINCIPLE: GIFTS & CALLING GO TOGETHER (see Rom.11:29)

A. GIFTS: ABILITY & DESIRE & OPPORTUNITY (Ex.31:1-6; 1Tm.3:1; Heb.5:4; Acts 6:3f)

B. ELDERS & DEACONS

1. *Elders: instruct & discipline with spiritual wisdom* (1Tm.5:17; 4:14; 3:1f; 1Cor.6:1f)

2. *Deacons: collect & distribute with spiritual wisdom* (Acts 6:3f; 1Tm.3:8f,1f; see Tt.3:1,8,14)

C. BASIC DISTINCTION OF ALL GIFTS (1Pt.4:10,11; Phil.1:1; see Rom.12:4f; 1Cor.12:1f,28f; note: SAT, etc.)

1. ***word gifts***: *speaking (words); ideas; discussing; leading; teaching & correcting*
(1Tm.3:2; 5:17; Tt.1:9; Acts 15; 1Cor.6:1f)

2. ***work gifts***: *counting (numbers); actions; doing; managing; gathering & dispersing*
(Acts 4:34,35; 6:1f; see Dt.15:4,11)

D. WHOLE BODY WITH EVERY PART

1. *need both kinds together* (1Pt.4:10,11; 1Tm.3:1-13; Phil.1:1; see Jms.2:17,26)

2. *need all gifts together* (1Pt.4:10,11; Rom.12:1f; 1Cor.12:1f; Eph.4:7-16)

IV. CONCLUSION: DISCERN, CONNECT, DEVOTE (Eph.4:16; 1Pt.4:10(1Tm.3); 1Cor.12:25)

A. GET EQUIPPED & GO SERVE (Eph.4:11,12; 16; Phil.4:15; see 2Tm.3:16,17; Heb.5:12-14; Mt.28:20)

B. GIFTS ARE GIVEN TO BE SHARED (Eph.4:16,28; Lk.21:15f)

C. BE CONTENT WITH YOUR GIFTS (Eph.4:7f; see 1Cor.12:15f,28f; 1Pt.4:10)

D. GIVE ACCOUNT WITH JOY (Mt.25:14f; 20f,22f; 24f; see Eph.4:7f,16)

V. POINT: USE THIS ELECTION SEASON TO DISCERN, DEVELOP & DEPLOY *YOUR* GIFTS IN THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF *YOUR* CONGREGATION (see Eph.4:12-16)

Discussion question:

*Brethren, what shall **WE do**? (see Acts 2:37f)*