

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 11 - DISCOVERING YOUR PART IN GOD'S WORK - PART 1

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1. Why did God create you?

Gen 1:26 (NASB) *"Then God said, 'Let us create man in our image, according to our likeness; and **let them RULE...**'"*

God created **man to have DOMINION** over creation on His behalf, as His representative. You were not created to live for yourself, but for God, to accomplish His plan for your life.

Eph 2:10 (NASB) *"For we are His workmanship (or we are what He has made us - NRS), created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that **we should walk in them.**"*

You are the object of His love, created to be a certain kind of person with specific gifts and talents, to fulfill a specific ministry in the Kingdom of God.

Rom 11:36 (NASB) *"For from Him and through Him and **to Him** are all things, to Him be the **glory** forever. Amen."*

The **purpose** of life is to **discover God's plan**, and **glorify Him** by fulfilling that plan in fear and obedience.

Matt 25:21 (NASB) *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and **faithful slave**; you were **faithful with a few things**, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.' "*

Life makes little sense without **knowing the will of God and understanding exactly where you best fit in to His eternal purpose.**

2. What can we learn from the human body?

The bible often **compares** the church to the human body.

1 Cor 12:12-28 (NASB) *"For even as the **body is one** and yet has **many members**, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. (In this last phrase the many members of the Body are being called Christ).*

13 *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

14 *For the **body is not one member**, but **many**.*

The human body is ONE and yet it is **made up of many important members.**

15 *If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

16 *And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

17 *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

18 *But now **God has placed the members**, each one of them, in the body, **just as He desired.***

Each member is **vital and irreplaceable** and performs it's specific function which other members can't.

Example: A person with no use in his hands can learn to paint with his feet, but obviously feet are best used for walking. Therefore, a body with non-functioning hands is greatly handicapped.

If every member wanted to be an eye, there would be no body.

19 *And if they were all one member, where would the body be?*

20 *But now there are many members, but one body.*

21 *And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no*

need of you.'

The most prominent part of the body cannot properly operate independently from the most unnoticed part.

22 *On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are (Goodspeed) indispensable;*

23 *and the members of the body, which we deem less honorable, (Moffat) are the very parts we invest with special honour.*

(Phillips) The parts which do not look beautiful have a deeper beauty in the work they do,

24 *(Berkeley) such as our goodlooking members do not require.*

(Knox) But God has established harmony in the body (Phillips) by giving importance of function to the parts which lack apparent importance,

25 *that the body should work together as a whole, (provided) (Knox) all the different parts were to make each other's welfare their common care."*

26 *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

Rom 12:15 *(NASB) "Rejoice, with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."*

27 *Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.*

Now we are the members of the ONE body of Christ and should **work together in unity** and mutual respect of each other's function as does the human body.

28 *And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues."*

God is the one who appoints people into an office of ministry in the body.

Promotion comes from the Lord as you discover His plan for your life by **much praying in the spirit**, and **fulfilling your ministry** through active involvement in your local church. *(Psa 74:6)*

Eph 4:15-16 *(NASB) "But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,*

16 *from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."*

The body grows as each member functions in its correct place of ministry in perfect unity and dependence upon all the other ministries.

3. How do you rate yourself?

If a person doesn't know who he is and what God wants him to do, he gets frustrated and lives an unfulfilled life.

Paul exhorts that **we are to have a sane and sober estimation of our capabilities**, discover and operate in your **motivational gifts** which will make your Christian walk **effective** and **fulfilling**.

Rom 12:1-8 *(NASB) "I urge (beseech - KJV) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual (or reasonable) service of worship.*

First of all we must be completely submitted to God. By God's mercy (revealed to us in Jesus Christ and working in us by His grace), our **bodies are to be laid down upon the altar of service** which is only our **reasonable duty**.

2a *And do not be conformed to this world,*

We must not be worldly, or we pollute our gift and cancel it out by sinful and selfish living. Note the

exhortation in **vs 9-21**.

2b but be transformed (*metamorphoo - Greek*) by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove what the will of God is**, that which is **good and acceptable and perfect**.

Through renewed minds we must actually live in Gods perfect will, proving that His will is **good, acceptable and perfect**. This means that when we find out and do the will of God in our lives, it is **good for us, acceptable and pleasing** to us, and it also **fulfils and perfects** us.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment**, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Through **humility and sober thinking** we are to discover our gift.

4 For just as we have **many members in one body** and all the **members do not have the same function**,

5 so we, who are many, are **one body in Christ**, and **individually** members one of another.

6 And since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us**, let each **exercise them accordingly**: if (i) **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith;

7 if (ii) **service**, in his serving; or he who (iii) **teaches**, in his teaching;

8 or he who (iv) **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who (v) **gives**, with liberality; he who (vi) **leads**, with diligence; he who (vii) **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness."

When we have **discovered our gift** we are to **concentrate on it**.

In this we will personally **find our greatest fulfillment**, and our gift will **bear maximum fruit** in the lives of those we minister to.

4. What is a motivational gift?

Motivation is the thing that **moves us**. It's the **fuelled spark plug** that **ignites and excites** us.

It's the thing we see as **important** and find **easy to do**.

Our motivations are the real factors behind our decisions and actions. They explain **WHY** we do things the way we do.

Therefore when a person knows his motivational gifts he is given a real clue to his own self understanding. Also when you **understand your partner's motivational gifts**, it will **bring greater understanding and unity** into the relationship.

We are not to imagine that having a primary motivational gift limits us from doing many things for the Lord. **WE ARE ACTUALLY COMMANDED TO DO ALL SEVEN OF THE THINGS LISTED UNDER THE MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS.**

Eg. If you got 2 out of 9 for the motivation of giving - this does not excuse you from paying tithes and giving offerings.

However, most of us do one thing best. We are personally the most fulfilled and the most fruitful with others when we know our motivation and concentrate on it.

This is what Paul is saying in **Rom 12:3-8** (NASB) "For through grace given to me I say to every man among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

We are to think clearly about our **limitations**.

4 For just as we have **many members in one body** and all the **members do not have the same function**,

5 so we, who are **many, are one body in Christ**, and **individually** members one of another.

Emphasis is placed on **our individuality**, and the **individual gifts combined together make up a complete unified body**.

6 *And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith;*

***7** if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching;*

***8** or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness."*

We are to concentrate on using the gifts that God has given us.

Quotation by K.S. Wuest. "It is the wise man who stays within the sphere of service for which God has fitted him and does not invade some other field of service for which he is not fitted.

5. How could God best use you?

Have you ever wondered why certain activities appeal to you and others don't?

Why you feel some things are more important than others?

Why you seem to be more **natural** in some things and not in others?

Why other people are the way they are?

Why they can't seem to understand things the way you do?

It is probably because you don't understand how motivational gifts work in making up our lives.

Below are seven indispensable needs that God wants to meet.

Rate each one out of 10 in order of YOUR interest and God-given ability to meet one of these needs. (Do this at home).

See which one or two you give the highest rating as they stand out as most important to you.

- i) God wants us to **face up to the truth about ourselves** and understand the reality of being the truth and not living a lie.
- ii) God wants us to **understand sound doctrine** and be **properly taught** in the truth of the Word.
- iii) God wants us to know **how to enter into life abundantly** and **show forth the life of Christ** in all that we do.
- iv) God wants us to **pitch in, get the job done and meet the practical needs** as they arise, whatever they may be.
- v) God wants us to **organize our efforts so we don't waste valuable talents and manpower** and lose sight of the real goals.
- vi) God wants us to have **sufficient assets to make sure the job gets done** and we don't fail in His work.
- vii) God wants us to **be loved and encouraged** so we don't get hurt and give up serving Him.

6. Can you summarize the 7 motivational gifts so we can compare them?

- i) **Prophecy:** Declaring truth, insight. The **ability** to **see** where people or programs really are. The **motivation** to make motives right. Shapes our spiritual lives.
- ii) **Serving:** Practical assistance, help. The **ability** to see and do things that need to be done. The **motivation** to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs and rendering assistance. Meets practical needs.
- iii) **Teaching:** Clarifying truth, indoctrination. The **ability** to impart knowledge and to lead others into revealed truth. The **motivation** to search out and validate truth which has been declared. Meets mental and spiritual needs.
- iv) **Exhorting:** Personal progress, encouragement. The **ability** to encourage people to grow and to meet successfully the experiences of life. The **motivation** to stimulate the faith and personal growth of others. Meets personal needs.
- v) **Giving:** Special sharing and material assistance. The **ability** to handle and give assets. The **motivation**

to see the needs of the work of God and the ministry of others go forward and succeed. Meets financial and material needs.

vi) Ruling: Organizing, giving leadership aid. The **ability** to see long-range goals and to use others in the right tasks. The **motivation** to coordinate the activities of others to achieve common goals. Meets effectiveness needs.

vii) Showing mercy: Personal support, empathizing. The **ability** to feel where people are and to identify with their need. The **motivation** to identify with and to relieve those who are in distress. Meets sympathetic and emotional needs.

7. Is there a practical example to demonstrate the seven motivational gifts?

Yes. Seven people who all happen to have one of the seven motivational gifts are having supper and Bill knocks over his seafood cocktail bowl and it breaks.

How does each one react?

i) Prophecy - You should have been more careful.

ii) Servant - Don't worry, I'll clean it up and get you another.

iii) Teacher - If these cocktail bowls did not have such small bases and were not so top heavy, they would not fall over so easily.

iv) Exhorter - Never mind, it happens in the best of families.

v) Giver - Forget it, there's plenty more where that comes from.

vi) Ruler - Jim, clean it up and Mary get Bill another one.

vii) Mercy - Don't feel bad, I spilt a bowl of soup over the table last week.

8. For what purpose do we use our motivational gift?

1 Pet 4:10-11 (NASB) "As **each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

11 *Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that **in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***"

i) As good stewards of that which God has entrusted to us we should use our gifts in **servicing** one another.

ii) These are **Gods gifts** to us and are to be exercised in the **strength which God supplies.**

iii) As these gifts meet the needs of others they are to bring **glory to God.**

9. Are the five fold ministry gifts, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit and the seven motivation gifts related?

Besides the fact that all gifts come from God, they are not necessarily related in any other way.

i) Here is a list of the **nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit operates these through yielded vessels just as He wills.

1 Cor 12:8-11 (NASB) "For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit;

9 *to another (special - Amp) **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing(s - Greek)** by the one Spirit,*

10 *and to another the **effecting of miracles**, and to another **PROPHECY**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues.***

11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one **individually** just as **He***

wills."

ii) Here is a list of the **five fold ministry gifts**.

Eph 4:11 (NASB) "And He gave some as **apostles**, and some a **PROPHETS**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **TEACHERS**."

iii) Here is a list of the seven **motivational gifts**.

Rom 12:6-8 (NASB) "And since we have **gifts that differ** according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if **PROPHECY**, according to the proportion of his faith;
7 if **service**, in his serving; or he who **TEACHES**, in his teaching;
8 or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who **shows mercy** with cheerfulness."

You will notice **prophecy** or **prophets** are mentioned in **all 3 lists**, but are not necessarily related. A person can have the motivational gift of prophecy without ever standing in the office of a prophet or every prophesying in church.

A person can have the motivational gift of a **teacher** and not stand in the office of a teacher.

However a **prophet** would be prophetically motivated and a **teacher** would have a teaching motivation.

10. What effect will understanding our motivational gifts have in the body?

It will bring about **unity** in the body. As we see our differences and understand that we are individually **only a part** of the body, our need for the gifts in others becomes more crucial.

This **makes us humble and dependant** on the rest of the body, and yet **individually a vital and important part** with an irreplaceable function all at the same time.

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 11

1. Memorize **1 Cor 12:18** as found in point 2 of this lecture.
2. If you have had a spirit of independence, repent of it, and from today start looking for the varied gifts of God in others and respect and appreciate them for who they are.
3. If you are in leadership look for and use the gifts of God in others, and don't try to do and be everything yourself.
4. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.