

## A Grace Attitude Regarding Spiritual Gifts, (#1)

During the next two weeks, we will study the following two lessons on Spiritual Gifts from Rom.12:1-8.

- Rom.12:1-3                      Spiritual Gifts                      Grace **Attitude** of Gifts
- Rom.12:4-8                      Spiritual Gifts                      Grace **Activity** of Gifts

Notice that the first doctrinal subject listed after Transformation is Spiritual Gifts.

Notice also how Paul attached “transformation by the renewing of the mind” to the discussion of the Grace Attitude of spiritual gifts:

(Rom.12:3a) “**For through** (dia+abl. of means) **the grace** (tes charis / abl.s.f) **given** (tes didomi / a.p.ptc.abl.s.f) **to me** (moi / dsm of advantage), **I say** (lego / p.a.ind.1ps).”

**Today’s lesson will study five aspects of the importance of a Grace Attitude regarding spiritual gifts.**

### **1. The Greek word phroneo (thinking) is used in some form four times in (Rom.12:3) with both Negative and positive mental attitudes being contrasted in the text**

#### **Negative:**

“For through the grace given to me, I say to every man among you **not to think more highly** (me hyperphroneo / p.a.infin) of himself than he ought **to think** (phroneo / p.a.infin). “

#### **Positive:**

“But (alla) [contrast] **to think** (phroneo / p.a.infin) so as to have **sound judgment** (sophroneo / p.a.infin), as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.” (Rom.12:3)

**NOTE:** Sophroneo means to have a sound mind or to be sober-minded or sensible by being conformed to the mind of Christ (Titus 2:2) [sensible, 4 / encourage, 6 / sensible, 12].

(1 Cor.2:16) For the spiritual maturing believer, sophroneo is the result of possessing the mind of Christ; (Phil.2:5) [attitude / phroneo].

(1 Pet.4:7) “The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”

### **2. All spiritual gifts are given on the basis of God’s grace and not on the basis of human merit or effort.**

Two important Greek words are used to describe spiritual gifts: pneumatikos and charisma.

**Pneumatikos** emphasizes that the distribution and exercise of spiritual gifts belongs to the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:1, 4, 7, 11, 13).

**Charisma** emphasizes that the ministry and performance of spiritual gifts is the results of God’s grace (1 Cor.12:5, 6, 18,-20, 24-28).

**3. False teaching regarding spiritual gifts promotes spiritual arrogance both in beliefs and practices.**

Paul warns about spiritual arrogance from false teaching against the doctrines of pneumatikos and charisma.

- False teaching that promotes tarrying, asking, laying on of hands in order to receive a spiritual gift.
- False teaching that promotes self-edification rather than church edification (1 Cor.14:2-5, 12, 17-19, 22-23, 32).
- False teaching that a local body should become mono-gifted like all speak in tongues (1 Cor.12:29-30).

**4. In our lesson text, Paul warns the spiritually advancing Church Age Believers (CAB's) against the mental attitude sin of arrogance regarding spiritual gifts.**

(Rom.12:3a) “For through the grace given to me, I say to every man among you not to think (phroneo / p.a.infin) **more** (para+acc) [comparative] **highly** (huperphroneo / p.a.infin) **than** (hos) [beyond what] [relative pronoun] **he ought** (dei / p.a.impv.3ps) [obligation, duty].”

This type of spiritual arrogance hinders “spiritual service of worship.” (Rom.12:1b)

It causes conflict regarding unity within the local body of Christ (Rom.12:3-5; 1 Cor.12:24-25; 14:33).

**5. Paul taught that the correct mental attitude is grace sophroneo [sound judgment or sensible thinking] regarding spiritual gifts in the plan of God. Grace promotes who and what God is, not the believer.**

**No Church Age Believer** (CAB) has received a spiritual gift apart from the saving grace of God and ministry of Holy Spirit (Gal.3:2; 1 Cor.12:1, 18, 24, 28; Rom.12:3).

**No Church Age Believer** (CAB) has been served by a spiritual gift apart from the grace of God or the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19; 1 Cor.12:4-7, 11-13).

The Church Age Believer (CAB) is **commanded** to adopt sophroneo as the grace mental attitude regarding spiritual gifts (dei / p.a.impv.3ps) [ought] (Rom.12:3).

Sophroneo [sensible thinking based on sound Bible Doctrine] is the results of a grace attitude acquired from the Word of God working in the heart of a spiritually maturing Believer.