

# Destinations | Grace Gifts

Jordan Biel | Rock of Grace Kinsman | June 12, 2022

## Using your Grace-Gifts for God's Glory

**1 Peter 4:10** “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

**PRAYER>>> GOD SPEAK THROUGH ME...**

**We all are on a journey of faith! We follow the Holy Spirit just like the disciples followed Jesus. We listen, we follow. He leads, we follow. When we do, we reach destinations that He intends.**

I was sharing w the Pastoral Staff this week how important it is to be patient with people based on where they are with their spiritual journey of following Jesus.

Some are just learning the basics.

Others are fall along.

We all have destinations the Lord is taking us to in our faith journey of following Jesus together.

Milestones and mountaintop moments with God. We talked about the mountaintop moments - the BIG 5 mountaintop moments in the Bible where God intervened and established not just His ways / His rule / but His PROMISE towards us - His promised to being our Father.

Always remember that **In this journey of faith, sonship is the most important thing to keep in mind for it's the joy that continues despite whether your destination is bad or good.**

We all have destinations in our journey - some good - some - if we were honest - we'd call “bad”

Some bad ones are our own doing

**HoJo hotel story. Lol**

**Some of those “bad” destinations - those unwanted destinations - in our faith journey have nothing to do with our actions - they're simply apart of what it**

means to live in a fallen world. God has a beautiful mysterious way though of working in and through us in those “bad” or difficult or unwanted destinations. Sometimes when we arrive at a destination thinking it was gonna be a party

**These destinations in our faith are a lot more meaningful when we reach them together and not alone. Whether you reach these destinations alone or together with others is completely up to you! YOU must take ownership of your role in the body of Christ. YOU must be intentional in forming relationships and use your grace gifts to serve others well.** Those same people you befriend and serve and love will end up supporting YOU when you reach an unwanted destination.

Part of our journey of faith to follow Jesus together becomes incredibly meaningful when we use our grace gifts - the gifts given to us by the Spirit of God - to be used in “the house of God” We’ll talk more about “the house of God” in about 15 min.

The theme of ministering to one another continues, but the emphasis shifts to gifts believers have received by God’s grace. The word “gift” (*charisma*) implies that the gifts believers have are the result of God’s grace, and the word “received” confirms this judgment. **Paul used the term “gift” (*charisma*) quite often to designate spiritual gifts (Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 1:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30–31; 1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6). Believers cannot boast about the gift they have, for otherwise they contradict God’s gracious character, thinking that somehow they deserved it. The gifts are manifestations of “God’s grace in its various forms.” It is important to know that each believer has received at least one spiritual gift, for Peter addressed his words to “each one” (*hekastos*).**

Paul also tells us that God has granted charismatic gifts to each believer!

(1 Cor 12:7). Every single believer has been given these grace gifts at birth and they are ACTIVATED when the Holy Spirit comes and makes you BORN AGAIN!

**When the Spirit baptizes you - the second experience we talk about often here - that’s when those grace gifts come to life! That’s when you will experience more and more amazing destinations in your life! Living without the Holy Spirit baptism is like trying to drive a car with no battery.**

My son Lukas has a power wheels we got for free on the side of the road - yeah we’re kinda dumpster divers - no really - we are.

So this yellow little Jeep - the battery dies quite quickly - when it does I have to push it. Which, is fun - for about 30 seconds.

Then I'm exhausted.

BUT when the battery is in and charged - it is FUN. It actually goes pretty fast - especially the little red go cart - very fast!

**When you are trying to reach the destinations in your life without the Spirit's empowerment, you will get there late, exhausted and missing joy. Let the Spirit fill you - WAIT on the Spirit in prayer - and feel HIS wind and energy behind you!**

**Even though every believer possesses at least one gift, the gifts are not necessarily the same. God's grace manifests itself "in its various forms," so that the diversity of gifts reveals the multifaceted character of God's grace.**

## **PHILIP TRANSPORTED TO MINISTER TO THE EUNICH!**

That happened in real life!

God had a designation for him! WHY. To give the GOSPEL to the guy.

If your destination doesn't include the Gospel it may not be God's intended destination.

What is most important, of course, is the purpose for having gifts. Gifts are not given so that believers can congratulate themselves on their abilities. They are given "to serve others." The word used here can be translated "ministering" (*diakonountes*).

When Paul later says in the letter to "live in harmony with one another" he's using a musical term.

**Harmony is the goal, not unison. The beauty of music is in the harmony of notes complimenting the others - not demanding the role of others but enjoying the role they play.** Show this at the keyboard.

The term "serving" can be used in a variety of ways—of providing meals (Matt 8:15; Mark 1:31; Luke 4:39; 10:40; 12:37; 17:8; John 12:2; Acts 6:2), of visiting those in prison (Matt 25:44; 2 Tim 1:18), of providing financial support (Luke 8:3; Rom 15:25; 2 Cor 8:19, 20), and in more general terms as well (Matt 20:28; Mark 10:45; Luke 22:26–27; John 12:26; Acts 19:22; 2 Cor 3:3; 1 Tim 3:10, 13; Phlm 13; Heb 6:10). The point is that **Spiritual gifts or as I like to call them "grace gifts" are given to serve and to help others, to strengthen others in the faith.** They are given for ministry, not to enhance self-esteem.

For example, John McCellean has fixed many many cars for single moms or families in need. He uses that expertise to serve others and finds joy in making someone happy - relieving their financial burden - the cost of fixing or replacing their car.

I have a musical gift so I try my best to use that to serve others. My good friend from Bible college Jason and his wife Jacquelynn are here this weekend - you may have met them last night at Immerse. They here this weekend spending time with our family and in the studio recording some worship songs. I LOVE using what God has given me to bring joy to others and help them reach THEIR destinations.

Hear me please. =====> **If you are only concerned about reaching *your* destinations then you are missing the heart of God and the mind of Christ. As the mind of Christ is formed in you “being formed into the image of Christ” (the goal of man) then you will be more passionate about OTHERS reaching THEIR destinations and less concerned about your own. \*Ironically - that is the key to joy in your life.**

Another example of this kind of Christ-like living can be seen in ...

Nikki using her administration gift to schedule FAM team members for 10 foster families!

Men and women like Paula and Nikki use their gifts of cooking and cleaning to show love and support to these foster families.

Obviously the foster families, the Crips the Cox the Dismukes Brownlees each family is showing the gift of COMPASSION to the kids.

GOD’S SPIRIT enables each grace gift to operate SO THAT WE REACH THE DESTINATIONS THAT GOD PLANNED FOR US TO REACH.

EPH 2:10 tells us that God pre-planned these things in our lives. WOW

Noelle and Nate - serving others at their facility.

Marylyn Cain, Smegals, Emily and Trevor, Michelle Polon, Larry and Julia Felts in Warren, Pastor Greg Ebie and his amazing wife, all of these people and MORE are hosting life groups - showing the gift of hospitality so YOU can be loved and served and drawn closer to Jesus! Awesome!

Paul emphasized the same theme, reminding believers that gifts are given to build up and edify others, not to edify oneself (1 Cor 12:7, 25–26; 14:1–19, 26; Eph 4:11–12). When believers use their gifts to strengthen others, they are functioning as “good

stewards” (NRSV, *kaloï oikonomoi*) of God’s grace. The word translated “stewards” could also be translated as “managers” (cf. Luke 12:42; 16:1, 3, 8; 1 Cor 4:1–2; cf. Gal 4:2; Titus 1:7), as long as it is clear that believers hold these gifts in trust since they are gifts of God. Spiritual gifts are not fundamentally a privilege but a responsibility, a call to be faithful to what God has given.

Everybody has different gifts that help you reach those destinations.

FUNNY > Danielle has a gift of direction - I do NOT.

Our first vacation to Outer Banks - she fell asleep

I drove 4 hours the wrong way when I pulled out of the gas station and went left instead of right lol

The concept of stewarding these gifts God has given us means this - we need to be faithful to use what God has given us carefully and to the best of our ability. In my new book *The Process of a Leader*, I talk about this concept a lot. I want you to understand church that...

When Jesus comes back for us and you meet Him face to face, He won’t be looking to see if you were successful, but rather faithful. The goal isn’t to be successful but rather to be faithful with what God’s given you. What does that mean. Faithfulness is to be reliably excellent with whatever God has given you. You reach a destination - be FAITHFUL in that season.

You reach an unwanted destination - be FAITHFUL and still give it 100% - give it your all. God is watching.

You reach a great destination - come on Kalahari kind - not the “Kalahari” where you 5 kids make you carry their 10 bags and you walk 8 miles to get to the bathroom - not that kind - im’ talking when you reach the “Kalahari” kind where you’ve got an alcohol free Pina colata and and your soaking up the rays only taking a break to get in the pool - THOSE destinations are enjoyed TOGETHER with others - why - YOU’VE PRAYED TOGETHER TO GET THERE!

I KNEW SAYING PINA COLATA WOULD GET YOUR ATTENTION - SOME OF YALL WERE SLEEPING.

Lol

Listen - so many christians miss joy of following Jesus bc they’re following Jesus alone. You can’t. **The only way to follow Jesus is to follow Jesus together.**

### **The “House of God”**

David said “I was glad when they said to me “Let us go up to the house of God ...”

David truly enjoyed God and in the sense of God in others.

Three things make up the House of God: The Presence of God, the People of God & The Purposes of God.

This "HOUSE OF GOD" this FAMILY of Jesus-followers are reaching destinations - each in their own journey.

The presence of God

(This only is falling short of the maturing process God intends. Love God love PEOPLE bc people are the image of God)

The presence with the PEOPLE of God fulfilling the purposes of God - THAT is where JOY comes and THAT is where God is most glorified!

### **We is greater than me**

**Some Christians want the presence of God without the people. You can never reach the potential destinations God intends for you without God's people. You can NOT fulfill your purpose alone.**

**God equips you with grace gifts that enable you to do His will and reach each destination He has designed you to reach.**

We all as Jesus-followers want to do God's will. We want to please Him. Part of pleasing Him comes through using our faith to say YES to serving in our grace-gifts. Faithfulness is the key. Faithfulness is being reliably excellent where you are now.

Some Christians are way too concerned about their NEXT destination - so concerned about it that they miss being FAITHFUL in their current destination. Where are you now? Who has God called you to serve NOW? Who has God called you to serve this week? Faithfulness is about being reliably excellent - doing the best you can wherever you are with whatever you have. God sees that. God honors that and will take you to your next destination IF you are faithful in the one you are in! And don't forget the joy is in the journey. ⇒)

**Heb 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Notice how it says that God will "equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working IN US...".

### **We are stewards of the gifts from God**

- 1 Peter 4:10-11 CSB
  - Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

- **We must use the gifts we have been given to bless others**

- Serving one another
- Our speech of His word is not just for ministers, but to all Christians in how we speak!
  - The public minister or the private conversation of a Christian
- **2 Types of Gifts: Serving and Speaking** / Quote from Warren Wiersbe:
  - There are speaking gifts and there are serving gifts, and both are important to the church. Not everybody is a teacher or preacher, though all can be witnesses for Christ. There are those “behind-the-scenes” ministries that help to make the public ministries possible. God gives us the gifts, the abilities, and the opportunities to use the gifts, and He alone must get the glory.
  - Keep in mind - even the “speaking” kind of gifts (apostle pastor teacher prophet evangelist) have one goal - SERVE people - SERVANTHOOD...
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- **Matthew 25:14-30**

- “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one’s ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. In the same way the man with two earned two more. But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money. “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I’ve earned five more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’ “The man with two talents also approached. He said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I’ve earned two more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’ “The man who had received one talent also approached and said, ‘Master, I know you. You’re a harsh man, reaping where you haven’t sown and gathering where you haven’t scattered seed. So I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ “His master replied to him, ‘You evil, lazy servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven’t sown and gather where I haven’t scattered, then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned. “ ‘So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- The Master trusted the Servants (Adapted concept from Matthew Henry)

- They were supplied with something to work with!
- Everything we have to work with is directly from Christ

- It is His, so we honor Him with it
- Like the man who went on a journey and left his servants with gifts, when Jesus ascended into heaven he left us with GIFTS
  - Last week was Pentecost Sunday, I know there were some from Rock of Grace who attended the Area Service, but boy was it powerful - talk about receiving gifts from God...
  - He left us the Holy Spirit!
  - He left us our unique talents and abilities
  - **2 Timothy 1:14 CSB**
    - Guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
  - Do you think it's by chance the example Christ gave here is money?
    - How do we perceive money?
    - That it's worth something, holds value, and the more of it you have then the more rich you are.
    - The gifts we receive from Christ MAKE YOU SPIRITUALLY RICH
- How we use our spiritual wealth is defined in this scripture. When we use it well we will see more!
- The return from the servants was the same as the investment
  - When CHRIST gives you much, we are expected to do much!
  - The man who was given 5 talents produced 5 more talents
  - The man who was given 2 talents produced 2 more talents
  - The man who was given 1 talent produced no more talents.
  - The man who did not produce more did not do wrong because he didn't increase by 100% but that he did nothing with it.
    - Just because you have less does not create an excuse to do nothing with it!
    - It's easy to look at the person who we view as "more successful/talented" than us and say, "what's the point of me trying this? I'll never do that!" or "I can't do that"?
    - Jesus isn't looking for our excuses, he's looking for our willingness to invest in His kingdom.



- **We have to say, “God, forgive me if I have let the gifts you have given me be stored in the ground!”**
  - We can’t let our faith be dictated by the concept of when I have little I’ll produce little, or I’ll give little effort (if any at all).
- When these servants were brought before their master, they recalled what was given to them and then shared how they used it!
  - May we NOT forget what Christ has given us!
  - May we be faithful with what Christ has given us!
  - May we use it to share of His goodness.
  - They are told “Well done, good and faithful servant”
  - I look forward to the day when I meet Jesus and he says those words to me!
  - They are not only rewarded with more, but they are rewarded with JOY
  - Christ is calling us to use the gifts he has given us so that we may not be like the slothful servant - who did nothing.
    - His lack of work shows who he was truly a servant of.
    - We see this in how we see the fate of this servant - condemned to a place of darkness, weeping, and gnashing of teeth...
  - When we say to Jesus, “Lord, I will follow you” we are saying that I use what you have given me”