

God's Call, Gifts, and the Equipping of the Saints!

- “And **He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,** ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

I) “For the Equipping of the Saints!” (Ephesians 4:12)

- 1) “for the work of service”
- 2) “to the building up of the body of Christ”
- 3) “until we all attain to the unity of the faith”
- 4) “and of the knowledge of the Son of God”
- 5) “to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13)

II) **Calling: “For the Work of Service!”** (Ephesians 4:1 2)

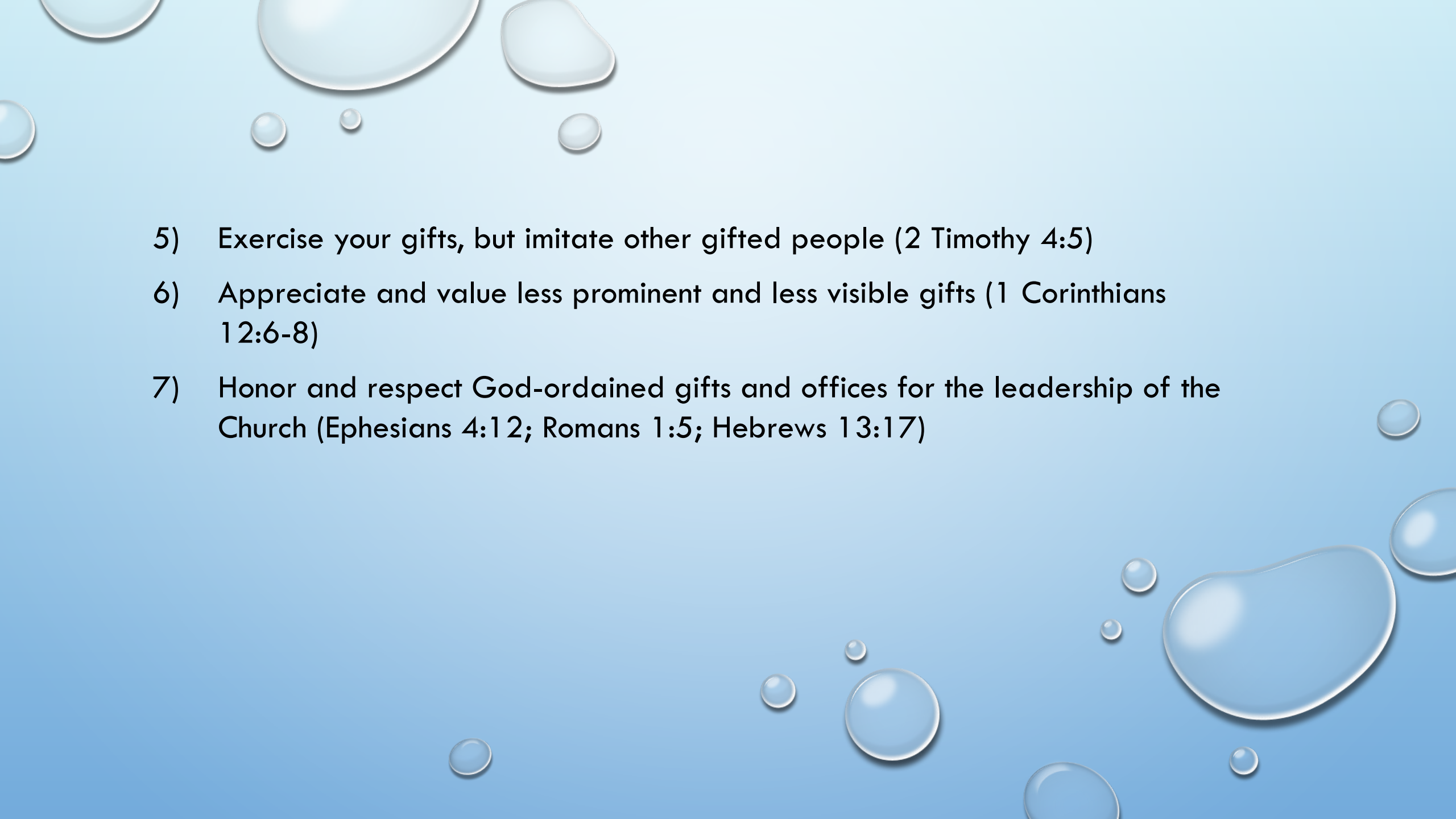
- “Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)
- “constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,” (1 Thessalonians 1:3)
- “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” (John 6:29)
- “Jesus *said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.” (John 4:34)

III) **Gifts: “Christ gave gifts to men!”** (Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10)

- “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,” (Ephesians 4:11)
- “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8)
- “To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge...,⁹ to another..., to another gifts of healing...,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-10)

IV) Some Wisdom for the Road!

- 1) Remember that gifts are for the purpose of God's calling to build up the Church individually and corporately (Ephesians 4:12)
- 2) Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment (Romans 12:3)
- 3) The fruit of the Spirit is a priority over the gifts of the Spirit! (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
- 4) Become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Romans 12:9-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

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- The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.
- 5) Exercise your gifts, but imitate other gifted people (2 Timothy 4:5)
 - 6) Appreciate and value less prominent and less visible gifts (1 Corinthians 12:6-8)
 - 7) Honor and respect God-ordained gifts and offices for the leadership of the Church (Ephesians 4:12; Romans 1:5; Hebrews 13:17)