



*1 Peter 4:10*

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

We all realize that some people just seem to have a knack for doing certain things very well. We all have known teachers that have such a burning desire to educate children that they become set apart from others by their commitment and compassion. We all have known people that always seemed to demonstrate care for others no matter what the circumstances. It seems they have a “gift” for doing what they do so well. In fact that’s exactly what they have, a gift.

In the Greek language the word *charis* means gift. A gift is something that we are given, not because we earned it (that would be reward) but because someone or some group just desires us to have it. There should be no strings attached to a gift. There should be no need to respond other than with thanksgiving. Gifts, by their very nature, should come as acts of love.

In the passage above from 1 Peter 4:10, Peter is talking about the gifts that we receive from God. These are not gifts of a material manner, but rather gifts of special abilities. God gives us gifts of various kinds for the purpose of serving others in unique and special ways. One example of this would be the gift of compassion that God gave to Mother Theresa, the Roman Catholic nun, who unselfishly gave her life to the service of some of the poorest and sickest

people in India. This saintly woman did not place her needs, her health, or her desires above these very needy people but instead sacrificed herself for their benefit. She shared completely the gifts God had given to her with others so that the quality of life of everyone might be improved even if it seems ever so slightly.

God’s desire for His children has always been to have a loving relationship with them. In turn he has gifted those who love and trust Him with gifts to do His will in the world. God expects us to be His arms, His legs, and His heart in this broken and troubled world. To help us accomplish this work He gives us love, forgiveness, and a heart to serve others. He empowers and equips us for this task.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus God gave us the greatest of all gifts – the gift of grace. In Christ Jesus, we are empowered to live more joyful lives here and given the promise of eternal life with God when we die. God’s love is for all who choose to return His love.

Have you thought about the meaning of your life? What will be your legacy? What will be your future? Today is the day to turn to God and receive His love. Today is the day to begin using your gifts for the glory of God.