

*TrailNotes* speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

## ElderTalk: A Summary of and Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

ROBERT KEY

Back in February, I preached a sermon introducing an upcoming series on the gifts of the Spirit. Following that sermon, a number of people commented that they wished I had spent more time in the section on the different types of gifts and the four different lists of gifts in the New Testament. As we proceed in the series, each list will be given individual attention. However, so that the relationship between the different lists is more clear, I thought it worthwhile to repeat and expand that portion of the talk for you here in writing so that you might be able to understand better where I am going as we continue the series.

First, we need to clarify the difference between the general and the specific understanding of “gifts.” Just as the word “shepherd” in the Bible in its general sense means someone who takes care of sheep, so this word could be used more specifically to refer to the elders of the church who shepherd the flock of God and could be translated “pastor.”

Just as “servant” generally means “one who serves, a slave” but can be used more specifically to refer to the office of deacon in the church, so also we see “gifts” used. In the general sense, God gives us all things. He gives us life. He gives people different kinds and color of hair. He gives different folks differing natural abilities. Some have a natural gift of music where it comes easily and with



*The Holy Spirit as a Dove. From a painting on the canopy over the ambo (lectern) in the historic Church of St. Patrick, in Toledo, Ohio. Artist and date unknown.*

training, they can advance further than the rest of us. Some have a natural gift of learning a language. They can learn quickly and accurately, whereas others can study diligently and never achieve fluency. Some have a natural gift of understanding mechanics and technology. All of these are gifts from God as part of His created order. These can and should be used for His glory. On the other hand, there are gifts of a different kind, that He lists for a specifically stated purpose.

In the Scripture, there are four places where we find lists of gifts.

1. In Romans 12:3-8 we find a list of gifts given by God.

<sup>3</sup>For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, *being many*, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use* them; if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

These gifts are mostly used in the general sense. The point of the passage is not the gifts, but they are used to make a different point: we are not to get puffed up because of the gift we have. The purpose of the gifts is not discussed. The use of the gifts is not discussed, and most of those listed are natural gifts. As such, I don’t believe this is an exhaustive list, but merely a

*(continued on page 2)*

## Spiritual Gifts *(continued from p. 1)*

sampling used to make a point, much as I did in the section when I listed some gifts in explaining the general sense of the concept of a gift.

2. In I Corinthians 12:1-11 we find a list of gifts specifically called “spiritual gifts” and used in the specific sense.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren. I do not want you to be ignorant: <sup>2</sup>You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>And there are diversities of activities, but it is the God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup>But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for profit of all: <sup>8</sup>for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Here two purposes are stated for the gifts (verse 7): to manifest the Spirit (that is, to make His presence known) and to profit the body of Christ. Because of their purpose to manifest the Spirit, these gifts are not natural gifts but supernatural ones. Because of their special function, this list probably is exhaustive; that is, for these stated purposes, this is all there is. We might think of another gift that we would like to have in this list, but upon examination, we may find that it is, in fact, one of these gifts operating in a way that we did not recognize at first.

3. In Ephesians 4:7-16 we find a list of gifts given by Christ to His church.

<sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.

<sup>9</sup>(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it  
*(continued on p. 3)*

## Steve McKee medals in Senior Games



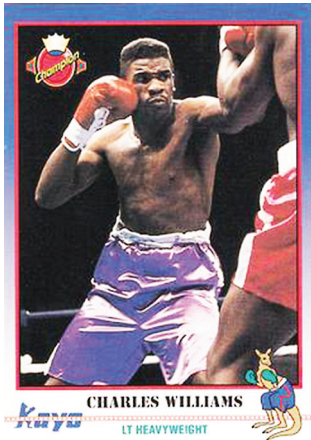
Steve McKee (far right), participated in the Senior Games in Albuquerque, NM recently. It was a fun gathering of over 13,000 “seniors” aging from 50-100 competing in 30 different sports. Steve swam in four events and earned one Bronze Medal and also two ribbons (for finishing in 5th and 8th place). Congratulations, Steve!

### JULY 2019

- 3** Learning games for 5-day Game Camp, 6:30-8 pm.
- 6** Men's monthly Prayer Breakfast, McDonald's on Hanley Rd. 9 am.
- 7** Pastoral Elder Jon Vega preaching from Colossians 4.
- 10** Learning games for 5-day Game Camp 6:30-8 pm. Women of Grace summer Bible Study 6:30-8 pm at the church.
- 14** Pastoral Elder Eric Byrom preaching. 🍷🍷  
Circle Church leaders meet from 7-8 pm at GFC.
- 15-19** 5-day Game Camp for Grades 3 through 5. 9 am to 3 pm at the church.
- 20-30** Jon Vega's mission trip to Africa, working with Dr. Tim Bartholomew.
- 21** Pastoral Elder Andy Heiningering preaching: “Don't Just Check the Box.”
- 22-25** Clearfork band camp, using whole building.
- 24** Women of Grace Summer Bible Study: 6:30-8 pm at GFC.
- 28** Pastoral Elder Eric Byrom preaching. 🍷🍷

## “AND IN THIS CORNER...” World Champion visits Circle Church!

JOHN KURTZ



Marjorie Leonard recognized him right away. “I’ve read all about you in the News Journal!” she grinned and proceeded to introduce “Prince Charles” to the rest of us who were assembled for Circle Church on June 6. No, not THE Prince Charles from England. “This man’s been all over the world,”

Margy continued. We discovered that our visitor was none other than former IBF Light Heavyweight Champion Charles Williams, a Mansfield resident. Charles and his wife, Cynthia, are members of a Church of God in Christ which had used our pond for their baptism several month ago. He simply decided to return to see what Grace Fellowship Church was all about “inside” this time.

Unfortunately Charles had our service starting time incorrect and so he missed most of the worship and sermon, but we had a wonderful time meeting and talking with this man about his boxing career and Christian walk over the years. Now retired from professional boxing, he continues to train young men in an area gym. His wife had to remain at home to care for their children so we didn’t get to hear her story. Perhaps next “round.”

When you’re the Visitors Group, you never know who might show up!



## ~THESPIS~



A scene from the Renaissance Youth Opera Thertre troupe’s May 26 production of Gilbert & Sullivan’s “Thespis” in which several GFC youth had roles. Here are two: Justice Gardner as Apollo up front right and sister Nykera in the rear left. Other GFCers not shown: Ethan & Talia Byrom, Amy & Braydon Gardner, Sarah Heining, Aiden Karger and Alexi Vega.

## Spiritual Gifts (continued from p. 2)

mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is also the One who ascended from above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)<sup>11</sup>And He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>that we should no longer be called children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head—Christ—<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

This is another list in the specific sense (verse 11). Again, the purpose of these gifts is stated and explained in detail (verses 12-16). These gifts are unique in that they are not natural aptitudes, nor supernatural functions, but rather a person who has a proved and mature ministry in some specific area. The gift is a person. Again, because of the special and specific function of these gifts I believe this list is exhaustive.

4. In I Corinthians 12:28-31 we find a list of gifts that is a mixture of the other three lists, some general and some specific, some functions and some people.

<sup>28</sup>And God has appointed these in the church; first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that, miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But earnestly desire the best gifts?

This comes in the middle of a lengthy discussion on the unity of the body and how each member is important. (concluded on page 4)

## Spiritual Gifts *(continued from page 3)*

This list specifically ranks the gifts in order of functional importance/priority in the church. It gives five ranks and places eight gifts in these five ranks. The first four of these are one gift per rank (first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that, miracles.) The fifth rank includes four gifts (“then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”) and I believe these are representative of the rest of the unlisted gifts. The particular order might surprise us, but God has a reason for what He says to us. It is worth our while to consider what priority we place on different gifts, to be sure we line our priorities up with the Lord’s, and to seek to be used by Him in the best things. At the same time, we rejoice in our diversity and highly value each person and his or her place in the body, as the broader context of this I Corinthian passage enjoys.

We will examine each of these four passages in detail in the coming months. In the meantime, I encourage each of us to spend some time seeking the Lord for what He might have for us beyond our current experience that would enhance our communion with Him and make us more fruitful in His Kingdom.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version.  
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### Miscellany at Grace Fellowship!

For those of you who have been waiting for “the rest of the story” since Jon Vega gave us that memorable sermon back on June 2, here it is. The photo below of “Mike” is from the October 22, 1945 issue of *Life* magazine.

“Mike,” your “sacrifice” has at last paid off. Never will we forget the message of Colossians 2:



“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the **head** over every power and authority.” (Col. 2:9-10)

**Who and where** is your **head** today?



Belated Birthday Greetings to Tom Nichols!  
He entered his 84th year back on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Question: did he really eat the **whole** thing?

### Coming Attraction:

Grace Youth Productions

The Pirates of Hawaii

August 10, 11 & 17 in the Grace Fellowship Church auditorium. Stay tuned for further news...

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Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heining	Elder
Robert Key	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Jon Vega	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heining	Worship
Circle Church Serve Group	Greeters
Angel Vega	Dance
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem	Communion
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes