



Living Beyond Myself ... Just Jump In!

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him."* Psalm 34.1-8

There are some things in life that you will never know how good they are until you just jump in.

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought**, but rather **think of yourself with sober judgment**, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **We have different gifts**, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is **showing mercy**, let him do it cheerfully."* Romans 12.1-8

A definition that we can use for a spiritual gift is a special, supernatural ability that God gives to each of his children so that together they can advance his purposes in the world. A supernatural gift is a special, divine ability that God gives every follower of Jesus so they can use their life to advance the purposes that are close to the heart of God in this world.

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. **If anyone speaks**, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. **If anyone serves**, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."* 1 Peter 4.10-11

1. Prophesying

The gift of prophesy enabled one to receive and speak forth truth which was given by direct revelation from God.

2. Serving

The gift of "serving" or "helping" enables one to work behind the scenes in very practical ways to meet needs, relieve suffering, and serve the Body of Christ.

3. Teaching

The "gift of teaching" enables one to instruct, guide, and nurture Christians in the Word of God. Gifted teachers have a special ability to share God's Word in a way that can be understood and applied to life.

4. Encouraging

The Greek word "parakalon" translated "encouragement" in Romans 12.8 refers to the actions of one who "comes alongside" to offer comfort, counsel, exhortation, and help.

5. Giving

The Greek word for "giving" (metadidomi) means "to share," "to impart," or "to bestow." This gift provides a special readiness and ability to give of material goods and financial resources for the sake of the Body without motives for self-benefit.

6. Administration/Leadership

The Greek word for "administration" (kubernesis) means "piloting" or "steering." The "kubernetes" is a helmsman whose chief task it is to keep his ship on course.

The original word for "leadership" (prohistemi) conveys the picture of someone "presiding over others" (I Thessalonians 5.12; I Timothy 3.4-5, 12; 5.17).

7. Mercy

The Greek word for "mercy" (eleos) means "to show compassion," or "feel sympathy of heart." The gift enables one to empathize--to get inside the skin of another and suffer alongside of those who experience grievous affliction.