

Romans 12:3-8, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Greater Grace to the Humble.

Romans 12:3

Pride was the first of all sins; it tempted the Tempter (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:17). But you, man or woman of God, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God" (1 Pet. 5:6), for God is opposed to the proud, but He gives "greater grace" (Greek: *mega* grace) to the humble (James 4:6). Therefore, the apostle exhorts, "I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think" (Rom. 12:3).

Read Matthew 23:12; Philippians 2:3-8

☐ Tuesday - The Source of Faith.

Romans 12:3

The Apostle Paul explains to the Christians in Rome, "God has allotted to each [of His children] a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3). Faith, then, is not a work of the flesh, but a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23). It is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8). Jesus Himself is called the "Author and Perfector of faith" (Heb. 12:2). To Him the disciples cried out, "Increase our faith!" (Lk. 17:5), for He sovereignly gives and grows faith in His people (Acts 13:48). Christian, is your faith sagging? Look to Christ! Meditate today upon His Word by which He imparts faith into the hearts of His true disciples (Rom. 10:17).

Read 1 Peter 2:2

☐ Wednesday - Pulling Together.

Romans 12:4

Here Paul explains the concept of church membership to the Christians in Rome, "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Rom. 12:4-5). Jesus called out to his future disciples, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Mt. 4:19). But the model for ministry that Christ taught them was not one man holding a fishing pole, but rather a whole team pulling together on a net. The effectiveness of the local church is multiplied when its members work together. None of us can do what all of us can do.

Read Romans 12:10-11

☐ Thursday - The Church Likened to the Human Body.

Romans 12:4-5

In the Bible, the local church is likened to a building (1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:19-22), but its structure is weakened and incomplete without each individual brick. Here in Romans 12:4-5, the church is compared to a human body (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-27), but a human body in which only ten or twenty percent is functioning is a vegetable! Even if seventy or eighty percent of that body is functioning, we would say that it is severely handicapped. Today we see scattered around our city many dead, comatose or handicapped churches, because the people come not to serve, but to be served. What about your church? Is it handicapped because you are not an active and functioning member? "Serve the Lord with gladness" (Psa. 100:2). "It is Christ the Lord whom you serve" (Col. 3:24).

Read Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 12:28

☐ Friday - Your Spiritual Gifts.

Romans 12:3, 6-8

The apostle reminds us that "God has allotted to each a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3), and so, "we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us" (Rom. 12:6). Elsewhere he explains, "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills" (1 Cor. 12:11), and again, "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired" (1 Cor. 12:18). So we see that God sovereignly distributes special gifts for Christian service throughout the body of Christ. To one is given a gift of teaching, to another the gift of giving, and to another compassion and mercy (Rom. 12:7-8). Dear Christian, what are you good at? What are you passionate about? That is God's special gift to you. Therefore, "as each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet. 4:10).

Read Matthew 23:11