

**Monday, February 18** – *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)* Two things that we see in today’s passage. First, everyone has gifts. Nobody is exempt from the gifts of the Spirit. The problem is that the world doesn’t judge these gifts equally. The world lifts up certain gifts and down-plays others. This is not as God sees it. God has given you gifts and in God’s mind your gifts are as important as any other gifts. Second, you are to use your gifts for the “common good”. This means that God has given you gifts so that your life will be a blessing to others. How are you using your time, talents and treasures to be a blessing to others? How is your corner of God’s kingdom a better place to live because of your gifts? Stop thinking that you have to change the world in order to be a blessing to others and start using whatever gifts of the Spirit that God has placed in your life to bless those you know and meet.

**Tuesday, February 19** – *“For God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.” (Romans 11:29)* Big word in there! For something to be “irrevocable” means not able to be changed, reversed, or recovered; final. Not only are your gifts irrevocable, they are yours and all yours from now until the end of your days, but God’s calling on your life to use your gifts is irrevocable. This irrevocability will manifest itself in two big ways. One, you will have a nagging, a longing, a sense of incompleteness if you are not using your gifts. God has given everyone gifts, even those who don’t care at all about God, and not using these gifts will create a hole in your life. Second, you will naturally be led to use your gifts. You will see opportunity after opportunity to use your gifts in your daily life. You will also be interested in using your gifts. You will brush this aside as something incidental, but you will also begin to notice that not everyone is interested in the same things as you. Your gifts and your calling are yours, they are irrevocable. Today, be who God has created you to be.

**Wednesday, February 20** - *“Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.” (1 Timothy 4:14)* If you are unaware of what your gift might be, take some time today and review your completed “Giving Covenant”. Do you see any patterns in the use of your time, talents and treasures? What you are led to spend your time, talents and treasures on is closely associated with your giftedness. If not, then you are simply giving of your time, talents and treasures out of a sense of duty or obligation. Next, understand that your giftedness is confirmed, encouraged and supported by the church. The church does not hand out giftedness, it merely follows the leading of the Holy Spirit and confirms that you are gifted and encourages you to discover and embrace your giftedness. The church supports you and helps you to be all that God has created you to be. Your gifts are not here for the church, the church is here to help you live into your giftedness.

**Thursday, February 21** – *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)* Who am I? That is the question that you are wrestling with when it comes to acknowledging that you are gifted. Somewhere down the road you have been sold the lie that you are not special. You are so special that God broke the mold when he created you. There has never been anyone in the history of the world just like you and there will never be anyone in the world just like you. Don’t ever shrink away from how special you are in God’s eyes. Now, embrace your giftedness, even if your gifts don’t “measure up” to some worldly notion of essential and non-essential gifts. God has given you gifts to be used in your life for the good of others. It doesn’t matter if the others are millions of people or just some friends and family. God isn’t worried about numbers, he is more interested in your heart. Don’t be timid. Embrace the power, love and self-discipline that is yours in Jesus Christ and live out your gifts boldly!

**Friday, February 22** – *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)* As you make your final touches to your “Giving Covenant” make sure to check for one thing. Are you using your time, talents and treasures to serve others or are you using your gifts for your own benefit? Do you believe that if you let go and let God, your needs will be met? Do you believe that when you let go of trying to handle everything in your life and simply live into your giftedness, God will open doors to take care of your every need? Not that I want to “should” on anyone, but you should consider these questions in your life. Total faith and trust in God are essential for you to live into your giftedness. If not, you will always have one eye, one ear, one arm, one leg, one hand, one foot and one half of your mind focusing on taking care of your own needs. Remember, you can’t serve two masters.