New Life
CHURCH CRAWLEY

THE MESSAGE OF 1 PETER

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1 Peter 4:9-11

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so 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."

In order to live for God we need to have…..

- the attitude of Christ towards **SUFFERING**
  1 Peter 4:1
- the attitude of Christ towards **HIS RETURN**
  1 Peter 4:7
- the attitude of Christ towards **HIS GIFTS**
  1 Peter 4:10-11

Living for God means we should be using our gifts

TO SERVE OTHERS

Living for God means we should be using our gifts
TO SERVE FAITHFULLY

FEELING OVERWHELMED, UNAPPRECIATED?

God has an answer for that:

Isaiah 49:4

"But I said, "I have laboured in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God."

“Various forms” = **poikilos = many coloured**

Hospitality is very important at the moment with Covid 19

https://liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/50-ways-serve-others/

Living for God means we should be using our gifts
IN GOD'S STRENGTH

STRENGTH = *FORCE TO OVERCOMING IMMEDIATE RESISTANCE*.

- Our natural inclination is not to serve but *to be served*,
- Watch what happens to your reactions when someone tells you what to do!
- We have to overcome, by Gods strength, our reluctance and resistance to look after number 1 and simply protect ourselves.

KEY IDEA OF "GRACE" IN USING OUR GIFTS (ROMANS 12:6-8)

Grace is used in a number of ways in the bible:

- to describe Gods free gift of forgiveness that is available to all,
- to describe the favour of Gods presence with the faith community
- to describe the power of God to enable us to serve Him.

Paul had a fierce work ethic:

- “far greater labours” than his detractors
(2 Corinthians 11:23),

- “I worked harder than any of them”
(1 Corinthians 15:10).

- “with all His energy…He powerfully works within me,”
(Colossians 1:29)

CONCLUSION:

In order to live for God we need to have…..

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- the attitude of Christ towards **HIS GIFTS** 1 Peter 4:10-11

- What *one thing* will you do as a result of this teaching?
- What's your *next step*?