

# Give and Get

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A study in the book of Ephesians  
Chapter 4:7-12

Who doesn't like to receive a present? Some of my most valued gifts have been little presents from my sons: a punch-pot, a pencil topper, a walnut, and a few very flamboyant necklaces are among my favorites. My sons would smile with pleasure whenever I wore a necklace or prominently exhibited a gift in a special place (the punch-pot and pencil topper are still on my dresser to this day). How would my sons have felt if I never used or displayed their gifts? It would have broken their tender hearts. God also gives us gifts to use and display, wonderful precious gifts. Imagine how God would feel if we hid His gifts under a bushel basket or never used them. Today may we be encouraged through the study of God's Word to open the treasure boxes of our souls, dust off our gifts and display them for all the world to see.

Before we begin our study time, please take a moment to go before our Father in prayer. Ask for His forgiveness for any known sin and for insight into His Holy Word. Sign your initials on the blank when you have finished praying:

\_\_\_\_\_.

For our lesson we will focus on Ephesians 4:7-12, but for context please read all of Ephesians 4.

Skim through 7-12 once more and choose a theme word for this portion of scripture. Please write your theme word in the blank: \_\_\_\_\_.

Now please go to Blue Letter Bible (BLB) and do a *word search* for your theme word. If you did not find a theme word do a word search for *give*.

Quick word search review:

1. Go to [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
2. Type *Ephesians 4* in the *Verse or Word* search box on the welcome page. Hit *search*.
3. Scroll down to the first verse in which your theme word appears.
4. Click on the *tools* tab or if it is already open, click on the blue square marked *c*.
5. Now scroll down the Greek words and click on the *Strong's G* number for your word and open the Greek dictionary.
- 6.

If given, click on other root words, Vine's definitions, Thayer's or Gesenius' entries

for more information.

**Please record your findings for your theme word in the space below:**

The word *gave* used in verse 8 is rich in meaning. In the original Greek, the word *gave* transliterates as *didomi*. One meaning of *didomi* is *to appoint to an office*. If we have been *appointed to an office*, we have been specifically chosen and given authority to do some sort of task.

**What specific tasks have you been called to do?**

*Didomi* also means *to give over to one's care, entrust, commit*.

**What can we infer from the second definition?**

*Didomi* also means *a necessary thing*.

**Why are gifts from God *necessary things*?**

Please read verse 8 again.

**What has been given into our care (verse 8)?**

Gifts! When we care for something we guard, nurture and protect it from harm or damage. Often caring for something involves supplying the right conditions required for growth.

**How do you care for the gifts that God has given you?**

## **How are you growing your gifts? Have you invested time, money or resources towards honing your gifts?**

In the original Greek the word used for *gift* in verse 8 is *doma*. Ironically, *doma* is derived from the Greek word we previously studied *didomi* (give). We see a direct connection between *gift* and *give*. Unlike the presents we receive for birthdays or Christmas, the gifts we receive from God are not to be used solely for personal pleasure; they are not ours to hoard. God's gifts are entrusted to us to be used for their intended purposes. God gives us gifts so we can *give*.

## **What preceded God giving gifts (verse 8)?**

There is nothing the Evil One likes better than to hold the children of God captive through lies and deceit so they are unable to use their gifts to bring God glory. Jesus bought our freedom from the wages of sin (death, guilt and shame) 2000 years ago on the cross. Our chains have been broken so we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to a lost and suffering world.

Captivity always involves a lie, but Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus proclaims that we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free. Through the power of God's Holy Word and prayer, you can be set free from every sin and addiction, no matter how deep, ugly, or heinous, to use your gifts to live a beautiful purposeful life. Through the power of the blood of Christ, the prostitute, the abuser, the anorexic, the thief, the user, the liar, the drug dealer may become new creatures in Christ. (For help in breaking free and starting a new life please go to the following link: Mercy Ministries: [http://www.mercyministries.org/what\\_we\\_do/our\\_program.html](http://www.mercyministries.org/what_we_do/our_program.html))

We learned from Scripture that God has given us gifts, but what are these gifts? Let's do a little research to find out.

**Please read the following verses and record the spiritual gifts listed in each text:**

**Ephesians 4:11:**

**Romans 12:6-8:**

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31:**

## **1 Peter 4:10-11:**

We may have other talents we use to minister to others not specifically listed above. You may be an excellent gardener and encourage others with beautiful flowers. Perhaps you are an admirable musician and use your talents to lead others in worship. I know a woman who continually blesses others through the ministry of making meals. In addition, a young man I used to work with uses his hunting skills to provide food for the homeless. The opportunities are endless. Think of what you love to do; what makes you feel alive and gives you energy, and find a way to use it to minister to others.

**Take a moment to ask God to reveal to you the gifts and talents you have. Write your thoughts in the space below:**

**Go back and review your answers. Circle one item on your list that draws you the most.**

Now please go back and read verse 12 again.

**Please name two reasons why God has given us gifts:**

We are going to take an in-depth look at two words from verse 12, *equipping* and *edifying*. In the original Greek, the word *equipping* transliterates as *katartismos*, which means *perfecting, complete furnishing*. *Katartismos* descends from a chain of other Greek words that mean *to render sound, complete, fit; ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be; to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair; giving reference apparently to "special aptitude for given uses."*

**Please go back and underline the definition that is most meaningful to you.**

From the preceding definitions we can infer two important things:

1. It is only by using our gifts that we will become all that God has created us to be.
2. We can experience personal healing and restoration by using our gifts to serve others.

*Katartismos* also implies a *process over time*. If God called you to be a preacher, you weren't ready to begin fulltime ministry work as a child. You needed training and maturity before you were ready for the responsibilities He called you to.

**When we use our gifts, what are we helping *equip* other Christians to do (verse 12)?**

Now let's take a look at the word *edify*. In the original language *edify* transliterates as *oikodomē* which means *the act of building, building up, the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness*. According to God's design, God uses members of the body of Christ to *build* into the lives of other believers. Think of people God has used to help build your faith. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for these faithful workers. We cannot walk out our faith by ourselves; we need the encouragement and gifting of others to help us realize our own calling in the Lord. One of my commentaries states Ephesians 4 opens with a call to unity by *oneness* (verses 1-6) and then transitions to a call to unity by *diversity of gifts*. Your gifts are needed for the growth of the body of Christ.

**Go back and look at the gift or talent you circled from your list above. Make a list of how you can use this gift to equip the saints and edify the body of Christ.**

One final question as we wrap up today's study time: according to verse 8, to whom has God given gifts? To *all* people. *You* are gifted, *you* are called, and *you* are chosen. Please replace the words *you are* with *I am* and say the following sentence out loud.

**"*I am* gifted, *I am* called and *I am* chosen by God to do meaningful work."**

God has created you to be highly effective and greatly fruitful in the ministry He has given to you. Use your gifts.

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send,  
And who will go for Us?’  
Then I said, ‘Here *am* I! Send me.’”  
Isaiah 6:8

The Lord is calling you. How shall you answer?

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