



The Charisma of a Christian

1 Peter 4:10

Sermon by: Stephen Herrod, Pastor

MESSAGE:

THE CHARISMA OF A CHRISTIAN

PASSAGE: 1PETER 4:10 ESV

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this sermon is to emphasize that God's grace not only saves believers from sin but also transforms them into new creations equipped with unique spiritual gifts—referred to as "charisma"—for the purpose of serving others and glorifying Him. It seeks to educate the congregation on the importance of recognizing and actively using these gifts while overcoming feelings of insecurity and inadequacy by relying on God's Spirit rather than their own efforts. Ultimately, the message celebrates the diversity of gifts within the body of Christ, encouraging each believer to embrace their God-given abilities and contribute to build up others, serve this present age, and glorify God.

SERMON NOTES

God's grace serves as the fuel for the entire journey of faith, from beginning to end.

In the beginning, it is God's grace that saves.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Salvation is a gift of God's grace, where God, through Christ Jesus, offers us forgiveness of sin, redemption as His own, and eternal life.

Colossians 1:13 says, “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

You see, the gift of salvation doesn't just rescue us from the domain of darkness and spiritual death, but it also transforms us! When God gifts us His grace through salvation, God doesn't simply save us from



The Charisma of a Christian

1 Peter 4:10

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the wages of sin—God makes us into entirely new creations. The old life is gone, and the new life begins.

Salvation is the gift of grace that rescues and renews us, but there's another gift of grace at work once you're saved, and that is "charisma". You see, in verse 10, the Greek Word that translates in English as "gift," is the Greek word charisma (χάρισμα). Charisma are specific abilities that God gives to those whom God saves, to empower you to build up your brothers and sisters in Christ, serve this present age, and glorify God.

You see, salvation is a gift of grace that saves you from spiritual death and destruction, but "charisma" is a gift of grace that equips you for the work God has called you to. In Christ Jesus, you are saved not just to exist, but to do good works! Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

So, as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ you received a gift of grace that saves you, and you receive another gift of grace that equips you to live out that salvation.

When you're saved and made anew, God doesn't just give you a fresh start or wash your sins away—God gives you a new heart and fills you with His Holy Spirit. And with this new life, as you submit to His teachings, something begins to happen: you change. The Holy Spirit is at work in you, transforming your mind, reshaping your desires, and redeveloping your character. This transformation is not just about who you are; it's about what you're able to do.

And that's why with this change, God gives you charisma.

God didn't just save you for yourself, but for a purpose. As a result of the new creation you have become—and are becoming in Christ—this "charisma" that you have been given enables you to serve God's people and be an active part of the body of Christ and the Kingdom.

You are saved by grace and equipped by grace to fulfill your purpose unto the glory of God!

And This "charisma", this gift of grace that you have received, is a grace to be used.

Verse 10 says, "as each has received a gift, use it!"



The Charisma of a Christian

1 Peter 4:10

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Get this: if you are a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, you have “charisma”! Every believer, regardless of their role or status, is a recipient of God’s grace through “charisma”. If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, you were born with new abilities that you should be using unto the glory of God!

Some of us believers are gifted and not even aware. You have this gift, but you didn’t realize you had it or that there is a calling on your life to use it to serve others. And this unawareness can lead to gifts going unused, but that must not be the case with you, my brother. That must not be the case with you, my sister. This “charisma” that God has given to disciples are not just for a select few disciples—but all disciples have been gifted with charisma and the body of Christ will be more effective or let me put it this way: we will be more effective when it’s not just a few of us using our charisma, but all of us are using our charisma!

Some of us believers are gifted but afraid or insecure. You may feel inadequate, or afraid of failure, rejection, or inadequacy. You may feel like you don’t have what it takes but let me tell you that God has equipped you with this gift, and God’s Spirit—not self—will empower you to use it. You see, operating in

your gift is less about human effort and more about a work of God’s grace in your life so that when you use your gift and people see your good works, they won’t glorify you; they will glorify your Father in heaven!

Let me give you more insight about charisma. “Charisma” comes from the root “charis”, meaning grace, directly tying this gift from God to the grace of God. The suffix “-ma” denotes the result of an action, meaning “charisma” is the result or manifestation of “charis”. In other words, “charisma” is a tangible expression of God’s grace! The gift that you have is an outworking of grace, emphasizing that it originates from God’s grace, not from human effort. And since “charisma” flows from “charis”, the use of your gift is empowered by grace as well. There is an inseparability between the gift and the grace that empowers it.

The gift you have did not originate from your flesh, which means it should not be driven by the spirit of fear. It originated from God’s grace, which means it should be driven by God’s Spirit, not human effort!

Once God has saved you, the use of the abilities God has given you does not come from your own strength but from divine



The Charisma of a Christian

1 Peter 4:10

Sermon by: Stephen Herrod, Pastor

enablement! Your gift is not a natural talent; it is a divine enablement!

God's grace has bestowed upon you a spiritual gift, and God's grace enables you to use it! So instead of letting feelings of inadequacy prevent you from fulfilling your divine calling, you must actively embrace and utilize your God-given gifts, allowing God's grace and Spirit to do what you cannot!

Believers cannot operate effectively in their spiritual gifts without continued reliance on God's grace. It's God's grace that gives, sustains, and empowers the gifts. Apart from God's grace and Spirit, you are inadequate, but thank God for His grace and Spirit that have rescued you, gifted you, and enabled you to find and fulfill your purpose!

Next, some of us are gifted but have not had the proper guidance, teaching, or encouragement to nurture or develop the "charisma" we have been given, or even a space to operate in our gift. And I am accountable for this, because Ephesians 4:11 says God gives pastors to equip the saints for the work of ministry, so it is my job to equip you with the word of God to use the gift of grace that God has given you to serve others and glorify Him!

Finally, some of us are gifted but have a misunderstanding of spiritual gifts. Many believers associate spiritual gifts only with certain roles like preaching or teaching or with someone who looks gifted, but there are more gifts than just those two speaking gifts. You may have the gift of teaching, but there is also the gift of leadership, encouragement, exhortation, service, giving, mercy, hospitality, prophecy, discernment, faith, wisdom, miracles, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

You see, God's grace is not one-dimensional—it shows up in different ways in our lives. Paul calls this, in verse 10, God's "varied grace." This varied grace means that God equips His people with different spiritual gifts suited for different purposes. My gift may not be the one you received, and the gift you received may not be the one I received, but all of us have received a gift from God.

Don't allow the expression of someone else's gift to diminish the value of your gift! All believers who have been born again were born with a spiritual gift that reflects God's grace at work! Now get this: As we explore the diverse gifts that God gives to believers, or as Paul puts it, God's varied grace, it's



The Charisma of a Christian

1 Peter 4:10

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crucial to be discerning and aware that not every expression of power or gift is a manifestation of God's grace. Just as the story of the magicians in Exodus 7 demonstrates how they were able to mimic the works of God through their enchantments, we must recognize that Satan also imitates these gifts, presenting a disguise of the manifestation of God's grace. This imitation can be deceptive, leading many astray if they fail to test the spirits and discern the source of these expressions. Therefore, we must exercise caution and wisdom, ensuring that our understanding and use of charisma align with God's true intent, as not every display of power reflects God's grace—some may very well stem from witchcraft under the influence of evil spirits.

Nevertheless, all believers who have been born again were born with a spiritual gift that reflects God's grace at work! And this gift that we have received is a gift that should be used! The gift we have received, which should be used, should be used to serve others, as good stewards of God's varied grace!

God did not give you charisma for self-glorification, but God gave you this gift for the glorification of God through acts of service.

God did not give you charisma to enhance self-esteem, but God gave you charisma to serve others and strengthen others in the faith.

God did not give you charisma to edify yourself, but God gave you charisma to build up and edify others!

God did not give you charisma to be confined to titles or roles within the church only; rather, God bestowed it upon us to be an embodied expression of His work wherever we go, empowering us to serve and make an impact in every aspect of our lives.

These spiritual gifts are not fundamentally a privilege but a responsibility—a call to be faithful to what God has bestowed.

In closing, God's grace saves. If you have not received forgiveness of sin and deliverance from the domain of darkness, you can be saved in Christ Jesus. To be saved means to be forgiven of all sin, released from the bondage and penalty of sin, and rescued from the power of darkness. It means being adopted into God's family, made a new creation, and no longer under the weight of condemnation, but living in the freedom and light of Christ. This salvation is not something you earn or achieve through human effort—it's entirely by God's grace.



The Charisma of a Christian

1 Peter 4:10

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And just as God's grace saves, God's grace also equips. He has given each of us gifts—specific abilities that align with our purpose to serve others and glorify Him. These gifts aren't for personal gain or status but are meant to bless others, build His kingdom, and reflect His love. You have received a gift of grace that saved you, and you have received another gift of grace that equips you.

If you have not received the gift of salvation and charisma, they are available through Christ Jesus.

If you have received the gift of salvation and charisma, walk boldly in your purpose—using the grace-given abilities God has entrusted to you to serve others, glorify Him, and fulfill the calling He has placed on your life.