

## **DEVELOPING GIFTEDNESS ; LANCE JANES**

Isaiah 55.2-3

What should we not do, and what should we do?  
We need to be Christians 24/7.

Lance asked how many people had prayed for him as speaker this Sunday. Some had, many hadn't. Should we pray for the speaker, and do we?

Ephesians 4 is Paul writing to the church, encouraging them, telling them how they should conduct themselves – it is not just for the church in Ephesus, but for Greenlane Christian Centre, too.

How many of you believe you are gifted?  
What gifts do you see at work in GCC?

We know the giftedness of our children – what gifts do you see in your children (if you have any)?  
If we see giftedness in them, why would we think we aren't gifted? We all are.

It is our responsibility to encourage each other – noting the other person's gifts. Has anyone encouraged you in this way? Have you encouraged others?

Read Ephesians 4.1-3

How can we maintain the unity of the Spirit in our church?

What kinds of things disturb this unity?

Do we have this humility, gentleness, patience, love? If not, why not? And how can we have these things?

Some people like to pass on things they have heard – without perhaps checking them out, - these can cause disunity.

Some people simply do what needs to be done – these are the backbone of the church,

Some come to church for refreshment and/or rest.

Do you fit one of these categories, or would you describe yourself some other way?

Read Ephesians 4.29

Our desire should be to bring grace, to build the church, to strengthen it.

4.11-12

Paul speaks of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. What is their role?

We may not be appointed/ordained for these tasks, but many have these skills and use them.

Apostle – means one who is sent, and we are all sent whether to go overseas, or in our community. What are we sent to do?

Prophet – one who speaks God’s word. They encourage, warn – what else? Think of the different kinds of messages the Bible prophets gave.

Evangelist – one who spreads the gospel. Jesus said we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Does preaching the gospel mean standing in a pulpit? How can we do this in our everyday home, workplace or wherever we are, perhaps even without saying much?

Pastor – the Greek word for this is Shepherd. One who tends and cares for the flock, One person can’t do it all, though, we all have a part to play. How can we help to tend the flock?

Teacher – Teachers must learn first, and then pass on what they learn. We all need to be learning every day and passing on what we learn. There should never come an end to our learning – or our teaching.

We need to see the gifting in others and encourage them in it.  
No one has no gift. If we don’t know what our gift is, how can we find out?

We need to take our Christianity seriously, and use our giftedness to build up others, not to sit back and watch, not to soak up the benefits of what others do.

Hebrews 10.22-25 NIV

The message puts it like this: So, let’s do it, full of belief, confident. Keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word.  
Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out - spurring each other on.

Do we need to discover our giftedness, or just get on and use it?