June 3, 2012 Keith Payne

Service is NOT Optional

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, <u>serve one another in love</u>. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 25:14-30

To fail to use what God has entrusted to us is sin.

A spiritual gift is the way the Spirit works through a Christian for the good of the community.

Bethel Church is not the only place to serve, but for most of us it will be the <u>primary</u> place of service.

Major NT passages teaching about gifts and their use.

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 Ephesians 4:1-16 Romans 12:3-8 1 Peter 4:7-11

We all are gifted.

Spiritual gifts are demonstrations of God's grace and given at the Spirit's discretion.

Spiritual gifts are given for the <u>common good</u>. They are a <u>corporate possession</u>.

Spiritual gifts are to be exercised in <u>dependence</u> upon the indwelling Holy Spirit.

A church needs <u>all who are gifted</u> to serve. <u>Every person</u> is necessary.

Ephesians 4:16

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work