



"Splain" Yourself Lucy

By Johnny Caruso on September 7, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 Peter 4

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10 NASB).

The Greek word for *gift* here is *charisma*, encompassing the idea of *grace*. The word *special* is in the text, but we should think of it as follows: *"As each one has received grace, employ it in serving others."* We have received grace, and we are to minister grace to each other. Think about this for a minute. How important is God's grace to you? We cannot make it through one day apart from the grace of God. We need God's enabling power to live our lives; and this power, this grace, can come to us through the ministry of others.

Now you might be thinking, "How is this possible?" Have you ever been in the pit of despair-- overcome by your circumstances? I have. In those times, God uses His Word and prayer to strengthen me, but He also uses fellow believers. When I think of times of trial, I remember the comfort I received from my friends who gave me encouraging words, words of support and words of comfort. My friends reminded me what I knew the scripture said and reminded me of God's faithfulness. My friends ministered grace to me. They were used of God as a means of grace. Ministering to one another in time of need is an important means by which the Lord mediates His grace to us.

"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NASB).

When you live independently of the corporate community, when you do not spend time with other believers, you cut off a means of the grace of God. How sad it is for those who have no one to minister grace to them in their time of need. How sad for you when you are to be the minister of grace and are not.

PRAYER: Father, help us study Your Word to know what we believe, why we believe it and how to present it.

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