



Week 6: 1 Peter 4:7-11

## **HIS GIFTS**

With an urgent tone, the Apostle Peter writes to the “elect exiles of the dispersion” (1:1), repeatedly reminding them that time is drawing to a close. He emphasizes that with the major events in God’s salvation plan for humanity complete, Christ could return at any moment. In light of this, Peter calls his readers to an equally urgent love for one another, specifically through acts of service, which ultimately result in glory to God.

### **THE SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 4:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 6

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What specific talents do you have that make you unique?
2. When you are told that something is near, what are the real-life things that you anticipate with joy and what kinds of things do you dread?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. In 1 Peter 4:7-8 three imperatives are given. What are they? Interestingly there are also reasons given for each command, what are they?
4. Whose love, in addition to Jesus, has covered your sins? Can you think of a person in particular of whom this is especially true?
5. How would being "sober minded" have anything to do with the functioning of your prayer life? How do you see that fitting into your life, or not?
6. A fourth command appears in verse 9. What is it? Are you surprised to see this? Would this have been the next command you would have given if you were in Peter's position? Why do you think this was such a priority for Peter?
7. Can you recall a time when you were greatly blessed by someone's hospitality? How did it make you feel? How can you incorporate similar acts of hospitality into your own life?

8. In 1 Peter 4:10, Peter gives a final command regarding the use of our spiritual gifts, categorizing them into speaking and serving. How are both entirely dependent on the Lord?
9. All Christians have received "a special gift" (spiritual gifts) but not all Christians know what their gift is, and many of those either rarely or never use their gift. Why do you think that is?
10. While the Apostle Peter categorizes spiritual gifts into two general groups in this passage, the New Testament provides more specific details elsewhere. Take some time to read Romans 12:6-8, as well as 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 12:28. Do any of these gifts mentioned resonate with you? Can you recall a time in your life wherein God may have used your gifts along those lines?
11. Although there are many potential ways to discern your gift, discuss which of the following you feel is most important: seeking the Lord's direction, asking myself questions, listening to encouragement and affirmation from other believers, trying something to see if it's a good fit.
12. If we have been given gifts by the Lord, what does Peter say should be returned to Him?