

April 17, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Boston
Diligent Leaders

Eph 4:16 — If we aren't doing this, then we are dysfunctional. Everyone must be doing their part (but some aren't). Rom 12:7-8 — Leaders have to be diligent to lead — if they aren't diligent, dysfunction is the result. If leaders know what to do they will execute it (we all have received a measure of faith to lead). The opposite of this is one who is slack, negligent and allowing neglect. You can't be a leader unless you're diligent (women too, in the areas you serve in). If you aren't — step down! Show mercy to all with cheerfulness and don't think too highly of yourself (vs. 3).

Talents

There are many members, but one Body. Mt 25:14-15 — He has given talents according to our abilities, but He doesn't want us to operate without faith or grace. Let's serve in proportion to the faith He has given us (Rom 12:6). We all have natural gifts, but He wants us to use them by the grace He gives us. There have been good kings and bad kings in the world — leaders can destroy if they are in the flesh.

Talent — The grace by which you exercise your gift (according to each person's ability). Most people think it's the gift — the English language misinterprets it. Our abilities are energized by the faith and grace we have. We can operate without faith and bury our talents — because we think God is a hard taskmaster (we had the ability, but didn't have the grace). Leaders are to lead with diligence — this comes with faith (without it it's sin — Rom 14:23) for without faith it's impossible to please God (Heb 11:6). We serve by the talents we've been given (1 Peter 4:11) — by the strength He supplies (grace is the power to obey). Faith comes by hearing and this gives us the grace (strength) to function. If we serve by His strength we know the glory goes to Him, but if by our own strength, the glory goes to us.

When we speak, we should speak the very utterances of God. Who is adequate to do this? He gives us the strength (Ps 47 — "*My strength comes from YHWH*"). With grace, our spiritual gifts come forth — like playing the guitar ministers comfort and builds up the Body. Many people have gifts in the world, but do they know our Master? Christopher had an ability to play music, but now he has received faith and grace — before his gift was natural, but now it is spiritual — he is feeding on the strength our God supplies. There is a great responsibility on us to be disciples — if we aren't we are operating in the flesh (in the natural without the strength He supplies).

When we come here we cry out for grace — if not, we're dysfunctional. It is by His grace that we do everything — He gives us the faith to do His will.