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ROMANS 12:3-8

Romans Series: How God Changes People

Thank you so much for participating in that. And certainly thank you to our young people for taking initiative in this area of caring for others here at Calvary Chapel Living Hope.

At the bottom of the first page you see the parent-teen group and that parent-teen group is an opportunity for young people and their parents to get together and interact together. So our teen program is run by our parents. You'll see there that's the meeting on the seventeenth and then every week. So the details are there if you're interested in that.

On the back you have several of our Bible studies that take place. The women's evening Bible study on the right side, bottom there, that was Wednesday night. That Bible study this week will take place at my home. My wife and my home. So I just want you to know the details about that if you'd like.

Today is a celebration Sunday for us, partly because of the baptisms that we already saw, but also just looking back in 2015 and enjoying what God has done over the last several months in our church's life.

For me it's particularly fulfilling and satisfying to see family ministry taking place. We're a church that's very interested in developing family. And so to have a parent-teen group where parents and teens can work through those teen years together is strategic in my mind and I'm really grateful for how the Lord's brought that all about at the church here.

The fact that God is bringing young families into our church and these young babies is also a real encouragement to me. We want to be providing support for them and helping them develop. Those parents or parents of our elementary age children have access to daily devotions for kids. Fun little activities that kids can do every day if they'd like to get into God's word and they can understand it better.

We're very committed to children and youth. We're committed to helping families grow and this last year has been a significant step of growth in that particular area of our church's ministry.

But that's only the beginning. There's lots of things planned for 2016 and our primary objective here is to grow closer to Jesus Christ in 2016 for all of us. To help some people come to know Him for the first time, for the rest of us to grow more in our faith. So I'm looking forward to this year. I think some good things will be taking place and I'm excited about what God is doing and I'm grateful that you're here and I'm grateful that you're a part of Calvary Chapel Living Hope.

Scott Turansky - Calvary Chapel Living Hope

If you're visiting with us today, you're just entering into a celebration with us and we welcome you here. We have food prepared afterwards and those of you who can stay (we welcome you to do so) will be enjoying some fellowship around the tables and just eating together as part of that celebration. That's why we have name tags on so we can get to know each other just a little bit better since so many people have been coming more recently to the church.

Right now we're going to open to God's word to Romans 12. As you're doing that, I'd like to pray. I'm going to ask God to bless our time as we read His word today and as we learn from it.

Let's pray together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we are grateful for what you're doing in each of our lives. We all come with different needs and challenges. We all come with a spiritual hunger, some realizing it more than others. But we're grateful that you created that hunger in our hearts and that we're satisfied and fulfilled and we know you personally. So we ask, Lord, that today as we open your word that you would teach us some more. Guide us in your truth. Lead us to understand more of who you are and what you're doing in our lives. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen.

As we're studying the book of Romans verse by verse, we're going through it one verse at a time. Sometimes we take more verses, like today we're taking six verses. But we're going through and we're learning from the book of Romans. In particular we're focusing in on how God changes people because all of us should be changing. Some for the worse, some for the better, I think. But we should be changing for the good and God does something inside of us. So we're learning about what that change looks like and how God does things inside our hearts.

That change takes place in a number of different ways. If you open your Bibles to Romans 12:3, then we're going to pick up where we left off in our study of Romans. So if you're visiting, you're jumping in in the middle. But that's okay. This is a self-contained study today and you'll gain a lot from it.

Starting in verse 3 it says this: *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you...* Let's just stop right there. We haven't finished the verse yet, but let's pause there and see what Paul is saying as he's writing this book to the Romans. He says, *For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you.*

Now in our last study we looked at verses 1 and 2 and there it talks about the mercies of God. If you remember in verse 1 it says *in view of God's mercy*, which threw us back to the previous five verses in chapter 11 which talks about the mercy of God. We were disobedient, but we received God's mercy. So mercy is not receiving something we deserve. If we're disobedient we deserve to be punished, but because of God's mercy we didn't receive that. Instead we received something else. We received His provision for us. So he talks about that in the first two verses of Romans 12.

But now he introduces another word – grace. Grace is different than mercy. They often go together. Mercy is not getting something you deserve that would be negative or bad. Grace is getting something you don't deserve that's positive.

We're all recipients of God's grace in our lives. Things happen in our lives that provide benefits to us. Whether you're a Christian or not a Christian there is some grace that we all experience. We all watch the sun come up, a beautiful sunrise, and that is God's grace that we see. We call that common grace or general grace. But then there's special grace for those who are Christians when God's working in people's lives and He's blessing them in particular ways and He provides grace.

I love grace. I see it in my life all the time. Let me give you an illustration of how God has demonstrated His grace in my life.

Last year in 2015 I took up the game of golf. I am not very good at golf. When I hit the ball I can hit it far, but it disappears and goes in all kinds of different directions. So I find myself often going into the bushes, I find myself going into the trees, or wherever to find my golf ball.

When I go golfing I take eighteen balls with me because I fear I'm going to lose one in every hole. But the reality is that often when I'm out golfing I'll golf and the ball goes somewhere, I'll be looking for my ball, although I can't find it, I find two more that other people have lost in those same bushes. So whenever I see one of those golf balls I think grace, God's provision for me. So I pick up those golf balls and every time I see one, I'm very grateful.

In fact I don't keep score in golf yet. I'm not good enough yet to keep score. I keep track of how many balls I've lost and how many I found. And if I found more than I've lost, it's a good day of golfing!

Well last month I went on vacation with my wife down to Orlando and I took my golf clubs with me down there to play golf. I only took twelve golf balls thinking I always find more than I lose, so that should be enough. I played golf and made a reservation at the reserve golf course. I didn't know why it was called the reserve until I got there. When I got there I found out that they call it the reserve because it's a reserve, a place where all these birds are and they come around all of these ponds. No trees. No bushes. Ponds. Lots of ponds. That's not good news for me.

Within four holes of the eighteen holes, the first four holes I had lost six golf balls. Now remember I only have twelve, so I'm thinking this is going to be a short day of golf.

I'm playing by myself and so I'm a little faster catching up to the ladies in front of me. As I'm waiting for the ladies to go in front of me (I'm finished on hole number four waiting on hole number five), two guys come up behind me, they're following behind, and they say, "Can you join me?" Because in golf you don't usually play by yourself. They want to keep things moving. So they joined me and the three of us are going further along together. That's our goal.

So we play hole five and when we get to hole six we're waiting for the ladies, they're taking their time, so here's what happens. These two guys pull out these eighteen-foot extended ball

retrievers with little dipper things on the end. I had never seen anything like this before in my life. They both had one, I didn't have one, but these are men after my own heart – they like to find golf balls, so they're out there scooping golf balls out of the ponds as we're going. Because we have to wait anyway, we may as well be scooping golf balls.

I'm having fun. I wish I had one of those things, but I didn't. So we're scooping these golf balls out and I'm cleaning them off. Men after my own heart. They gave me three golf balls. I was so pleased because now I have nine golf balls on hole number six thinking I might get a little bit further on this game. By the time we're done playing the eighteen holes they gave me thirty-three golf balls. *That is grace.* And that was a good day of golf. I had a lot more golf balls when I ended than when I started.

Now that's a very simple statement of God's grace in my life, but I think that the grace most of the time we need in our lives is the grace that helps us to live life, the challenges that we face in our lives every day.

It's like Paul when he prayed, "God, *take this thorn in the flesh away from me.*" You know what those thorns in the flesh are. We each have them. They're different kinds of things for each one of us. "*Lord, take it away from me.*" And God says, "*No, my grace is sufficient for you.*" In other words, the grace becomes this energy to live life, this gift of a solution to manage the challenges that we have. That's the kind of grace I need and you need and we all need every day of our lives.

So now when Paul uses the word grace here in verse 3, he says, *For by the grace given me I say to each one of you.* He is now someone who is dispensing grace. It's passing through him. And it's a very beautiful picture. I just enjoy that picture a lot.

Now I'm going to give you four different principles today from this passage that you can take with you. "Take Jesus home" is our motto. We don't want to just leave Jesus here. We want to take him with us and these four different principles are about spiritual gifts because our passage in verses 3-8 of Romans 12 is about spiritual gifts.

Principle number one is this: We are all grace dispensers. That's what we see there. That Paul is dispensing his grace to those people and he wants them to understand what that grace looks like, so he's going to share something with them. But the point is we are all grace dispensers. God gives grace through other people. And so when we interact together, sometimes an encouraging word, sometimes helping somebody out, but that grace we exchange together is a way in which we become grace dispensers. That makes us pretty valuable and that's why we really need to jump to point number two very quickly.

Point number two is we must practice humility. That's very important. That's what we're going to see. I'm going to read the next part of verse 3 to you because in this next part it talks about the humility that God wants us to have. Why? Because as we are grace dispensers, we can start thinking about ourselves pretty highly. "You know, I'm pretty good. I just gave you some grace. You should be grateful. In fact, you should praise me. In fact, I expect some return on that."

We start thinking more highly, so this is how the verse continues in verse 3. *Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.* We must practice humility.

I like the rules that the kids made as they were setting up their clubhouse. The rules were these: Nobody act big, nobody act small, everybody act medium. I like that because that's what I think Paul is saying here in Romans 12. Good theology. Don't think more highly than you ought.

In fact the end of the verse says *think in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.* The idea is each one of us has been recipients of God's grace and God is the one who's given it to us. We have no right to hold up ourselves and say, "Look how good I am." Rather we are to come before God and recognize that humility is really recognizing that my success or any good that's coming in my life is a result of God and others working through me. That's humility. I want to acknowledge God in the midst of that.

So as we come to this whole idea of spiritual gifts, we need to understand first of all we're all grace dispensers when the gifts are being used properly. And then we all need to have this humble mindset so we're not running over thinking that we are God's gift to others. Although we are. You are God's gift to humanity. I know some people think you're not, but you are. You're God's gift to humanity. But we must think in terms of the fact that God has given you that so you can't think too highly about being such a gift.

So he continues in the next verse where we're going to find our next principle. Verse 4 says this. I'll give you the principle first so you can see where we're headed here. We can appreciate diversity. You're different than I am. We're all different from each other. So the verse continues this way in verse 4. *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

The idea here is that the church is described as a body in the sense that a body has many different members or limbs or pieces or whatever. In the same way, the church is made up of a lot of different kinds of people. Sometimes it's a challenge when we're with different kinds of people because we think that our way is the best, or we think that our gift is the most important, or our perspective is the most valuable. Yet God has brought us all together and so we need to consider what He's doing in our lives and recognize that He is the one who orchestrated this and brought us together for a purpose. We each come with certain strengths and we need each other and others need us as we all come together.

There's no competition. When the body starts competing with itself we call that cancer. In the same way in the spiritual body we're not competing with one another; we're working with one another to be the church that God has called us to be.

Now Paul is writing to the Romans to talk about gifts here. But he also writes to the Corinthians and shares a similar message. So I want to jump over to 1 Corinthians 12. You don't have to turn there – I'm going to throw some verses up on the screen here.

In 1 Corinthians 12 (and these are just a couple excerpts from 15-25) we can see that we have a tendency. So Paul is speaking against this tendency to not think rightly about ourselves. Some people can devalue themselves and they can say, "I'm not worth very much because I'm not as valuable as someone else."

So he describes this in this body illustration by saying, *Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.* In other words, I can't say that because I don't have the same gifts that someone else might have that I am somehow inadequate. That's one line of thinking, and it continues through those verses.

But jumping down a little bit further to verse 21 it says this: *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"* In other words, you can't look down on someone else and say, "Hey, you're not as important as I am because I have a gift of a certain kind."

The idea here is that we're all grace dispensers, that we must have humility, and there's this sense of diversity that takes place that we can value and appreciate. That's really what makes the body function well is the fact that we're all diverse.

When does a person receive a spiritual gift? Well a person receives a spiritual gift when they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. In fact, when a person accepts Jesus into their life a number of things happen.

One is a judicial thing happens and that is sin is removed and Christ's righteousness is put in its place, so that person then has an opportunity to have a relationship with God. We have a sin problem that prevents us from having a relationship with God, but as soon as you ask Jesus to come into your life the sacrifice that He made on the cross replaces your sin and gives you access to God in a personal dynamic relationship. That's one of the things that happens when you accept Jesus Christ into your life, but it's only one. There's many things.

Another thing that happens is the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you, becomes your counselor, He speaks to you, He guides you. That's God living inside of you.

Another thing that happens among many is that you receive a spiritual gift, which brings us to an interesting challenge or an interesting observation. If a child comes to know Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior, does that child have a spiritual gift? I would suggest yes.

It's a challenge if that child's spiritual gift is leadership. He may need to be tempered a little bit so that the child needs to learn to understand how to use that spiritual gift.

But the reality is, we as a church want to recognize that children who've accepted Christ or teens who have accepted Christ are not waiting to become part of the church. They're part of the church now and God wants to use them. So I'm delighted when we see our teenagers taking initiative and doing something to help reach the poor. I'm encouraged to see some of our children greeting on Sunday morning. Because they're using their gifts. They're serving in the body of Christ. It's a beautiful thing when that takes place.

Let's go on to verse 6 in our passage. Verse 6 says this: *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.* Now I want you to see the word *grace* in the latter part of the verse first. That's the same word we've looked at already. It's the word *charis*. Some people have the name Cara or Kara that comes from this. It means grace. *Charis* is the word for grace. We talked about that.

But the first part of the verse says *we have different gifts*. The word *gifts* is *charismata*. It comes from the same word *charis*. In other words it could read every one of us has grace gifts or pieces of grace that we have because according to the grace God has given to us. The word *charis* is used in both places, but *charismata* is that first one. So it's translated *spiritual gifts*, but I want you to see it's *grace*. You've been given a spiritual gift according to the grace that God allots to you. You have charisma, in other words.

Now the charisma is different among different people, but the point is *each of us*. Notice the word in verse 6. It says *each of us*. It's not some of us get gifts and the rest of us just stand around watching. Every person who's part of the body of Christ has a gift.

There are four passages in the Bible that talk about spiritual gifts and some of them have lists or names for some of these gifts. These are the different passages with their gifts. We're looking at Romans 12 today and the seven gifts mentioned there. Now are those all of the gifts that are possible? I tend to not think so because there's not one list that embraces all of them. They seem to be examples of maybe some larger gift list. I think there are other gifts that I don't particularly see there, although I think it's fun to study each one of these.

I think some people have the gift of hospitality. So we're going to a baptism. John Snee steps up and says, "Hey, I'll help make that happen," where he opens up his home and we're regularly over at their home. Because I believe John and Maria have the gift of hospitality.

I think there are other gifts that people have. Some people have the gift of knowing how to use social media strategically to minister to other people. Other people have technology abilities that they use to minister to other people. Some people have skills in public safety that they use to keep us safe. All of those gifts are important.

The point is, each one of us has a *charismata*, a gift given to us to use for the common good, a gift that God has provided. What is your gift?

Now you might say, "I don't know what my gift is." And so out there on the internet you can find spiritual gift inventories or studies. You can go through those and find them, but I'm going to show you an easy way to find your gift. Here's what you do. Look around and see what needs to be done. Because if you look around and see what needs to be done, you'll be drawn by your gift to see particular things and just use them. Start serving in the body somehow and you'll be exercising the spiritual gift that God has given to you.

Now in this passage Paul is going to give seven examples of gifts and I want to go through them with you. I want you to see them and what he says about each one. So the first one is in verse 6.

It's prophesying. In fact let me leave that image up. We're going through the ones on the left hand side. Not exactly in that order. We'll take them in the order that the passage provides for us.

It says, If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith.

Now sometimes we think about prophecy as foretelling the future, like the Old Testament prophets who would foretell the future. Although some of the Old Testament prophets also spoke the truth boldly. So sometimes that's what the prophecy gift is, is speaking the word of God in a prophetic way or with truth or power or inspiration.

So when Jonah in the Old Testament went to Nineveh, he told them, "Look, you guys better repent or God's going to come and destroy the city." And they repented. There was a direct reproach that they were able to share.

I think sometimes that happens in our life. Someone might come to you or me and say, "I have a word from the Lord from you." Now I wish they wouldn't do it quite that way. I wish if you had a word from the Lord for me you might couch it with a little humility by saying, "I believe I have a word from the Lord for you." Why? Because I think we always have to realize we're only vessels and sometimes the vessels can contaminate the word. We always need to know that. And we always need to be careful when someone comes to us and shares this message that they have from God.

As we started the church, the last church I was in, Calvary Chapel Mercer County, a man came to me toward the beginning of our church's life and he said, "I have a word from the Lord for you. Someone close to you in your leadership is going to betray you."

I said, "Okay, thank you." Because I'm very interested in hearing what God might say to me from other people. I'm interested in hearing what God might say through you to me as well.

But then I started getting paranoid. Is it him? Is it him? Is it him? Who is it? Is it her? What's going on here? Who's going to betray me?

In a discussion I had with Pastor Joe Focht at Calvary Chapel Philadelphia, he said to me, "You know, if someone does that and it doesn't ring true... First of all you need to be sensitive and conduct yourself in a manner always that there are people out there that are sinful and may do something. But God doesn't want us to be paranoid. So I would disregard it unless the Lord confirms it in your life."

Over the fifteen years that I was there, there was no leader that betrayed me. So I suppose that was a mixture that something was happening in this person's life and it wasn't really appropriate for me.

The point in this gift of prophecy is that that person is using it with the faith God has given to them. That's what the passage is saying there – *then prophesy in accordance with your faith.*

Verse 7 says *if it is serving, then serve*. It doesn't elaborate. Like with prophesying, *if your gift is prophesying* then let me give a prescription of how to do that. *Prophecy in accordance with your faith*. But if it's serving, it's just serve. You know what that is. If you have the gift of service, just do it. That's all you need to do. And you know what it looks like. You see something that needs to be done and do it. It's the word *diakonia* where we get the word 'deacon' from. It's used here of service.

It's interesting that among all the gifts we all have the responsibility to do many of these. Service is one of those examples. When Jesus came He taught us to be servants to one another. A very important thing for everybody. So somebody can't say, "Well I don't have the gift of service, so I'm not helping out with those things." No, we all have the call to be servants before God, so we're serving Him in our lives.

But there are some people who have that extra special gift of service. They're the first ones to jump up. They're the first ones to help when there's a problem. That person with service is a treasure and we need those people in the body of Christ.

It goes further in verse 7 to say *if it is teaching, then teach*. Now some people think they have the gift of teaching, but really they have the gift of putting people to sleep when they talk. I would suggest that this is a spiritual gift. There are some people who might teach in a public environment, maybe they're a teacher, but we're talking about something special – that God is giving grace to take truths of God's word and allow them to explode in a person's heart so they can put them into action. That's the idea of what teaching is here and it's a beautiful gift mentioned in this passage.

The next one in verse 8 says *if it is to encourage, then give encouragement*. There's some people who have just the right way to say something, to lift you up when you're feeling a little discouraged. There's someone who has the right kind of question to ask that brings about movement in our lives. The idea is encouragement. So if you have that gift then you want to use it.

The next one that he says there is *if it is giving, then give generously*. Of course we all give to the Lord's work and to missions and the poor and so on. That's an important part of being a Christian. But there are some people who have a special way of being a vessel of God's money as it passes on.

I grew up in a Christian home and I really appreciate the teaching that I learned about giving and how God uses finances in the midst of His church.

My dad had a practice. He called it Faith Promise – where he said at the beginning of the year, so this time of the year he would say, "Lord, I am willing to be used by you financially. If you want to give me a million dollars, I'll pass it right on to the ministry that you want."

I like that idea. Would you like to be a vessel of God that if He gave you a million dollars you see it go by? I don't know if you'd like to see it go by, but the idea is would you like to be that kind of a vessel? I would. That would be cool. I like this.

So my dad says, “Lord, I want to do that. I want to commit myself. Lord, if you give me any money unexpected this year, I’m going to view that as your grace being passed through me for me to give on to ministry.” My dad kept a journal of the money that he found day after day – found, given.

He says if you’re expecting a bonus and the bonus comes or you’re surprised by the bonus, but you know one was coming, that doesn’t count. We’re talking about something extra.

So in his journal he would write, “I found a quarter on the street.” Faith Promise. He put it in the jar. At the end of the month he’d give that all to the Lord’s work. But if someone took him out for a meal and they ended up paying for it, he thought he was going to pay it, but they paid, he said, “Oh there’s \$8.68 for the meal,” and, Faith Promise, he’d put it in the jar.

Every once in a while a big gift somehow would come to him. You know, it was unexpected things happen. A thousand dollars or something would come. He’d go, “Faith Promise. Look, I get to use this for the Lord.”

Now I’m not calling everybody to do that. I’m not suggesting that’s for everybody, but the idea is a beautiful one. I really like it. It’s saying, “God, I’m available to be used by you in my finances, my energy, my time. Lord, if you’ll allow me to do that, I’m available to be used by you.”

The next one says *if it is to lead, do it diligently*. To lead. There are some people who are able to lead in a way that makes everybody feel good as progress is being made. That kind of leadership gift we need.

The last one is *if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully*. That’s the person who can go over to someone, put their arm around them, just show them mercy in a particular way.

So those are just seven. We could go through all of them and learn some things about them all.

They’re all important gifts, I think, in the body of Christ. But we tend to think, “My gift is more important.” Let’s go back to the humility application there. “God has given me this gift, therefore, hey guys, I think I should get a little bit more praise here.” “Watch out, I’m a hand,” and so hands are really important. We need to be careful of that. We need to recognize that diversity is important. God has given us the ability to pass on grace to each other.

When we are being the church in our small group ministry during the week or here on Sunday morning, we’re being the church, we’re exercising those gifts, and good things happen, and God does some amazing things. But it’s not just a benefit for all those that are around us. I think there’s a real benefit to us when we use our gift. So when I use my gift I feel this sense of satisfaction, I feel this sense of fulfillment, I feel this sense of joy. I feel like, “Yes, I’m doing what God wants me to do.”

Eric Liddell in the movie *Chariots of Fire* makes this quote. He says, “God made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure.” I like the quote. I’m going to show you a two-minute clip of the movie. But I want you to listen for that quote and others. As he’s reflecting a little bit I want you to hear what he has to say because I think we all say this as we’re using our gift. God does some amazing things. Let’s play this clip and listen to what he has to say. Eric Liddell.

[Start of Video]

“Watch out for Liddell.”

“Coach says no problem – he’s got something to prove. Something personal. Something guys like Coach will never understand in a million years.”

[Crowd chanting] U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!

“Jennie.”

[Crowd chanting] U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!

“It says in the old book, ‘He that honors me, I will honor.’ Good luck. Jackson Scholz.”

[Race starts]

“So where does the power come from, to see the race to its end? From within.”

“Come on, Liddell!”

“Jennie, I believe God made me for a purpose. But He also made me fast. I’m going to run for His pleasure.”

[music]

[cheering]

[End of Video]

There’s a fourth principle I just wanted to share with you. There are seven gifts and each one, if you have this, he says, “Do it. Use it.” That’s what he’s saying in this passage. That’s the imperative there.

If you have the gift of encouragement, encourage people. If you have the gift of service, serve. If you have the gift of leadership, lead. That’s the fourth principle in this passage. All of these found right in the text as we’re looking for it.

God has blessed us and I want to invite you to run the race this year with me. In 2016 I want to run with you as we be the church that God has designed us to be, that we would be the church that God has called us to be. We’re serving Him to be the body, functioning together.

If you’re here today and you’ve never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I want to invite you to do that today. We’re going to sing a worship song, one song that talks about grace in our lives. As we sing that song and as we’re standing there will be prayer counselors on the side. If you’d like prayer for any area of your life you can go and talk to them. But if you want to ask Jesus to come into your life today, I want to invite you to do that. It’s an opportunity for you to accept grace gift into your heart and allow God to do a supernatural work inside of you. Start the process, start the pilgrimage. God wants to do some great things.

Would you stand with me? Let’s pray together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we entrust ourselves to you now. We thank you for what you've done. You've taken the guilt in our lives. You've, by your grace, given us something special that we need in order to function and to move forward. Lord, you want to encourage us and inspire us today. So we accept that. We receive it from you, each one of us. In Jesus' name, amen.