

<p>growing as maturing multiplying</p> <h1>disciples</h1>		22 January 2023	Romans 12:1-8
Wired for Participation			
occweb.org/sermons/series/growing-disciples/			

Summary: As we listen to the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:1-8, we hear about the unspeakable privilege that Jesus is giving us, to come, participate in serving the world through his Body. In this third message in our series, pastor Mike uses the term “wired” to express and live out a participation in the life of the Triune God. Each of us has been graced to participate in a unique way. And in the Body of Christ we cannot operate alone, we work together. Today we unpack seven gifts or “wirings” in a practical, helpful way, encouraging us to exercise our gifts as an expression of one of the key functions of a maturing, multiplying disciple of Jesus Christ.

Read: **Romans 12:1-8**

Big Question:

- What does a disciple of Jesus Christ actually look like in the real world?
- How does one actually function as a disciple of Jesus Christ, 24/7 in the real world?
 - How do you respond to those questions?

Reflecting on **Romans 12:1-8**

- What stands out to you?
- Romans 8 lists 7 “wirings”. This is not a final list. When we add in 1 Corinthians, Ephesians and 1 Peter we have at least 16 gifts.
- Look at the chart on the next 2 pages
 - How do you respond to the various descriptions under: **Key**, **Passion** and **Negative**?
 - What “wiring” resonates with you? Why?
- Another way of looking at this is to answer these questions:
 - What, in your mind, is the world’s greatest need?
 - What do you most want to see happen in the lives of other disciples?
 - What bugs you about other disciples?
 - When do you experience the smile, the favour, the pleasure of the Lord? What are you doing?
 - What is your earliest memory of God’s pleasure? What were you doing?
 - If money were no object, and you knew you could not fail, what would you attempt for the kingdom of God?
 - Where do you find your greatest joy?
- Frederick Buechner said that

“God’s call on your life is found at the intersection of the world’s great need and your deepest joy.”

 - What do you see as the world’s greatest need and your deepest joy?
 - Where is the intersection?
- I am wired for participation in what God is doing as...

Wiring	Key	Passion	Negative	Other notes
prophecy	Forth-telling vs fore-telling	to see and then help others see	easily wounded by criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Truth; ▪ the need to see reality as it really is; ▪ abhorrence of deceit; ▪ a passion to know God as God really is, even if such knowing overwhelms; ▪ always thinking in terms of potential and possibilities ▪ “it doesn’t have to be this way”; ▪ needing to tell others what he or she sees.
service	Meeting the needs of others	to “see to it” that needs are met	easily discouraged by lack of gratitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognizes concrete, tangible needs; ▪ detail oriented; ▪ organized; ▪ no task beneath them ▪ joyful spirit: joy is experienced in living for others!
teaching	Careful interpretation & application of Scripture	to understand and then help others understand	can let faithfulness to truth become more important than the quality of relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Precision; organize, systematize; consistency, continuity; ▪ balancing individual texts against the whole council of God; ▪ faithfulness to the truth; ▪ enjoys the work of research; ▪ delights in seeing the “light go on” in others.
exhortation	Coming alongside others	to come alongside and help others take the next step	can become impatient when folks do not move on to the next step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relationships; one-to-one, side-by-side; ▪ comfort the disturbed, disturb the comfortable; wisdom; ▪ the Christian life as “a walk”; ▪ enjoys seeing others take the next step in the journey.

Wiring	Key	Passion	Negative	Other notes
giving	Giving in generous ways	to make resources available	can feel great hurt if a project they really want to fund is not approved by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generosity; ▪ liberality; ▪ catalyst to more giving; ▪ never says, “we do not have the funds.” ▪ Not ashamed to talk about money; ▪ enjoys seeing ministries take off.
leading		to see that the job gets done	can quickly get exhausted if not wisely delegating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steps up to the front; ▪ shape up the troops, ▪ fulfill the vision; ▪ regularly says, “we are in this together, let’s make sure we all succeed”; ▪ team builder; ▪ willing to make hard decisions and live with the consequences.
mercy	The capacity to feel with & for others	to “be there” for others	can fall into the trap of co-dependency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compassion; ▪ unconditional love; ▪ it doesn’t matter why you are in the predicament you are in; ▪ the other’s need “draws something out” even if the other does not move on to the next step ▪ can see and feel all the sides of an issue.