

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

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Seek opportunities to grow, to serve and to bless others

Romans 12, verses 6-8

I have always wanted to learn to cook. I love to watch TV shows about Michelin-starred kitchens and my social media feeds are full of dazzling chefs serving ornate potato dishes.

I also insist that my children respond to all requests with 'Yes, Chef!' when I'm preparing dinner.

So, when I say I want to learn to cook, I mean really learn. I want to be properly trained; learn how to dice a carrot so quickly you can't see the knife move and to serve dinners so visually stunning that my children can't help but shovel beautifully-crafted forkfuls of organic vegetables straight into their grateful little mouths.

There was a moment in time when it could have happened. For Christmas in 2019, I was given a gift. A voucher for a cooking course that would unlock all my potential, revolutionise dinner time and drastically improve the quality of life for all those in my orbit. All I had to do was redeem the voucher, attend the course and all my dreams would be realised.

The problem, of course, was that not long after I received the gift the pandemic struck and everything stopped.

Gradually, in the midst of all the chaos and distraction of 2020, I forgot about the voucher. I never booked the course. My children still endure my undercooked broccoli and the eating habits of my family remain unchanged.

Romans 12, v 6-8 says, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Maybe you know exactly what your gifts are; maybe you aren't sure you have any. The encouragement of this verse is that God has given you a gift that will – like my cooking course – bless others around you.

The problem is that often – also like my cooking course – we can let them go unused. Perhaps circumstances and busyness have become an obstacle to using your gift of service. Perhaps low confidence or fear are stopping you from blessing others with your gift of teaching and leading.

Perhaps the pressures of the world and materialism are a hindrance to generous giving. But we are encouraged in scripture to use our gifts to their fullest, so that the whole body of Christ benefits.

Whatever your gift, may you seek opportunities to grow, to serve, and to bless those around you this week.

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