

The Gifts We Are Given

Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, writes in his book *Turning Points* about a woman named Margaret Achorn, who received a large package from the post office one Christmas.

She didn't recognize the sender's name, and she became suspicious. What if it was a bomb?

After the police bomb squad opened it, the only thing left in the debris was the warranty card for the new stereo. She never found out who sent such a nice gift, or why.

"Sometimes Christians are suspicious about the gifts God has given them," Dr. Jeremiah said. "While they may know the giver is God, they are hesitant to enjoy the gift, wondering what strings might be attached."

A little-known reference to spiritual gifts in the New Testament is when Paul uses the Greek word *charisma* to refer to the inclination to be married or remain single (1 Corinthians 7:7).



"Some unmarried Christians are fully content being single but get the idea from the world (and sometimes the church) that they shouldn't be – that marriage is always better," Dr. Jeremiah noted. "If you are single and content, stay that way, and use your gift for the glory of God. Singles can build up the body of Christ with their gift only if the church recognizes the grace of God at work in their lives."

All of us, no matter what our marital status, should understand that God created a purpose for our lives. Finding and fulfilling that purpose depends on recognition of the gifts He has bestowed, thanking Him for those gifts, and honoring His plans by sharpening them in service to others.

And I am thankful for the exercise of God-given gifts – in care of the people entrusted to us – by the associates of Life Care and Century Park.

For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that (1 Corinthians 7:7 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter