

- B) Temperament
What would you say are some good characteristics of your personality that God might utilize in pastoral care?
- C) Passions
What sorts of pursuits in life are you passionate about? How might they be useful in finding affinity with others you offer care to?
- D) Experience
What about your life story or current circumstances might be significant re your capacity to empathise with and care for others?
- E) Spiritual Gifts
Have you observed any abilities/talents in you since knowing Christ that align well with a particular area of ministry in your church or in the wider community? Do those abilities fit the titles given to gifts in the Epistles of the bible mentioned above?
(Those who want to further investigate how God has gifted them might benefit from an on-line survey such as at <http://www.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>)

P.E.A.C.E. ACROSTIC

Adapted from teaching by author Melvin Steinbron we are using the acrostic "PEACE". A healthy church that practices these 5 keys to pastoral care, we believe, leads to a greater sense of shalom, or peace in the church.

P... E... A... C... E... stands for the following elements of Christian pastoral care:

- P Prayer
- E Encouragement
- A Availability
- C Contact
- E Example

In later studies we will unpack each one for our church's life together.

2023



A guide for pastoral care - one to another
Study #3 — Spiritual gifts and caring
St Michael's Anglican Church, North Carlton

INTRODUCTION

This series of studies aims to assist church members to consider the importance and advantages of pastoral care which is shared one-to-another. The series titles are:

- #1 - Why Care?
- #2 - Qualities of a good carer
- #3 - Spiritual gifts & Spiritual maturity
- #4 - The PEACE model of pastoral care
- #5 - Skills for caring

To get the most out of this study:

- READ the text for the day
- MAKE time for silence and reflection before going on
- ASK yourself how this passage might be "speaking" to you today
- PRAY for the help of the Holy Spirit
- DISCUSS your thoughts with others

COMMON CALLING, DIFFERENT GIFTS

Christians are called to care for others (Galatians 6:10). Love for others is expected of all who follow Jesus (John 13:34). God has also blessed Christians with spiritually bestowed strength in many forms to carry out a variety of ministries, including caring for others in a Christ-like manner. In the New Testament we find various lists of "Spiritual Gifts" (e.g. Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12). The lists in the Epistles mentioned do not claim to be exhaustive, and don't give much detail as to particulars. It is not wise, then, to be too specific about what each one might be like, but to recognise that God involves all, and gifts all for what is needed in community care for Christians. The passages mentioned above inform us that God energises Christians for a wide variety of ministries so that, working together, the members of Christ's Church work like a human body—many parts, all different, working in unity (1 Corinthians 12:12).

GRACE GIFTS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

The ancient Greek word 'charismata' is often translated 'spiritual gifts' and is literally 'grace gifts'. 1 Peter 4:10 states, 'Each one should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.' Grace, in the New Testament, is a description of God's loving-kindness and mercy toward us in Jesus Christ. God loves us, even though we are undeserving of such love and could never have earned it (Titus 2:11-3:7, Ephesians 2:8-10). Jesus Christ is the greatest "grace-gift" of God to humanity. His costly death to save us from sin whilst we were undeserving of such love is the ultimate example of God's grace. If we let the idea of grace govern our understanding of the gifts of the Spirit, we will not fall into the trap of competing with one another in our abilities (1 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:26). Instead, we will help to maintain the unity of love that the Bible urges us to maintain (Eph. 4:1-3) as we go about our ministries, serving others. When leaders and helpers, speakers and teachers, healers and miracle workers, pastors and pray-ers, evangelists and discipl-ers all seek to honour God and work together in harmony, the Good News of Jesus is on show.

READ...

1 Peter 4:7-11

- Q. Who receives these gifts of the Spirit?
(see also 1 Corinthians 12:1-7)
- Q. How are the gifts to be used?
(see also Romans 12:6-8)
- Q. What various forms of spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament would be suited to caring for others?
(e.g. see 1 Cor. 12 and Rom. 12)
- Q. Why is the teaching in 1 Peter 4:11 so important?

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS LEADER

The Bible presents God as our creator and redeemer. We trust God will be concerned for the whole person. Therefore we should think more broadly than mere abilities, natural or spiritually enhanced. Our talents, temperament, experience, circumstances, and spiritual gifts combine, under God's guidance, to be purposeful in extending Good News and lovingkindness to others.

DISCUSS

- A) Talents/Abilities
What skills for life have you observed that appear to come naturally to you that might be useful for offering pastoral care to others?