

### **1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)**

10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

“Anything you can do, I can do better. I can do anything better than you.” Those words are the lyrics from a song that was sung at one of the concerts I participated in during college. The whole song is a back and forth between the two people or groups, each person trying to “one-up” the other. Our capitalistic, American culture breathes that dogma. Everyone is trying to out-do everyone else in business, sports, even in life. We all have this innate desire to “keep up with the Jones’.” The spirit of competition is certainly not bad in and of itself. Paul urges us to strive to run our race like an athlete. He urges us to fight the good fight of faith. What we need to realize, however, is that we can't do everything just as well as everybody else. God didn't make us that way.

Peter reminds us of that when he says, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received...” We all have different gifts and talents. Some of us are strong physically; others are strong mentally; still others are strong spiritually. Some of us have intellectual gifts that are unmatched; others have personalities that appeal to everyone. We have different gifts from God. Peter urges us to use them to serve others; to use them to share the Gospel in whatever way our gifts can best be used.

This means that everyone can participate. It's not just the eloquent or the intellectual; not the physically strong or handsome. All of God's children, young and old, big and small can use their gifts to serve others. It is our privilege and responsibility to do this! Why? Just think of all that God has done for us! What better way to praise him for sending his Son, Jesus, to be our Savior, to free us from our slavery to sin, to give us new life and life eternal; what better way than to share the good news about Jesus! When we do this, when we use our gifts to the best of our ability to serve God and in turn serve others, God does receive the glory he deserves! Dear Lord, give me the heart of a servant, so that in all my endeavors in life, I may use the gifts you have given me to your glory. Use me as an instrument for the spread of your good news! Amen