

Friday

Please read Romans 12:6b-8 & 1 Corinthians 12. According to these passages, what is the goal of exercising the gifts God has given you?

As you read through these lists, what gifts do you believe God has given you? (If this is something that is perplexing to you, be sure to attend the 301 Class Sunday, September 20th from 4pm–8pm. This great class will answer all kinds of questions about spiritual gifts and help you discover how God has gifted you!)

Think about this coming weekend. What is one way you can “activate” your gift and encourage someone?

Thank God today for His love for you and the mercy He has shown you. Pray that you'll be bold and generous in activating your spiritual gifts.

Saturday

Read Acts 2:42-47. What were the activities of the early church? How did people respond (v. 43)?

How often and where did the early believers meet? What did they do when they met?

What was the growth of the early church like (v. 47)? What are some principles you think we can apply to our church?

Pray that as we get ready to launch our fall HOPE series, we will have the unity and excitement of those first Christians!

Ready to Launch

René Schlaepfer
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LAUNCH!

The Book of Romans

Richard Halverson: *“In a very basic sense, western civilization is a by-product of Paul’s letter to the Romans. Nothing was written by man that had a greater impact on modern history.”*

Samuel Coleridge: *“The most profound writing in existence of all time.”*

Rick Warren: *“It’s the basic handbook for Christianity. It has influenced millions of people. It’s changed history. Martin Luther started the Reformation because of it. John Wesley started the Wesleyan revivals. Augustine became a Christian because of it. Throughout history, God has used the book of Romans to influence people’s lives in amazing ways.”*

What does it take to launch my life — and my church — to a new level?

1. _____ : I commit my _____
“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer** your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.” *Romans 12:1 (NIV)*
2. _____ : I eliminate competing _____
“**Do not conform any longer** to the pattern of this world...” *Romans 12:2a*
3. _____ : I change my _____
“...but be **transformed** by the renewing of your **mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve **what God’s will is** — his good, pleasing and perfect will.” *Romans 12:2b*
Rick Warren: *“Sadly, a quick review of many popular Christian books reveals that many believers have abandoned living for God’s great purposes and settled for personal fulfillment and emotional stability. That is narcissism, not discipleship. Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like himself before he takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility, and our ultimate destiny.”*
4. _____ : I link up with other _____
“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ **we who are many form one body**, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” *Romans 12:4-6a*
5. _____ : I serve God by using my _____
“If a man’s gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is showing **mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.” *Romans 12:6-8*

Coming in 2 weeks:



Hope is essential to survival. Yet we're in a catastrophe of hopelessness today as each new crisis fuels more pessimism about the future. Could you use more hope — about your life? About the world? About God's plan?

Prepare for a confidence infusion! You'll find your optimism soaring, your endurance growing, and your joy deepening as you discover biblical foundations for unconquerable hope during this 50-day Hope Experience!

You can get started today by going online to www.HopeExperience.com, then get connected via Twitter or Facebook or email.

1. Weekly services on hope to help _____
2. Daily meditations on hope to help _____
3. Weekly small group DVD lessons to help _____
4. Small group meetings and online communities to help _____
5. Hope projects (and "Hope Grants"!) to help _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Look back over the message notes from this past weekend. Which of the five ingredients of a successful launch do you need to work on the most?

What can you do this week in each of these areas to strengthen your spiritual life?

Read Romans 12:1. Have you presented yourself as a "living sacrifice" to God? Why not make this a watershed moment in your life and do so today?

Give to God your whole life in prayer right now. Pray that our whole church will grow spiritually in profound ways during our fall spiritual growth series, The Hope Experience.

Tuesday

Read Romans 12:2. How does the world squeeze you into its mold?

According to this verse, how can you be transformed?

In practical terms, how do you renew your mind? What works best for you? What disciplines do you need to recover?

Pray that there will be lots of "mind renewal" and transformation going on this fall through the Hope Experience. Pray about your role in the Hope Experience.

Wednesday

Please read Romans 12:3 & Philippians 2:1-4. What type of attitude do these verses challenge us to have?

How does this kind of attitude build up the body of Christ?

Spend some additional time in prayer today. Ask God to guide you as you examine your heart and attitudes. Ask Him to point out any attitudes do not point people to Jesus and build up the Body of Christ. Pray that God will build into you a love for His Church and a desire to serve others in His power and love.

Thursday

Please read Romans 12:4-6a. What impacts you most as you think about the Church being a body?

What is easiest for you when it comes to linking up with other believers?

What is most difficult?

As we look forward to the Hope Experience write down one way you will link up with others.



"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Thank God today that He has given you unique talents and gifts. Talk to God about any hesitancy you have to linking with other believers. Ask Him to mold your heart into one that is willing to link up with others.