What Are Your Grace Gifts?

ENGAGE YOUR GRACE GIFTS

How has God gifted you? Where do you feel His gentle nudge to love one another or the Holy Spirit's tug to get involved?

Use whatever gift you've received for the good
of one another so that you can show yourselves
to be good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties.
(1 Peter 4:10)

A **grace gift** is a beautiful Holy Spirit-inspired act of ministry that works in harmony with the gifts given to the whole Body of Christ. Often the word translated as "*spiritual gift" (pneumatikos)* in Scripture is actually "*grace gift*" (*charisma*).

Life with chronic illness, mental illness, chronic pain, or disability can obscure our understood purpose, yet as Jill Briscoe so aptly says, **"Your greatest mission field is between your own two feet."**

Look around. With whom will you interact in person, on the phone, in a text, via social media, or through old-school snail mail? *That* is your mission field.

A GRACE-GIFTS PRAYER

... as each received a grace-gift, ministering it
to each other as good stewards of the diversified grace of God ...
(1 Peter 4:10, paraphrase)

Lord, reveal the grace gift You chose for me before I was even born. Show me the mission field between my own two feet where I am needed by those You have placed near me. While this might not be the life I would have chosen, You promise to use me right here, as is. So here I am, Lord. Teach me to be brave and to generously steward my grace gift for Your great glory. Amen.

USE YOUR GRACE GIFTS RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

1. **Intentional kindness** is love in action. Offer a smile, speak an encouraging word, thank someone for a service they offered, give somoene a hug, or forgive someone who has hurt you.
2. **Generosity** - Be generous with your time, resources, skills or hobbies. It's a beautiful expression of Jesus in you.
3. **#ConnectByText** - Encourage a friend or loved one by texting a heartfelt prayer, an inspiring photo, a fun fact, a silly joke, or favorite Bible verse.
4. **Prayer** - There is no sweeter way to bless someone than by lifting them in prayer. As friends or loved ones come to mind, pray for them. When your mind is stuck on repeat due to a difficult situation, pray for the people involved.
5. **Having compassion** means to *suffer with* or to *suffer together*. Compassion begins in the midst of grief. How could you *suffer with* someone today? Who could you comfort with comfort you have received from God? (2 Corinthians 1: 4)
6. **Ask generous questions** - Asking generous questions and listening with no agenda takes courage, curiosity, and tenderness, but it also connects us with others in transformational ways.
7. **Write a review** for your favorite restaurant, coffee shop, small business, book, blog, or non-profit (like Chronic Joy).
8. **Social Media** - Share your favorite Chronic Joy posts, prayers, or images and spread bright little ripples of hope across the internet.
9. **Write a thank-you note** to a loved one, your mail carrier, health care professionals, or neighbors. You'll both be glad you did.
10. **Friend-Raising** - Host an in-person or virtual gathering of friends, neighbors, or co-workers and introduce them to what you like best about Chronic Joy.
11. **Giving a recurring donation** is an expression of our faith and our heart's response to the stirring of the Holy Spirit.

Every generous act of giving and every perfect gift
is from above and comes down from the Father ...
in whom there is no inconsistency or shifting shadow.
(James 1:17)