

**From: Do you only see struggles (Pg.#2)**

**What GOOD WORK has God started in you?**

**SEE Romans 12:6-8 (GNB)** So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; (7) if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; (8) if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.

-- A question before we go any further... Who do we use God's gifts for? (Ourselves OR Others?)

(*Highlighted in the underlined phrases above.*)

**Q6. In Romans 12:6-8, Paul makes a partial list of various gifts God gives His people...**

(Checkmark the ones you can find above.)

O – Speaking God's message.  O – Serving.  O – Teaching.  O – Sharing.

O – Having authority.  O – Acts of kindness.  O – Selfishness.  O – Encouraging.

\* (If anyone selected Selfishness, I think you need to explain yourself;)

**From Vs.8 I want to focus on the word, “encourage”** -- From the Greek word parakaleō (*par-ak-al-eh'-o*); to *call near*, that is, *invite, invoke* (by *imploration or consolation*): - beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) \*exhort (-ation), intreat, pray.

(\*Footnote: exhort comes from the Latin meaning "to urge earnestly".)

**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:9-11 (ESV)** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (11) Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Q7. How is the gift of encouragement to be used? (Underline the correct answer.)**

a/ To enable those who choose to live in sin. b/ To comfort and strengthen fellow believers.

**Paul also wrote in Philippians 1:3-6... (ESV)** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, (4) always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, (5) because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (6) \*\*And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Q8. How does Paul view all who work in these various services for the Lord?**

(Checkmark the answers found above.)

O – He is frustrated.  O – He sees them as his partners.  O – He is thankful.

O – He prays for them.  O – He's sure that God will continue these good works in them.

**Paul told God's people, that they were partners in the gospel...** He saw the work that we do, using our giftings, as partnering in spreading the Gospel of salvation and the building of God's Kingdom.

**\*\*I am also sure that as God has begun a good work in each of you, He will bring it to completion, and someday you will find out how many others you helped find Christ Jesus as their Savior.**