

# *Living Beyond Myself* **Who Are the Priests?**

## **I. Introduction**

- A. I Pet. 2:9 *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*
- B. I Pet. 4:10 *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*
- C. I Cor. 12:4-7 (The Message) <sup>4</sup>*God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. <sup>5</sup>God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. <sup>6</sup>God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. <sup>7</sup>Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful.*
- D. A "Spiritual gift" is a special, supernatural ability that God gives to each of His Followers so that together they can advance His purposes in this world.
- E. I Cor. 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*
- F. I Cor. 12:24-27a (The Message) <sup>24</sup>*The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. <sup>25</sup>If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. <sup>26</sup>If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. <sup>27</sup>You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.*

## **II. Conclusion**

*(Unless otherwise indicated all Scriptures verses are in the New American Standard Version.)*