



Review:

Urged us to Live a life worthy

Spiritual Gifts ((Share all of them: Romans 12:3 – 8; I Cor. 12:8 - 10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11 Move to v16)

Verse 11: Continues the discussion of spiritual gifts, but with a FOCUS on the office rather than gift.

Gave very emphatic **GK**: to assign a person to a task as a particular benefit to others

Some – meaning NOT EVERYBODY!~

Everybody has a gift, but Not everybody has the **same** gift.

Requiring a person to exhibit a particular gift is impossible. “Baptism of the Spirit Churches” require...

Apostles – people how actually physical saw and were taught by Christ

Prophets – Eph 3:5 references Paul’s time of apostles and prophets of those days and past times. Rev 11:10 speaks to two prophets who will come from God during the tribulation. Are there prophets in our times? Some say yes others no. Here is what I do know for sure. The bible says to “put to death” those who claim to be prophets whose message does not come true. Deut 18:20. My personal thoughts are these. The bible is a complete book inspired by our Heavenly Father. Before the NT was written, a lot was not understood or known. With the complete NT in our hands, we know the whole story or as much as our Lord wants us to know. Let me balance that by saying that in another country where the knowledge of Jesus is slim to none, God will work unbelievable miracles through people and there could be prophets. Miracles that would blow our minds away!

Evangelists – sharing gospel, missionaries, street walkers

Pastors - Shepard of a flock. Generally cares for a flock. Not necessarily a teacher from pulpit but often teaches in various parts of the ministry **I Tim 5:17** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

Teachers – Teach the Word to believers. From pulpit, bible study, “one-on-one” like discipling.

Backtrack: It was **He** who **Gave** spiritual gifts to people: Several Points:

- God appoints those who serve in the church. If someone is serving but doesn’t have the gift, they will not be happy. The “service” will seem more like a “job” than a blessing.
- Some people believe a “search committee” picks a pastor. The Lord gives us a pastor. He provides people for the ministry. LVBC situation. Jews in the desert making the tabernacle. EX 35:30 – 35.
- Since Jesus gives the church gifted people, how should we receive them?

Verse 12: Purpose of those **positions** we just examined in v11 found in verse 12.

Prepare GK: to thoroughly and fully equip!

God’s People – WHO are God’s people? All of us... in the bible study and the church

Works GK: From Energy. GK: Work, performance, the result or object of employment, making or working.

Service GK: to render assistance or help by performing certain duties, often of a humble or menial nature.

My bible notes: compassionate love towards the needy within Christian community.

END GOAL →**Build up Body of Christ!**

BuildUp GK: The act of building, building as a **process** Louw: the construction of something, with focus on the event of building up or on the result of such an event

Edification is often used for this word. Note the word **PROCESS!** Building up or edifying a person is NOT a Once and Done Deal! Its an **ongoing process**.

Who is the Body of Christ! We are! The Church!

PLEASE NOTE the FLOW: The pastors and teachers teach us so we believers can work effectively offering service to the church body so they may be built up!

Ephesians 4:11 – 16

There are churches that believe the Pastor should be the preacher, teacher, and visit everybody. Basically some expect him to be superhuman in doing all the work of church growth! That is completely unbiblical.

My Pulpit Supply: I spoke in many churches in that capacity. Some of the churches that were in disarray had the problem that people thought they just sat in the pews while the pastor did all the work. They thoroughly exhausted their pastor. They didn't understand how the church is to work and who does the work.

Every pastor or teacher's **job** is to "**thoroughly equip**" us for SERVICE to **build up** the church body.

Verse 13: Addresses the "Time Factor" of how long we are to be building up the body.

Until ALL – who does the word ALL reference? Everybody in the body!

- For Present Members?
- What about new people to the church?
- See why the word "process" was used in the previous verse?

Attain GK: (aorist subjunctive {Assertion of something that has doubt} active) GK: Louw: to attain or arrive at a particular state. IE Achieve!!

Four things to ATTAIN:

1. **Unity of Faith** What's Unity? Oneness, unanimity, same degree. What's Faith? Our faithwalk > Christ!
2. **Knowledge** GK: definite knowledge, full knowledge. of **Son of God** – anybody know everything about Jesus here yet?
3. Become **Mature** GK: fully completed growth as contrasted with infancy and childhood. James 1:4 How do we get mature? Through perseverance? Trials!
How capable are people of being "trying" towards you while you try to minister to them??
4. **Whole Measure of Fullness** of Christ
What is fullness of Christ?
Completeness, reaching the intended goal
Full maturity in Christian knowledge and love

Verse: 14

Infant GK: Lowu: small child above the age of a helpless infant but probably not more than three or four years of age. Strong: a babe, one unlearned, unenlightened, simple, innocent.

This age are rather egocentric. Not really aware of the wider bigger picture of life. How healthy 4 a believer??

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore let us **move** beyond the **elementary teachings** about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Purpose: not **Tossed back** and forth by waves.

Blown here and there... every wind of teaching. Wishy washy Christians.

Deceitful scheming GK: A wandering out of the right way. IE: False teaching

More than a few churches are embracing sinful behavior trying to make the sinful behaviors acceptable.

Frank S Pastor of Methodist church. His son was gay and he married the two males knowing homosexual marriage was not sanctioned by his church. To defend himself, he said those two men loved each other. Why shouldn't they marry? He played the God is love card forgetting about the other aspects of God. Our Heavenly Father can't wink at us as we choose to sin and say, "Oh that's okay."

Frank was given a chance to repent, but he chose not to promise to never marry homosexuals again.

TODAY: More and more society including churches are chipping away at being holy to say you don't need to follow what the bible says about being holy in this or that regard.

Tolerant: You must accept a person's choices. FREE WILL. Even if its biblically wrong.

Lame Beggar Peter & John Acts 3/4, Pharisees commanded not to speak Jesus' name again! Peter's response?

Keeping Flock Safe from Wolves. **Qualifications of a Pastor**

I Tim 3:1-7 Overseer/elder

I Tim 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

Titus 1:5-9 Elder: presbíteros (Older Man) Counselor. **Overseer:** epískopos Superintendent, church leader
Various churches employ these terms governmentally into their denominations differently.

Some combine elder/overseer as same person.

Pastors are part of the church elders.

Jewish Sanhedrin where elders.

Our GOAL is to look at the qualifications for the position and church leadership to help us understand why churches are in decline today.

Verse: 15

Speaking (Present – ie Right Now) **Truth in Love**

Has anybody told you the “truth” about something, but not in love? How did that make you feel?

Their purpose is not to show they love you but just to “let you know” you have a problem!

We notice something and can state to the person what we see factually but sarcastically. Is that speaking the truth in love?

How do we speak the truth in love?

Grow Up GK: aorist subjunctive used as an imperative

Up Into: Reflect upon this. Into Him. How do we grow into anything? Spend time. Make it a goal or priority in life. Put forth much effort into the goal!

- Grow up into the mature body of Him.
- We are his body, his arms, legs, hands, and feet that touch people's lives
- What good is a head without a body?

Can you imagine ourselves if the arms, legs, torso not trying to grow up into the head of our body? We'd look pretty silly and less than healthy. We need all our body parts to be well connected with our head or else the brain can't keep our body going!

Same with Christ! Unless we grow our spiritual self up into him, we will just be tossed around like little boats on a sea experiencing an intense storm.

Does Christ need us to have His will come to pass? No! But he chose to work through us to touch people's lives. We have **two responses**.

1. We can choose to not touch others.
 - a) He will just channel His blessings through another person who gains a blessing. They will have to give an account at the Bema Seat of Christ.
2. We can choose to allow him to touch others through us!
 - a) We will be greatly blessed spiritually in both this life and in heaven along with a Bema Crown!

Verse: 16

From Him: FROM HIM!

Eph 4:3 Bond – ligament Tendon Unity of Spirit through the Bond of Peace. GK: Louw: a set of favorable circumstances involving peace and tranquility.

The tendons that hold we believers together is US, You and Me, creating a set of favorable circumstances involving peace and tranquility. It's a choice we DAILY make.

Grows GK: talking of spiritual growth. We often note kids grow tall fast. How is our spiritual height looking?

Builds itself up GK: Build Present (in indicative mood means present right now action. Not concerned about past or future but what's happening right now.) Indicative (assertion, fact) Middle voice (One does an action that affects oneself)

How.. in **LOVE!** GK: Agape

Each part does its job.

Spiritual gifts.

We all have them. Look at the list.

We need to be using them for several reasons:

Last week we looked at the Heavenly Bema. We learned we are all running in a race. There are crowns. Look at the 5 crowns.

The Crown of Rejoicing: I Thes 2:19

A reward for those who assist in the leading or actually lead one to Christ. The Bible says that there is much rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents (Lk 15:7.)

The Incorruptible Crown: I Cor 9:25

A reward for those who strive to have mastery over the Old Man or sinful. Not that they ever reach "perfection", but that s/he lives a separated life to God constantly cleansed by confession.

The Crown of Life: James 1:12

A reward for those who endure and abide under the trials we all encounter in our Christian walk.

The Crown of Righteousness: II Tim 4:8

A reward for all those who LOVE the Lord by keeping the faith and finishing their God assigned race.

The Crown of Glory: I Peter 5:4

A reward specifically for pastors, shepherds, and ministers to the flock.

If the **foot** refuses to work, how will your body walk?

If your **hand** refuses to work, how will you eat?

If your **mouth** refuses to work, who will you speak?

I Cor 12:7 Gifts are for the **common good** of the body.

In January, we will look more closely at Paul's secret for carrying this out effectively and faithfully.
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THAT!!!

Applications to Us:

1. **How thoroughly equipped are you minister to the body?**

- a.
- b. ?

2. In what ways are you allowing Christ to minister through you?

- a. .
- b. .

3. How much unanimousness is there between you and other believers in the church?