



ephesians 4:7-16



Ephesians 4:7-16-

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

9 (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."



Intro:

- There is unity in diversity.
- In the text there are 7 words only used twice in the entire NT and there are 4 words only used once. Thus, Paul is using some very unique words to ensure we understand the specificity upon which he is emphasizing the need for understanding how the body of Christ operates.

Quote:

“We all want progress, but if you’re on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.”

- C. S. Lewis



List of the gifts:

- Apostles ἀποστόλους
- Office of Apostle

Acts 1:21-22: “Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

- Eyewitness to Jesus ministry and resurrection
- There were 12
- Signs, wonders, and miracles accompanied them.
- Hand selected by Jesus or the other Apostles
- Wrote Scripture/Gave revelation



Gift of Apostle (sending gift)

2 Corinthians 8:23, "...as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ."

The word "representatives" come from the Greek word where we got the word "apostles." So, there is such a thing as messengers of the church, or to be exact, missionaries.

One who does the ministry of an Apostle. Building up and establishing churches. (Paul, Timothy, Silas, James)



Prophets προφήτας

- Foundational Prophets-They Foretold what God was saying.
- Ephesians 3:5 Paul talked about “the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.”
- Forthtelling prophet-proclaims what is already revealed.

1 Corinthians 14:3-“But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.”



Evangelists- εὐαγγελιστάς

- A special gifting of leading people to Jesus. All are called to be witnesses but some see the fruit more readily.

Pastor- ποιμήν

- Shepherd.

Teacher- διδασκάλους

- Special ability to explain and apply divine truth.



Misconceptions The Passage Addresses:

1. We have misunderstood where our gifts come from as well as the difference between gifts and talents. (v. 7)

- A. The comprehensive nature of gifts: They are given universally with in the body of Christ. Everyone gets gifts!
- B. The copious supply of grace for gifts: Gifts are given according to an unending supply of God's grace.
- C. The conditional distribution of the gifts is God's alone. God gives them void of any human merit.
- D. The chief purpose of the gifts: not for personal fulfillment but mutual edification. It's for the entire body of Christ.



2. We have improperly understood the role of the “minister” in the church. (v. 11-12)

A. Leaders are equippers. It’s the leader’s responsibility is to BRING OUT THE BEST in you.

“**Equip**” καταρτισμόν, katartismos (only 1 in NT) – “a process of adjustment that results in a complete preparedness.” (equipping, perfecting, making adequate)

B. Workers/people are the ministers.



3. We think that not progressing in our faith is due to a need for more information rather than more transformation. (v. 12)

- A. We are called to put our equipping to use. Transformation happens when we get information and we act upon it.
- B. The church is built on people using their gifts!

4. You have to engage the truth in order for it to produce maturity. (v. 13-14)

- κλυδωνίζομαι kludōnīzomai (only 1 in NT)-“to be tossed by waves”
 - πλάνη pla'nē; “A wandering out of the right way” In the NT, used only figuratively meaning error.
- A. Growth is a constant.
 - B. Growth begins with knowledge and continues with obedience.
 - C. Fullness is the measure of maturity not comparison to others.
 - D. One of the tests of maturity is stability.



**5. We don't get it that true spiritual growth is interdependent. Our growth is connected to other's growth.
(v. 15-16)**

- αὐξήσιν auxa'sin-, it was something living that could grow because of the element of life within it or acted upon by an outside power.

A. Your spiritual growth is determined by how well you use your gifts.

B. Your growth is also determined by how others are using their gifts.

