

## Ephesians Part 9: Gifts to Equip the Church *Ephesians 4:7-16*



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- <sup>7</sup> *But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*
- <sup>8</sup> *Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."*
- <sup>9</sup> *(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)*
- <sup>11</sup> *And he gave*  
*the apostles,*  
*the prophets,*  
*the evangelists,*  
*the shepherds*  
*and teachers,*
- <sup>12</sup> *to equip the saints for the work of ministry,*  
*for building up the body of Christ,*  
<sup>13</sup> *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,*
- <sup>14</sup> *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.*
- <sup>15</sup> *Rather, speaking the truth in love,*  
*we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*  
<sup>16</sup> *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.*
- Ephesians 4:7-16*

**Ephesians Part 9:**  
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*Ephesians 4:7-16*

**1. Jesus Gives Spiritual Gifts to Every Believer (7-10)**

<sup>7</sup>*But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

- a. God gives spiritual gifts to believers
  - 1 Corinthians 12-14, Romans 12:3-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11
- b. About spiritual gifts
  - A God-given ability empowered by God's Spirit
  - A gift's purpose is to build up the church
- c. Examples
  - Administration   • Helps   • Service   • Exhortation
  - Leadership   • Tongues   • Mercy   • Hospitality
  - Giving   • Faith   • Wisdom   • Healing

**2. Five Gifts to Equip the Church for Ministry (11)**

*And he gave*

*the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,*

- a. Today's passage emphasizes five speaking gifts for the church
  - Apostle
    - A foundational leader in the early church who had wide spiritual influence – ie Paul, Peter, James
    - Apostles were chosen by Jesus, witnessed Jesus personally, performed miracles, received revelation
    - It would seem God still gives apostolic gifts today
  - Prophet
    - A foundational speaker in the early church who spoke a message revealed by God
    - God still speaks, but we must test prophecies
      - 1 Cor. 14 discusses prophecy in detail
  - Evangelist
    - A person who is gifted to proclaim the good news of Jesus with boldness and effectiveness
  - Pastor
    - A person who is gifted to provide spiritual care and nurturing to a group of believers
  - Teacher
    - A person who is gifted to explain God's Word so that people understand it and obey it
    - Note that the gifts of pastor and teacher often appear as a combined gift of Pastor-Teacher

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**3. The Purpose of the Gifts Part 1 (v12-13)**

<sup>12</sup> *to equip the saints for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ,*

<sup>13</sup> *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,*

a. The purpose of the gifts is to equip the saints (the church) for the work of ministry

- To build up the Body of Christ

b. The goal is for the church to attain unity:

- in *the faith* – in the gospel message and teaching of Jesus
- in the knowledge of Jesus
- This leads to spiritual maturity as seen in Jesus

**4. The Purpose of the Gifts Part 2 (Continued) (14-16)**

<sup>14</sup> *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.*

<sup>15</sup> *Rather, speaking the truth in love,  
we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*

<sup>16</sup> *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.*

a. Without spiritual maturity, the church will be:

- Immature like children and tossed to and fro:
  - by every wind of doctrine
  - by human cunning
  - by deceitful schemes

b. Rather, we are to speak the truth in love

- Truth and Love work in partnership for believers

c. We grow up in Christ as the body of Christ works together

- Thus the church is built up in love

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**Your Response**

1. Thank God for how he has gifted you and others in our church.
2. Use the gifts that God has given you. You do not need to be a church leader to do the work ministry!
3. **Will you receive salvation in Jesus: a free gift of God, by faith?**
  - Believe in Jesus, and His death and resurrection
  - Repent of your sin and place your trust in Jesus
  - Commit to Jesus as Lord of your life

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:23-24 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

**Ephesians Series: God's Purposes for You in Christ**

February 26	Part 7: God's Purpose and the Mystery of the Gospel
March 5	Part 8: A Walk Worthy of the Gospel
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Part 9: Gifts to Equip the Church</b>
March 19	Part 10: The Dynamics of Change
March 26	Guest: Aaron Naismith, Calvary Baptist Guelph

**Questions for Reflection**

1. What gifts has God given to you? Are you using your gifts to help build up the church?
2. Describe a time when you experienced a pastor, teacher, or other church leader building you up spiritually in a way that in turn helped you to better serve in the church?
3. What are the purposes of the gifts to the church (Points 3 & 4 in today's message)? Spend some time thinking about how you have seen those purposes lived out in church life.
4. Have you responded to the God's grace in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?

**2 Cor. 6:2b** *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*