

7. When the truth of God's Word is spoken in love and people use their gifts, the church grows strong in Christ.

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 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 4:15–16 (ESV)

This Christmas, will you do more than enjoy gifts under your tree?
Will you commit to finding and using your spiritual gift for the health of the church and the spiritual maturity of your life?

Life Group Questions

1. Read Ephesians 4:7-16 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
2. Every Christian receives a spiritual gift to serve others when they are born again. What gift do you think God has given you? How have you seen it used for good in Christ's body? (1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12)
3. Why did God give each of us a spiritual gift? What happens if we ignore our gift and don't use it? Refer to the message and verses for answers. (1 Corinthians 14:5, 14:12; 1 Timothy 4:14-15)
4. In the message, we learned the easiest way to find our spiritual gift. What was it?
5. Read Romans 12:4-8. What is Paul's primary concern about spiritual gifts in this passage? From what we learned in Ephesians 4:7-16, what is the danger Paul was trying to help them avoid?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:28-30. Paul orders this list of gifts. What surprises you about the order of gifts in the list? How does that change your thinking about the importance of different gifts?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-14. Who determines our spiritual gifts? According to these verses, why is it important to use them?
8. Read Ephesians 4:11-14. Why is it important to be involved in a local church where you can benefit from those gifted for teaching and shepherding? What is the danger of just listening to a gifted teacher online but not involving yourself in a local church?
9. Why is it important for pastors and teachers to view their job as equipping the people to do the work of ministry, not see themselves as the ones who should do all the work of ministry?



Ephesians 4:7-16 – God Gave Us A Gift

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1. Christ gave each of us a spiritual gift.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
Ephesians 4:4–7 (ESV)

However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. Ephesians 4:7 (NLT)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them... Romans 12:6 (ESV)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

2. Our gifts come from the triumph of Christ.

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." Ephesians 4:8 (ESV)

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:15 (ESV)

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. Acts 2:33 (ESV)

(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) Ephesians 4:9–10 (ESV)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5–11 (ESV)

3. God gave spiritual leaders as a gift to His church.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, Ephesians 4:11 (ESV)

A. The Apostles And Prophets

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. Acts 11:27 (ESV)

B. Evangelists, Pastors, And Teachers

4. Spiritual leaders should equip the people of the church for the ministry in the church.

...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:12 (ESV)

5. When everyone uses their gifts, the church will be healthy and the people become like Christ.

...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, Ephesians 4:13 (ESV)

6. When we use our gifts, we are protected from spiritual nut cases.

...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. Ephesians 4:14 (ESV)