

Connected Ephesians: Week 9

How the Church Works

Ephesians 4:7-16

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." ⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

1. Understanding the _____ of the church.

- The church is not here primarily to _____ the evils of society, but it is here to _____ and demonstrate the power of God in Jesus Christ.
- The church _____ us from the dangers of reckless _____.
- We are all charged with the task of maintaining (not creating) _____ in the church.

2. Understanding your _____.

- Our gifts are used to _____ the body.
- Christ's gift to the church is _____ people.
- It is our responsibility to _____ and _____ that gift.
- The church begins to _____ and exercise its impact and influence upon society when you begin to _____ your gift.
- The first gift that God gave the church was the gift of _____.

The power of the church lies in each Christian understanding and exercising their spiritual gift.

1 Corinthians 9:15

But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast.

- God has given us the gift of the _____ as a guarantee of our _____, and he has given us a special ability to guarantee our service.

Romans 8:9

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- We need to _____ our giftedness, employ our giftedness, and then _____ our giftedness.

2 Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

- The _____ of our church and your joy and contentment as a Christian depend on what you do with your _____.
- Other than your _____, your spiritual gift is the most precious gift Christ has given you.

3. Understanding the power to _____ your gift.

Psalms 68:18

When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious—that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

- God _____ us with gifts and he also _____ those gifts.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

Ephesians 3:7

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

- Our gifts are empowered by _____ only.

Philippians 3:10

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

- The only thing that can stop resurrection power is a _____ of _____.

Philippians 1:12-14

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

- You will never grow in _____ until you grow in the _____.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

4. Keys to _____ your gift.

- Heal broken _____.
- _____ God to reveal it.

John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

- Increase your time in the _____.
- Get involved in a _____.
- Ask a _____ what they see in you.
- Find out what your _____ is.
- Set up an appointment with a _____.
- Find a _____ to train under.
- Submit to _____.