

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 4:7-16 Pt.16

TAPE # WN 233 ~ DATE: August 27, 1997

TITLE:

“United in the Gifts” Pt.16

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS

SUB-TITLE:

“The Growing Up” of a Healthy Church

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Let's be careful not to,
*be so focused on **information** that we fail at
allowing **transformation***

Dr. Hallis Green
in his book “Why Churches Die”

1. Converts to not become disciples
2. Disciples do not become apostles
3. And the church slows to a stop, to settle for mediocrity (apathy)

The most terrible sight in all the world is a church that's asleep

NO VISION - NO PASSION - NO MINISTRY

Proverbs 29:18 KJV

Where there is no vision, the people perish:

**Where there is no vision,
There is no passion,**

Where there is no passion there is no ministry
**... and ministry is to be the blessing of others to them
by edification**

Understanding this First,
that God has Gifted All Christians
(not certain Christians, not the special Christians)

1 Corinthians 12:7

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

But rather, every Christian with certain and special gifts

1 Corinthians 14:12

Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for
the **edification** of the church that you seek to excel.

The Holy Spirit. By order of Jesus Christ, has
provided for us, all that we need to succeed as a
believer.

The believer who's at work within the body, the
local church!

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Discovering your gift

Jesus said... "you will receive power"

Acts 1:6-8

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will
You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or
seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has
come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end
of the earth."

- #1 Power (is the means)
- #2 To be witnesses (is the vision)
- #3 You can't do it on your own
- #4 You will be dynamic publicly

Operating Under the Power of the Holy Spirit

John 7:37-38

On the last day, that great day of the feast Jesus stood and cried out, saying,
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink...."

The Priest would walk over to the Spring Gihon and take a pitcher of cool, clear water and return back to the temple porch. Quietly before everyone he would pour it out the steps, letting it flow down toward the people. This was done to remind them of the water that God provided to the children of Israel through the wilderness years

³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

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discipleship under the influence

Zechariah 4:6b

...`Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

What is your gift of use in the body of Christ

Do you know what your gift is

If you're not a worshipper, you will not care
If you're not a student of the Word, you will not know how
If you are not a follower of Jesus. You will not be doing a thing

In God's Family... We're All Gifted Children

IT'S GOD'S WILL - THAT THIS CHURCH

BE THE MOST DYNAMIC GATHERING OF PEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR HIS CALL

Simply Meaning This - Let God Change You

Jesus' Disciples Experienced Change in their lives
by #1 exposure to Jesus - hanging out with Jesus
and #2 by the power of God working in them

Renewing GRK 342 anakainosis (an-ak-ah'-ee-no-sis)
by renovation. taking what is present and restoring it to its
original condition. To also replace what is of no use

Change the way I think about everything
this takes time and experience

Philippians 2:13

for it is **God who works** in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Step 3
Contemplation:

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you,
not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one
a measure of faith.

- *In Christ you can say "this church needs me"*
- *In yourself you can say "I need to know what to do"*
- *But In Christ you can say "Jesus lead me and guide me"*

Honestly Look at What the Needs are in the church that
you attend...

Ask the Lord what does He want you to do about it...
look to Him for the answer...

Evaluate what your desire is....

It's "Tool-Time"

and let's say there is a table of tools here...

a skill saw, hammer, a shop vac, a jig saw, a flashlight, a gas-powered blower, a paint brush.... a garden hose with a brass nozzle... a can of spray paint.

WHAT IS YOUR TOOL OF CHOICE?

????? WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THE TOOL YOU HAVE?????

Step 4

Information:

Get The Information from the Bible and Biblical experiences
Themselves

Know the Book, Do the Book

Romans 12:4-5

For as we have **many members** in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Step 5

Experimentation:

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:

- How do you learn how to ride a bike... (check out library books)
- How do you learn how to drive a car... (go to the Long Beach grand prix)
- How do you learn how to surf... (buy a video) **Dude !!!**

GET OUT THERE..... AND TRY

????? HOW WILL YOU EVER KNOW ?????

**What are you doing here,
or in the body at large**

Step 6

Affirmation:

Get Feed Back from Faithful Brothers

John 15:1-5, 16-17 KJV

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing... ¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that ye love one another.

**Examine the fruit of your LIFE
The fruit of your ministry**

**Ask your deep friends... "do I have this
gift in my life?"**

Are People Closer to Jesus today Because you're a Christian?

- Are you called to be an evangelist - then where are the converted
- Are you called to be a teacher - then where are the students
- Are you called to a pastor - then is the church growing
- Are you called to..... your gift will produce the **INTENDED** fruit

Do people say to you...

"Your ministry really blesses me

(ushering, counsel, encouragement, giving, helps, tongues, or teaching)

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let's stay on target

1 Corinthians 13

Love One Another