

This week...

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

Monday Ephesians 4:11 *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,”*

Read Romans 12:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 12-14. Make a list of all the spiritual gifts identified by Paul. Where do these gifts come from, and how do we get them? What is the difference between spiritual gifts and those things we call abilities or talents?

Tuesday Ephesians 4:12 *“to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”*

What is the singular purpose of spiritual gifts? The Greek word for service is also where we get two other words; deacon and ministry. Who does God prepare for ministry? Using your list from yesterday, are you able to identify the spiritual gifts God has given you? How are your gifts being used to build up the body of Christ?

Wednesday Ephesians 4:13 *“until 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.”*

Are you able to describe our church as *“mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”*, or are we producing spiritual pygmies? What are some things we are

lacking, and what steps must be taken for us to reach the goal outlined in these verses?

Thursday Ephesians 4:14 *“Then 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.”*

When is it OK for Christians to be immature or infants in their faith? What are the dangers when an individual or church remains spiritually immature? What are you doing to grow spiritually? Are you helping others grow in their faith? What more can you and others in our church do to produce spiritual giants?

Friday Ephesians 4:15-16 *“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From 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.”*

As Paul was writing *“in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head”*, what do you think he had in mind? Who is to be our pattern or example? We want our lives and those of other believers to be good role models, but beware that you would ever place another Christian on a pedestal or become a people-follower rather than a Christ-follower. There is no person who will never let us down. We all have feet of clay. A church can survive the most difficult struggles and disappointments when Christ is the Head, but anyone else who occupies that position is able to bring us all down by their sin, cunning, or craftiness.