TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST

Ephesians



LifeGroups
REACH • LEARN • LOVE • MULTIPLY

FALL 2026

Unity

- Because God has made us one in Christ, we must preserve that unity
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- God has made us new creations in Christ, therefore, this is how we live that out.
- We should be Walking in a manner “worthy” of the calling.

Unity

- The life we live as believers isn't about earning salvation; it's about reflecting who we are now in Christ. "Worthily" can mean "worthy," "comparable" or "suitable."
- Paul was saying our way of living should fit or align with our new identity.
- You are a child of God, so act like it. You are a temple of the Spirit, so act like it.

Unity

- There were many types of diversity in the early church: rich and poor, slave and free, male and female.
- This was unusual in Greco-Roman culture; typically, there were thick dividing lines between those categories.
- But in the Church, people of all categories were brought together and told they were one in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Unity

- Paul explained that preserving this unity takes humility, gentleness, patience and bearing with one another in love (4:2), all of which are attitudes of Jesus (Philippians 2:1–8).
- Humility is putting others' needs ahead of our own. Gentleness is handling others with care. Bearing with one another means to endure others' weaknesses.

Unity

- Christian unity is not something believers create; it is something the Holy Spirit has already established by bringing us into the body of Christ.
- Paul therefore told believers to be “eager”—diligent and making every effort—to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (4:3).

Unity

- Paul then grounded this call to unity in seven spiritual realities shared by every believer:
- one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all believers (4:4–6).
- We belong to one body, have been given life by one Spirit and share one hope in Christ.

Unity

- This isn’t unity for unity’s sake or peace maintained by ignoring sin and doctrinal error.
- It is unity grounded in Christ and the truth of the Gospel.
- It requires us to lay aside pride and personal agendas, bear with one another’s weaknesses and pursue the good of others.

Spiritual Gifts

- God has gifted us to help one another grow in spiritual maturity
- Ephesians 4:7-13
- This passage is often read alongside Paul's teaching about spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12.

Spiritual Gifts

- Paul had just emphasized the unity of the Church—one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father (4:4–6). But unity does not mean uniformity.
- Beginning in verse 7, Paul turned from what all believers share to the different ways Christ has equipped each of us. “Grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (4:7).

Spiritual Gifts

- Here, “grace” refers to Christ’s gracious enablement for ministry.
- Paul had already used the word this way when describing his own calling.
- In 3:7–8, he called his ministry “the gift of God’s grace” and said, “this grace was given” to him “to preach to the Gentiles.”

Spiritual Gifts

- God graciously called and enabled Paul to carry out the ministry He had given him.
- Now Paul says that grace has been given to “each one of us.”
- Christ graciously equips every believer to serve, while sovereignly determining the particular gifts and ministry He gives each one.

Spiritual Gifts

- Paul paused to explain that before Christ ascended to heaven, He first descended “into the lower regions, the earth” (4:9). In the incarnation, the Son of God came from the glory of heaven down to earth, where He suffered, died, was buried, defeated death, and rose again.
- Forty days after His resurrection, He ascended back to heaven (Acts 1:9), where He is seated at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33).

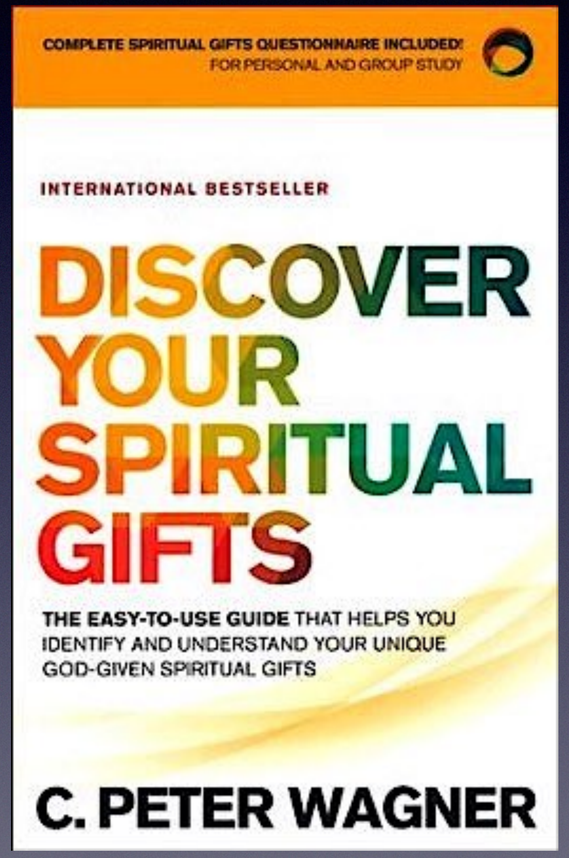
Spiritual Gifts

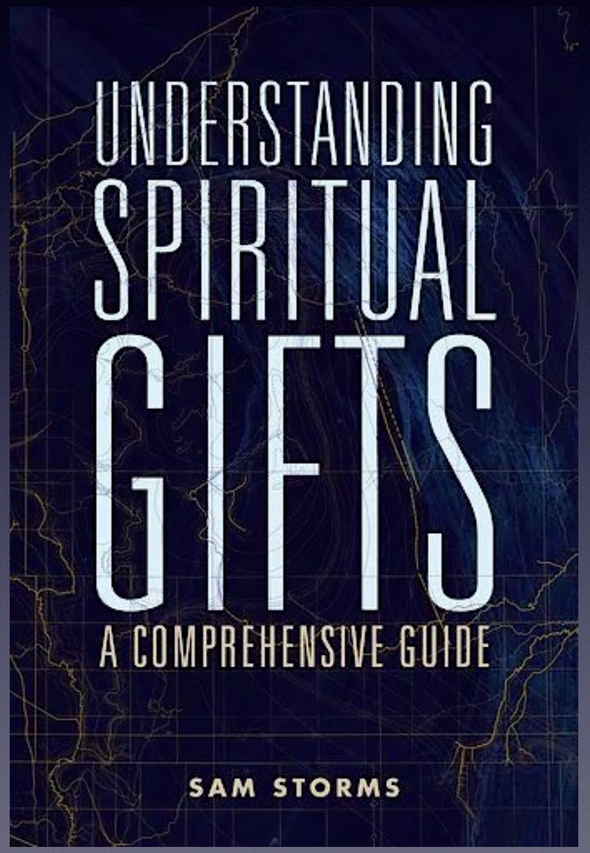
- Christ is now exalted “far above all the heavens” and “fills all things” (4:10).
- He reigns as the supreme Lord over all creation, exercising His power and authority everywhere.
- From this position of universal lordship, He sovereignly gives gifts to His Church (1:22–23).

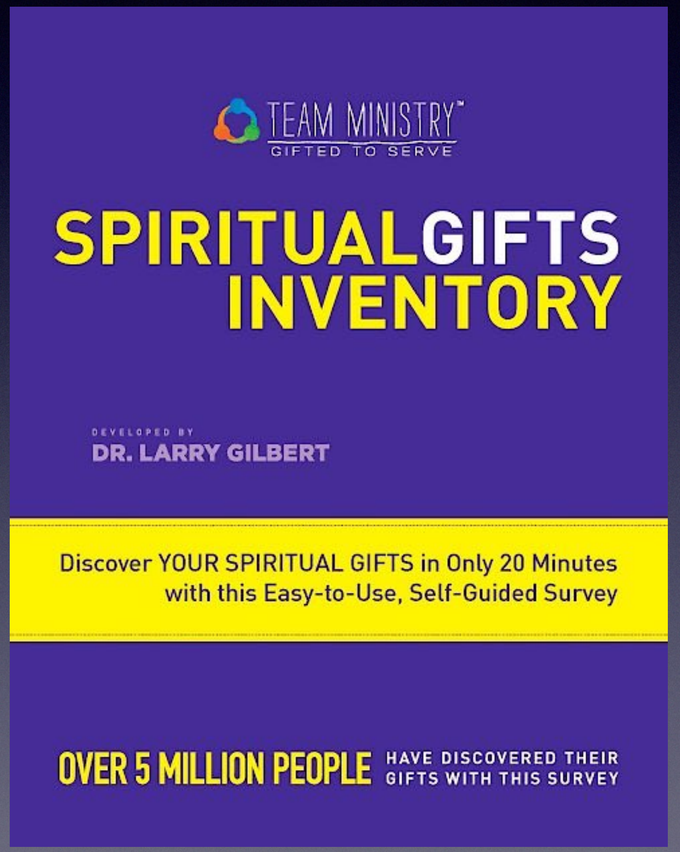
Spiritual Gifts

- Paul specifically pointed to apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers as people Christ gave as gifts to His Church (4:11).
- These leaders were not given to do all the ministry themselves, but “to equip the saints for the work of ministry” (4:12).

Spiritual Gifts







Spiritual Gifts

- Paul then described where all of this building is headed: the spiritual maturity of the whole Church (4:13).
- We are to grow together in unity in our knowledge of the Son of God, into “mature manhood,” and ultimately “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”
- These are not separate destinations but different ways of describing how the whole body is growing.

Spiritual Gifts

- This kind of growth happens as believers minister to one another.
- We can sharpen one another as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17).
- We can hold one another accountable and correct one another according to Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Spiritual Gifts

- Salvation is eternally important, but it is the beginning, not the end, of the Christian life.
- When we trust in Christ, we are justified—declared righteous before God (1 Corinthians 6:11)—and become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- The goal is that together we grow “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (4:13).

Church Growth

- Spiritually mature Christians uphold the truth in love and contribute to the growth of the whole church
- Ephesians 4:14-16
- The conclusion: We will all grow in spiritual maturity, becoming more and more like Jesus (4:15).

Church Growth

- Paul contrasted the spiritually mature with spiritual children who are blown around by “every wind of doctrine,” easily falling for the world’s deceitful schemes (4:14).
- Children are easily swayed by whatever they hear and the latest trends, but adults have the discernment to tell truth from deception.
- The same is true of the spiritually mature.

Church Growth

- Mature believers uphold the truth in love. The Greek wording behind “speaking the truth in love” carries the idea of maintaining the truth in both our words and lives.
- We must never compromise the truth in the name of love, but we must also never use the truth as a weapon to attack people.
- Biblical truth and biblical love always belong together.

Church Growth

- As we speak the truth in love, we “grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ” (4:15).
- Jesus is both the standard toward which we are growing and the head from whom the church receives its direction, strength and growth.
- The goal of spiritual maturity is not merely to know more facts about the Bible, though sound doctrine is essential.

Church Growth

- Spiritual maturity, then, is not merely an individual pursuit. Paul emphasized the growth of the entire body.
- As every believer uses the gifts Christ has given them to serve others, the church becomes more like Christ.
- There are no spectators in the body of Christ. Every member is needed, and every member has a contribution to make.

Booklets for the Election

