

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sunday, August 1, 2021**

## **Message Summary**

In this week's message, Pastor John Carter said that part of God's shepherding role in your life is to restore your soul. His strategy to accomplish this task was to give gifts to men (Eph. 4), and in particular the gift of the under-shepherds, or pastors and ministers. In order to help you "grow up" as a child of God, God has called you under the leadership of a pastor within the body or family of a local church. In the church, your pastor will teach you how to equip yourself with all you need to mature, to take your place in the body and do the good work God has called you to do. This will help you grow out of a place of "childhood," the place where you are tossed to and fro by any "truth" that comes your way, where you are easily led astray by the lies of the enemy or even by your own emotions. God has given you your pastor, your church and the teaching of the Word to grow you into what God calls the "fullness of Christ." The process of growing up may be challenging, correcting or hard at times, but it is necessary for you to become all that God has planned for you to be – a mature, disciplined, powerful Christian!

## **Key Scriptures:**

- **[Ephesians 4:8, 11-16 NKJV]** 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ... 11 And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the pastor help you grow up? How does the pastor guard you?
2. How can the Word of God protect you from "every wind of doctrine" or the lies of this world?
3. What do you think it means to grow into the "fullness of Christ"?
4. How can the church help you become equipped for the "work of the ministry"?

## **Life Application:**

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor John said, "Part of the shepherd's role in your life is to both grow you and guard you." Your pastor has a responsibility to teach you what you need to know from the Word of God so that it can act as a guard in your life. That means that you have to be open to hear correction, advisement, and truth. Your heart must be open to receive from your pastor. That is the only way your pastor can ensure that you have all you need to protect yourself in this life. So check your heart! Make sure you are open to receive correction and truth, and ask God to help you to mature into all the fullness of Christ.