

IT'S TIME TO GRADUATE



EPHESIANS 4:11-13 NLT

¹¹ NOW THESE ARE THE GIFTS CHRIST GAVE TO THE CHURCH: THE APOSTLES, THE PROPHETS, THE EVANGELISTS, AND THE PASTORS AND TEACHERS. ¹² THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE TO DO HIS WORK AND BUILD UP THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST. ¹³ THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL WE ALL COME TO SUCH UNITY IN OUR FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S SON THAT WE WILL BE MATURE IN THE LORD, MEASURING UP TO THE FULL AND COMPLETE STANDARD OF CHRIST.

A faint, stylized illustration of a graduation cap (mortarboard) with a red tassel, resting on a stack of books. The illustration is located in the bottom right corner of the image.

EPHESIANS 4:14-16 NLT

¹⁴ THEN WE WILL NO LONGER BE IMMATURE LIKE CHILDREN. WE WON'T BE TOSSED AND BLOWN ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF NEW TEACHING. WE WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO TRICK US WITH LIES SO CLEVER THEY SOUND LIKE THE TRUTH.

¹⁵ INSTEAD, WE WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE, GROWING IN EVERY WAY MORE AND MORE LIKE CHRIST, WHO IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH.



EPHESIANS 4:16 NLT

¹⁶ HE MAKES THE WHOLE BODY FIT TOGETHER PERFECTLY. AS EACH PART DOES ITS OWN SPECIAL WORK, IT HELPS THE OTHER PARTS GROW, SO THAT THE WHOLE BODY IS HEALTHY AND GROWING AND FULL OF LOVE.

LOVE = AGAPE



WE CAN GROW OLDER
IN CHURCH WITHOUT
GROWING HEALTHIER IN
CHRIST.



EPHESIANS 3:16-18 NLT

¹⁶ I PRAY THAT FROM HIS GLORIOUS, UNLIMITED RESOURCES HE WILL EMPOWER YOU WITH INNER STRENGTH THROUGH HIS SPIRIT. ¹⁷ THEN CHRIST WILL MAKE HIS HOME IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU TRUST IN HIM. YOUR ROOTS WILL GROW DOWN INTO GOD'S LOVE AND KEEP YOU STRONG. ¹⁸ AND MAY YOU HAVE THE **POWER TO UNDERSTAND, AS ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD,** HOW WIDE, HOW LONG, HOW HIGH, AND HOW DEEP HIS LOVE IS.



EPHESIANS 3:19-20 NLT

¹⁹ MAY YOU EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF CHRIST, THOUGH IT IS TOO GREAT TO UNDERSTAND FULLY. THEN YOU WILL BE MADE COMPLETE WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF LIFE AND **POWER** THAT COMES FROM GOD. ²⁰ NOW ALL GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY **POWER** AT WORK WITHIN US, TO ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY MORE THAN WE MIGHT ASK OR THINK.



WE NEED GOD'S POWER



2 PETER 1:2-3 NLT

² MAY GOD GIVE YOU MORE AND MORE GRACE AND PEACE AS YOU GROW IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND JESUS OUR LORD.

³ BY HIS DIVINE **POWER**, GOD HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIVING A GODLY LIFE. WE HAVE RECEIVED ALL OF THIS BY COMING TO **KNOW HIM**, THE ONE WHO CALLED US TO HIMSELF BY MEANS OF HIS MARVELOUS GLORY AND EXCELLENCE.



2 PETER 1:4-5 NLT

⁴ AND BECAUSE OF HIS GLORY AND EXCELLENCE, HE HAS GIVEN US GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES. THESE ARE THE PROMISES THAT ENABLE YOU TO SHARE HIS DIVINE NATURE AND ESCAPE THE WORLD'S CORRUPTION CAUSED BY HUMAN DESIRES. ⁵ IN VIEW OF ALL THIS, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESPOND TO GOD'S PROMISES. SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH A GENEROUS PROVISION OF MORAL EXCELLENCE, AND MORAL EXCELLENCE WITH KNOWLEDGE,

A faint, stylized illustration of a graduation cap (mortarboard) with a red tassel, resting on a stack of books. The illustration is located in the bottom right corner of the image.

2 PETER 1:6-7 NLT

⁶ AND KNOWLEDGE WITH SELF-CONTROL,
AND SELF-CONTROL WITH PATIENT
ENDURANCE, AND PATIENT ENDURANCE
WITH GODLINESS, ⁷ AND GODLINESS WITH
BROTHERLY AFFECTION, AND BROTHERLY
AFFECTION WITH LOVE FOR EVERYONE.



2 PETER 1:8-9 NLT

⁸ THE MORE YOU GROW LIKE THIS, THE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL YOU WILL BE IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. ⁹ BUT THOSE WHO FAIL TO DEVELOP IN THIS WAY ARE SHORTSIGHTED OR BLIND, FORGETTING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CLEANSED FROM THEIR OLD SINS.



**GOD WANTS US ALL TO BE
FREE IN CHRIST**



ACTS 3 & 4 | MORE POWER

- PETER AND JOHN HEAL A LAME MAN.
- THEY PREACH JESUS AND ARE IMPRISONED.
- THEY ARE THREATENED AND RELEASED.
- INSTEAD OF RETREATING, THEY GATHER TO PRAY.
- THEY ASK GOD FOR **MORE BOLDNESS!**
- THE BUILDING SHAKES, THEY ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND PREACH BOLDLY AGAIN!



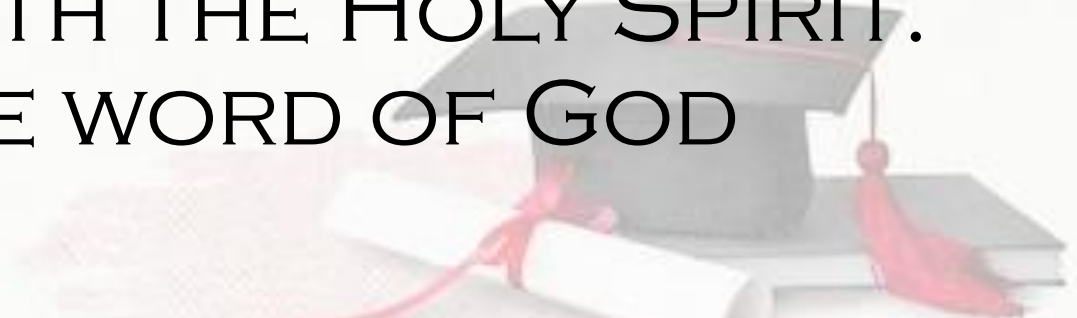
ACTS 4:23-24 NLT

²³ AS SOON AS THEY WERE FREED, PETER AND JOHN RETURNED TO THE OTHER BELIEVERS AND TOLD THEM WHAT THE LEADING PRIESTS AND ELDERS HAD SAID. ²⁴ WHEN THEY HEARD THE REPORT, ALL THE BELIEVERS LIFTED THEIR VOICES TOGETHER IN PRAYER TO GOD...



ACTS 4:29-31 NLT

²⁹ AND NOW, O LORD, HEAR THEIR THREATS, AND GIVE US, YOUR SERVANTS, GREAT BOLDNESS IN PREACHING YOUR WORD. ³⁰ STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND WITH HEALING POWER; MAY MIRACULOUS SIGNS AND WONDERS BE DONE THROUGH THE NAME OF YOUR HOLY SERVANT JESUS.” ³¹ AFTER THIS PRAYER, THE MEETING PLACE SHOOK, AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEN THEY PREACHED THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS.

A faint, stylized illustration of a graduation cap (mortarboard) with a red tassel, resting on a stack of books, is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

ACTS 5:17–41 NLT WORTHY TO SUFFER

- THE APOSTLES ARE ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED AGAIN.
- AN ANGEL FREES THEM, AND THEY RETURN TO PREACHING JESUS.
- THEY ARE ARRESTED AGAIN AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE HIGH COUNCIL.
- THEY DECLARE, “WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN ANY HUMAN AUTHORITY.”
- THEY ARE FLOGGED, THREATENED, AND RELEASED.
- THEY LEAVE REJOICING THAT THEY WERE COUNTED WORTHY TO SUFFER FOR JESUS!

ACTS 5:41 NLT

41 THE APOSTLES LEFT THE HIGH COUNCIL **REJOICING** THAT GOD HAD COUNTED THEM WORTHY TO SUFFER DISGRACE FOR THE NAME OF JESUS. 42 AND EVERY DAY, IN THE TEMPLE AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, **THEY CONTINUED** TO TEACH AND PREACH THIS MESSAGE: “JESUS IS THE MESSIAH.”



GOD WANTS US TO MOVE FORWARD IN POWER



ACTS 27 – CUT THE LIFE BOATS

- PAUL IS A PRISONER ABOARD A SHIP HEADED FOR ROME.
- A VIOLENT STORM THREATENS TO DESTROY THE SHIP.
- FOR DAYS, THEY SEE NO SUN OR STARS AND LOSE ALL HOPE.
- GOD ASSURES PAUL THAT EVERYONE ABOARD WILL SURVIVE.
- SOME SAILORS ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE IN THE LIFEBOAT.
- PAUL WARNS THAT THEY MUST REMAIN ABOARD TO SURVIVE.



ACTS 5:41 NLT

³⁰ THEN THE SAILORS TRIED TO ABANDON THE SHIP; THEY LOWERED THE LIFEBOAT AS THOUGH THEY WERE GOING TO PUT OUT ANCHORS FROM THE FRONT OF THE SHIP. ³¹ BUT PAUL SAID TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND THE SOLDIERS, “YOU WILL ALL DIE UNLESS THE SAILORS STAY ABOARD.” ³² **SO THE SOLDIERS CUT THE ROPES TO THE LIFEBOAT AND LET IT DRIFT AWAY.**



IT'S TIME TO GRADUATE

