

The Christ Who Gave Gifts

For months, our elders have prayed, planned, and prepared a year-long journey built around one central theme: **Knit Together in Love**. Why this theme? Why now? Because we are living in a cultural moment and a congregational moment where we cannot afford to drift. Our Vision Plan is rooted in Ephesians 4:11-16, where Paul describes Christ's design for His church. He has given *each one of us* what we need to serve, grow, and build up the body. Today, we'll learn how Christ has equipped us for the mission.

I. Christ Gives Gifts to Every Christian (4:7)

- A. Ephesians 4:7: *Now grace was given to **each** one of us...*
 - 1. Each member receives grace personally, intentionally, and uniquely.
 - 2. There is no such thing as a non-gifted Christian.
- B. Ephesians 4:7: *Now **grace** was given to each one of us...*
 - 1. Not about our forgiveness so much as it's about God empowering His people to serve.
 - 2. Christ has placed His own power and presence within us to do what He calls us to do.
- C. Each member receives a measured, purposeful gift.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:7: *according to the **measure** of Christ's gift.*
 - 2. Our gifts are like snowflakes and fingerprints — each one completely distinct.
- D. When we don't use our gifts, the body suffers. You matter. Your gift matters. Your participation matters.

II. Jesus Earned the Right to Give These Gifts (4:8-10)

- A. *Who gave Jesus the authority to distribute these gifts?*
 - 1. Psalm 68:18: *You **ascended** to the heights, taking away captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious, so that the Lord God might dwell there.*
 - 2. Because Christ has conquered, He now gives.
- B. The One who descended:
 - 1. Ephesians 4:8: *But what does "he ascended" mean except that he also **descended** to the lower parts of the earth?*
 - 2. Christ descended to defeat sin, death, and the powers of darkness on our behalf.
- C. Now He has ascended far above the heavens.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:10: *The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to **fill** all things.*
 - 2. His authority stretches everywhere. He supplies what we lack.

III. Christ Gives Gifts to the Whole Church (4:11)

- A. Ephesians 4:11: *And he himself **gave** some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,*
 - 1. Apostles and Prophets - The foundation.
 - 2. **Evangelists** - Proclaimers and ground breakers
 - 3. **Pastors** and Teachers - Shepherds who lead and feed
- B. The purpose of These Gifts (4:12):
 - 1. *to **equip** the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,*
 - 2. Not to create spectators - but to cultivate servants.

IV. As We Close...

- A. Our church is not under-resourced. We are not lacking. We are not unprepared.
- B. We have precisely what Christ intends us to have — because Christ Himself has given it.
- C. Will we receive the gifts He has given? Will we use them? Will we let Him shape us?
- D. You are not on the outside of this vision — **you are essential to it**. You matter. You are needed. You are called. *Will you step into the work He has prepared?*