

I Am Gifted

Discovering My True Identity | Week 8 | Ephesians 4:4-13

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

If I'm being brutally honest, when I think of humility, gentleness, patience, and unity, there's no way in the world those things could ever define me...EXCEPT for the fact that Jesus saved me, changed me, and made me new! And if you have placed your faith in Christ, the same is true for you too. You and I can walk a new walk today because we are in Christ and we have been GIFTED by God. When you were saved, Jesus gave you GIFTS, and those gifts were given to you so that you could live the life God's called you to live and ultimately accomplish your mission as a part of His church.

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

KEY POINTS

1. God gifts His Church with grace gifts.

Maybe you're reading this today and you're wondering: Are these grace gifts the same as spiritual gifts? And that's a good question because they sound very similar. However, the Bible shows us that there's actually a little difference between the two.

Every believer is equipped by God with spiritual gifts—and God distributes these gifts, not randomly, but with intentionally. He gifts some with faith, some with healing, some with prophecy, and so on. And He gifts us individually so that we as the Church can accomplish something greater collectively.

But not only does God give us spiritual gifts. In Ephesians 4, Paul tells us God gives us GRACE GIFTS—which allow us to walk worthy of the calling we've received in Christ. So to sum up, here's the difference between the two types of gifts:

- Spiritual gifts—given to equip us to fulfill the Great Commission
- Grace gifts—given to equip us to walk worthy of our calling

2. God gifts His Church with gifted leaders.

When Paul used the word, "equip," he used a word that literally meant "to repair something." To "equip" was to put a broken bone back into place or to mend a torn net. A torn net can no longer catch fish, so when you'd "equip" the net, you'd prepare it once again to serve its purpose and catch fish.

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I believe Paul used that word to show how pastors are called by God to shepherd their flocks because He knew that His church was made up of people...people that can act like sheep. Let's be honest, most of us don't naturally play nice all the time. We tend to get distracted from our purpose from time to time. We may get disengaged from our mission if we're not careful. So, Paul told us that pastors are called to equip the Saints for the work of ministry for the purpose of keeping the church focused, focused on the mission of God, and grounded on the word of God.

Now, some people think that Pastors are the ONLY ministers, but that's not true. According to God's design for the church, every member should be a minister. If you're a member of God's family, you've been called into full-time ministry.

Some people say—"ministry is the preacher's job. That's what we pay him to do." Wrong. That's not true. Scripture says the Pastor's job isn't to DO all the ministry. It's to equip the Saints for the work of ministry. This is how God gives His Church good and gifted leaders.

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

# All In with Jordan Easley

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### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is an example of a grace gift that God has given you?
2. How has your pastor equipped you for the work of the ministry?
3. What is an example of you using your God-given gifts to minister to others and further God's Kingdom?

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