**Spiritual Gifts** (Lesson 2)

*(Equipping the Saints for Ministry) Ephesians 4:1-16*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

READ: Ephesians 4:1-16

1. What is Paul’s main concern for the church as they “walk worthy of their calling”?

What would Paul regard as evidence that they had walked worthy?

Where and when, if ever, have you experienced this in your own community life?

1. What is the source and nature of the unity that the church starts with and must maintain (v.3). and what is the unity that must be attained (v.13)?
2. In this passage Paul shows how the giving of spiritual gifts is the result of Christ’s coming as a human being, his saving work through “descending” on the cross, his ascension into heaven and the outpouring of himself through (it is implied) the Spirit (vv.8-11). What difference does this make in regard to how many of the people of God might be ministers?
3. How do you respond to the truth that you are a fraction of the image of Christ, a person who has a portion of Christ’s grace flowing through you (v.7)?

1. What is the purpose of those leaders in the church who bring the Word of God (vv.11-12)?
2. Commonly it is thought that the pastor’s job is to deliver the ministry, and the work of the rest of the people is to assist her or him. What change in the life of your church would take place if pastors were called to assist the rest of the people in their ministry?
3. What do verses 2, 14-16 tell us about the relational dimensions of equipping the saints in their “calling”?
4. Most people think that the purpose of spiritual gifts is exclusively to fill the church (through worship, healing, teaching and encouragement). What could it mean to “fill the whole universe” (v.10)?

Give some positive examples in your town, city, university or workplace where such spiritual gift ministry might bring in the presence of Christ’s kingdom beyond the church gathered to worship.

1. What kind of church growth results from equipping spiritual gifts (vv.12-16)?
2. Neither overworked pastors nor underemployed “laypersons” can liberate themselves. What positive steps can be taken in your church to facilitate a mutual liberation and so release the pastor from the impossible role and rest from mere “busy” work?

*In humility thank the Lord for choosing you to be a servant/minister for him in the church and the world. Ask him to keep you from self-despising and arrogance, that you may truly be an agent of blessing to others*.

***Now or Later***

Study the various uses of the word equip (sometimes translated “restore”, “prepare”, “train”, or “complete” in the New Testament and how these might illuminate the various ways people can be equipped for using their spiritual gifts. For example, consider different models of equipping the saints in the Bible: (1) discipleship (Paul mentoring Timothy); (2) shared teaching (Paul and Barnabus leading a Bible study in Antioch together for a year); (3) public teaching with dialogue and interaction at the.

For further reading on the ministry of the whole people of God, check out Greg Ogden, *The New Reformation*; Sue Mallory, *The Equipping Church*; or R. Paul Stevens and Phil Collins, *The Equipping Pastor*.

***NEXT LESSON***:

**Spiritual Gifts**

***Discovering Spiritual Gifts –* READ: Romans 12:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**