Jesus’ Gifts

**2—GROWING INTO YOUR GIFT**

August 7, 2022

A picture containing dog, floor, indoor, sitting

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**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO EPHESIANS 1**

**Ephesians 4:7–16 (NKJV)** But to each one of us grace was given according to the **measure** [**mĕt**-rŏn] of Christ’s **gift**. **8** Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave **gifts** to men.” **9** (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) **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 [or until] 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** [**mĕt**-rŏn] 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** [**mĕt**-rŏn] every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you remember as a kid putting on your parent’s shoes? I watch my grandkids do that now. For whatever reason it’s fun to try to walk in shoes that are too big for you. We even use that as a metaphor for someone filling the position of a person who was highly proficient at their job, we’ll say, “You’ve got some big shoes to fill,” implying that it may take you a while to grow in your knowledge, skill, or proficiency to be able to function like your predecessor.

The Holy Spirit conveys a similar idea in this passage, but the shoes you’re growing up into have always and only been your own shoes. They were designed only for you, and they were given only to you. But now, you have to learn to walk in them at the pace they were designed to walk.

Today’s message is called, “Growing Into Your Gift,” and this is not covered in the Jesus’ Gifts group study.

This past Wednesday I met with The Rock’s campus pastors, regional pastors, and senior leaders and we read and discussed this passage. and God brought some additional insight through that discussion, some of which I’d like to share today. We plan to discuss it again this week.

Okay, here we go… “Growing Into Your Gift.”

**NOTICE AGAIN VERSE 7:**

**Ephesians 4:7** “To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

**LET ME PARAPHRASE & PERSONALIZE IT…**

*“God gave each of you a specific supernatural design with specific abilities according to an exact measurement so that you would be the specific gift that Jesus wanted you to be so that He could give you to His Church to provide very specific benefits.”*

“measure” = **mĕtrŏn**, (***met´****-ron*) = a unit of measure of either volume or length. In other words, how much or how many there is, something you can quantify.

**LET’S READ VERSE 13 AGAIN:**

“till [or until] 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** [**mĕt**-rŏn] of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

**LET’S READ VERSE 16 AGAIN:**

“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.”

**LET’S READ VERSE 16 AGAIN:**

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by **which** [**mĕt**-rŏn] every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

**Luke 6:38 (NKJV)** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure [**mĕt**-rŏn], pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure [**mĕt**-rŏn] that you use, **it will be measured back** [**antimĕtrĕō, *an-tee-met-reh´-o***] to you.”

**1 Corinthians 14:26 (NKJV)** How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

**EX – You have a group of 6 people and one of them gives a prophetic word which everyone in the group—including the person who gave it—can be strengthened by. And then the other 5 people each give what they have, so the one who gave the original prophetic word gave one portion but received 5 portions back. That “good measure.”**

**EX – Five loaves and 5,000 people… Jesus divided five loaves among 12 disciples. The loaves may represent the five-fold gifts. They do more than they look like they will do… and among the 12 disciples there were no doubt more than one teacher, more than one prophet, more than one evangelist, etc.**

**EX – This exact thing happened yesterday with I met with a group of leaders. We were all sharing, but each of us received back much more than we gave. After we prayed about a certain matter, one of them—who has the teaching grace—said, I usually receive longer answers to share, but this time I received specific words. Another one of them—with the evangelistic grace—said I usually receive shorter words, but this time I received something longer.**