

Introduction

There are numerous surveys about how to tell if you have reached adulthood. According to a survey published in Business Insider, 78% of the people said that having a steady job was the biggest sign of adulthood.¹ Even though this was not the number one sign in all of the surveys that I looked at, it was on most of the lists. Most people understand that maturity and adulthood involve work and responsibility.

When we think of spiritual maturity, is it not logical to think that work and responsibility are also a sign? How many people that go to church take on responsibility and serve? According to Lifeway Research, only 42% of adult churchgoers are involved with regular responsibilities at their churches.² That means that 58% or nearly two thirds of church goers are not serving in their churches. If responsibility is indeed a sign of spiritual maturity, we have work to do in presenting everyone complete in Christ.

In Ephesians 4, Paul wrote that God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God to a mature man...” A few verses later he wrote about the proper working of each individual part. The church is not going to become mature until this statistic gets changed. The body is going to be built up and grow and mature when every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part. This is true in the overall body of Christ, and it also applies to the local church body. A local church is not going to grow and mature unless every member is working properly.

(Eph 4:11–16) “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; {13} until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. {14} As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; {15} but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, {16} from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

What is it going to take? First, members need to know their gifts and calling. Second, they need to be equipped to serve, which is why God gave the five gift ministries to the church. Third, the members need to begin functioning properly in the body. When the church begins to function as a body, it will grow and mature to the full stature, which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Mature Believer Is a functioning member (Eph 4:11-16)

1. Knows his gifts and calling (Eph 4:16, Rom 12:4-8, 1 Cor 12:1-30)
2. Has been equipped to serve (Eph 4:11-13)
3. Is a properly functioning member in the body (Eph 4:16, 1 Pet 4:10-11)

¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/signs-of-adulthood-2018-4#you-budget-for-monthly-expenses-6>

² <https://research.lifeway.com/2023/05/23/most-churchgoers-say-they-want-to-serve-fewer-actually-do/>

1. **Knows his gifts and calling** (Eph 4:16, Rom 12:4-8, 1 Cor 12:1-30)

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he wrote about spiritual gifts, because he did not want them to be unaware or ignorant about them. The Greek word is *agnoeo* (Strong's G50), which is a compound word meaning not knowing or ignorant. Paul addressed spiritual gifts in chapters twelve through fourteen, and that shows how important it was. Since that letter was included in the canon of Scripture, it is also a letter to all of us. God does not want us to be ignorant or unaware of spiritual gifts. We need to know about spiritual gifts, and more importantly, we need to know our own spiritual gift and calling so that we can use them in serving the body.

(1 Cor 12:1) "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware."

I have found that the church at large is aware of some of the gifts. People have been taught about serving one another, and many people readily identify with the gift of serving. The church knows about the gift of helps, and many identify with that. Many know about the gift of teaching, and some identify with that gift. But beyond this, I have seen that many people in the church lack awareness about spiritual gifts, and in particular, their own spiritual gift. There are some good books on spiritual gifts. There are a number of spiritual gift assessments that are available online, and through a battery of questions, they help people discover their spiritual gift. Unfortunately, I have seen people come away from these tests thinking they have a certain gift, when I don't believe that is their gifting at all. I think that these tests can be useful, particularly if a knowledgeable pastor works with them.

I have also seen that spiritual gifts have been a divisive thing in the church. There are churches that believe and teach that many of the gifts ended in the first century. There are other churches, like the charismatic and Pentecostal churches that believe, teach, and practice all the gifts. There are feelings of arrogance and superiority with those who have certain gifts, and these cause further divisions. I have seen erroneous teaching about spiritual gifts in both camps, so there is a need in the body of Christ for teaching about spiritual gifts so that the church is not unaware. Paul's letter to the Corinthians is just as relevant today as it was in 53-54 AD when he wrote that letter.

In verses four through seven Paul speaks of three different categories of gifts. He said there are varieties of gifts, varieties of ministries, and varieties of effects. The gifts, ministries, and effects all come from God; He is the source of all true spiritual gifts.

(1 Co 12:4-7) "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. {5} And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. {6} There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. {7} But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

In 1 Peter 4:10-11, God tells us that each one of us has received a special gift, and we are to employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. The Greek word for gift is *charisma* (Strong's G5486). The root word for *charisma* is *charis*, which means grace. Spiritual gifts are gifts of grace that are given to believers by God. Each believer is given a special gift, and it is given for the common good, to serve one another with. Believers are stewards of those gifts. It is important for us to be good stewards of the gift that God has entrusted to each one of us.

(1 Pet 4:10) "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Everyone has a unique and special gift. Many refer to this gift as our motivational gift. We see things through the lens of this gift. As a teacher, I respond to situations by wanting to help people understand. This comes naturally to me. My wife, Karen, is an exhorter, and an exhorter tries to goad people to action. They have an urgency in their voice that prompts people to get moving. Telling people what to do comes naturally for Karen; it is who God has made her to be. On the other hand, I have to work at being an exhorter. Someone with the gift of mercy responds by trying to comfort and make someone feel better. Since neither Karen nor I have the gift of mercy, we have to work at comforting others. Even though we have one primary or motivational gift, we can have several gifts. While someone may have a primary gift, they may have manifestations or effects of any of the other gifts. Although I am a teacher, once in a while I get a prophetic word. That does not mean I am a prophet; it means that I manifested the gift of prophecy.

A good example of that is in the Numbers 11. Moses gathered seventy of the elders of Israel and the Lord put His Spirit on them and when the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do it again. They had a manifestation of prophecy, but they were not prophets. Two of the men, Eldad and Medad, remained there and prophesied. It is likely that they had a prophetic gift, not just a manifestation.

(Nu 11:25–26) “Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again. {26} But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp.”

The list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 are considered manifestation gifts. They include words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

(1 Co 12:8–10) “For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; {9} to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, {10} and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.”

In Romans 12:6-8, Paul gives a list of gifts, and most consider this the list of motivational gifts. These include prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, and mercy. I am among those who believe the list of seven gifts in Romans are the motivational gifts.

(Rom 12:6–8) “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; {7} if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; {8} or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

In Ephesians 4:11-13, Paul gives a list of five ministry gifts. They include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The prophetic and teaching gifts are included in the motivational gifts, and also in the ministry gifts. Even though they are mentioned in both categories, the nature and scope of the gifts and how they are used are significantly different.

(Eph 4:11) “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,”

A ministry gift is a gift that has been developed in a person, and operates at a higher level. There is a difference in the scope of the use of the gift. There is a difference in the maturity and development of the gift. There is a difference in the anointing of the individuals. Someone may have a gift of teaching, and may teach a small group, but is not called to preach to the corporate body. Those with the ministry gift of teaching have a teaching ministry. Someone may have a gift of prophecy, but many not be like Jeremiah, who prophesied to the nations.

(Je 1:5) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

A number of years ago I had a man in the church who said he had the gift of prophecy. He believed he could prophesy over nations and kingdoms, and could pluck up and break down, destroy and overthrow, build and plant. He was getting this from what God told Jeremiah. He gave a word of correction to a very seasoned apostle based on his understanding of his calling. Jeremiah was a prophet to the nations, but this man just had the gift of prophecy, and the nature of that gift is very different. In 1 Corinthians 14:3, God tells us what the gift of prophecy does; it edifies, exhorts, and comforts. The gift of prophecy to individuals does not prophesy over nations, destroy and overthrow, etc.; it builds up others. It is important to know about spiritual gifts, manifestation gifts, and ministry gifts, and to know what God has called us to be.

(1 Cor 14:3) But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.”

Some people group all of these gifts together to make a composite list. I am among those who would not group all of them together. Others say that these are just some of the gifts of the Spirit, and they would include other gifts, like the gift of intercession.

Motivational Gifts (Rom 12:6-8)	Ministry Gifts (Eph 4:11-13)	Manifestation Gifts (1 Cor 12:8-10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophesying • Serving • Teaching • Encouraging • Giving • Leading • Showing Mercy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostle • Prophet • Evangelist • Pastor • Teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of wisdom • Word of knowledge • Faith • Healing • Miracles • Prophecy • Distinguishing of spirits • Various kinds of tongues • Interpretation of tongues

Here are some simple definitions of those seven motivational gifts:

- **Prophecy:** Speaks the utterances of God, declares truth, declares a word from the Lord about a matter or situation, gives direction and confirmation of direction.
- **Serving:** Meets practical needs in the body, either individual or corporate.

- **Teaching:** Studies and teaches the Word of God. This may be done one-on-one, small groups, or with large groups. Likes to categorize and give understanding of a passage.
- **Exhorting:** Likes to motivate, encourage, build up, and strengthen others. Often communicates with urgency to prod people to action.
- **Giving:** Likes to sow financially into the kingdom, meeting individual and corporate needs. Givers often live very modestly so that they can give liberally.
- **Leading:** Lead people and organizations. They are visionary people who communicate well with others. They are good organizers and delegators.
- **Mercy:** Shows God's love and compassion to those that are hurting. They are usually very sensitive to others, and identify with their pains.

2. Has been equipped to serve (Eph 4:11-13)

It is important to know about the spiritual gifts; God does not want us to be uniformed or ignorant about gifts. It is even more important to be equipped to serve the body with your special gift. God wants every member to be a functioning member of the body, so just knowing about gifts is not enough. We must be equipped and released to serve in the body. Leaders in the church are tasked with equipping the saints for the work of service.

(Eph 4:11–12) “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”

Recently, a man said to me that he was frustrated at work. He said he did not know how to do his job. I asked him about the initial training that he had received when he had hired on with the company, and he told me that it had not been very effective or profitable to him. It was not a surprise to me to hear shortly after that conversation that the man left that job. People do not want to do things that they feel ill-equipped in. People do not want to do a poor job. They don't want to look bad. They want to do things that they are confident in, and will excel at; that is just human nature. It is no different in the church. People want to be equipped and feel confident about the things that they are going to get involved in. If they don't feel equipped, they will not volunteer to serve.

A couple of weeks ago I received an email from a man that used to work for me. He wanted to use me as a work reference. When he worked for me, he applied for a job at a certain ministry, and he felt his background experience, along with his passion for missions, would be better served. The ministry called me and they asked a lot of questions about resolving conflict, so I asked the manager at that ministry why they wanted to know about managing conflicts. I was not impressed by her answer. It seemed that there were some operational issues that needed to be resolved at the corporate level, and putting any person in the role they were filling was going to be frustrating and difficult. My discernment about that company proved to be true. This man was offered a job at that ministry, and took a pay cut to go to work for them. It turned out to be very frustrating to him, and his supervisor, and he was eventually let go. This man was very smart, and a great employee, but he was being asked to do things that he was not gifted at. People are frustrated when they are asked to do things that they are not called or gifted at.

In the Introduction I mentioned that only 42% of church members are serving. That means that 58% are not serving. The majority of people that go to church are not serving in any capacity. There are some reasons for this awful statistic. First, many people do not know their spiritual gifting. We have to help these people find out what their spiritual gift(s) is. Second, people have not been equipped to serve, and they don't know how to operate in their gift or ministry. Church leaders need to do a better job equipping people for the work of service. Unless we do a better job of equipping people, the body is not going to volunteer and serve.

There are many reasons that people are not being equipped. According to the Schaeffer Institute's 2016 Update, 53% of pastors do not feel that they have been properly prepared for their work as a pastor. In particular, in the survey, pastors said that seminary had not properly prepared them.³ If pastors are not prepared, how are they going to prepare the members for the work of ministry. We must mentor those called to leadership, and help prepare them for the work of the ministry. We must train and prepare them for the work they are called to do.

Another important reason that the church is not being equipped is the leadership structure in churches. God's plan for church leadership was to have a plurality of leaders. God never intended a pastor to do all of the equipping in the church. We find in Ephesians 4 that God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of service.

(Eph 4:11–12) “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”

Churches often take on the traits of its senior leader. Generally, we find that a church led by a teacher will have a strong teaching ministry in the church, but will be weak in evangelism and prophecy. God did not intend for this to happen, so His plan is for the church to be equipped by all five gift ministries.

God called the apostles first, and there are reasons for that. Apostles are unique in that they work well and flow with all the other gift ministries. They are also unique in their heart to see the church equipped in all areas. They generally do not try to do all the ministry themselves, but try to equip and raise up others to do the work of ministry. Their goal is to raise up others so that they can move on and plant other churches.

Prophets are the best ones to equip the church in prophetic ministry. Prophets flow in prophecy, and are passionate about it. They are anointed in it, and can impart that prophetic gifting to others. Because they are experienced, they can teach principles and bring them to life with examples.

Evangelists are the best ones to equip the church in evangelism. They are passionate about evangelism, and have an anointing in it that can be imparted to others.

Pastors can equip the church in the areas that pastors are gifted and knowledgeable in. However, most pastors are not capable of equipping the church in evangelism, prophetic ministry, or apostolic work. Pastors can equip the church in pastoral ministry. They can teach the church

³ <http://www.churchleadership.org/apps/articles/default.asp?blogid=4545&view=post&articleid=Statistics-on-Pastors-2016-Update&link=1&fldKeywords=&fldAuthor=&fldTopic=0>

about how to care for one another. They have a pastoral anointing, and can equip others in it, and impart a pastoral anointing to others.

Teachers are the best ones to equip the church in teaching. They are passionate about studying and teaching, and can equip others in word ministry. They have an anointing and can impart that anointing to others.

When all the training is left to one person to do, the church will not be trained effectively. In smaller churches, where all the gift ministries are not resident, the missing gift ministries should be brought in to equip the church. If the church pastor has the primary gift of teaching, he should bring in apostles, prophets and evangelists to help equip the church.

My primary gifting is teaching. I have mentored people in teaching and preaching for over thirty years. I have conducted numerous teaching classes and seminars for churches. I have been very involved in equipping the saints in this area. At the same time, I have brought in evangelists, prophets, and apostles to help equip the church in other areas. We have had numerous seminars, classes, and workshops on spiritual gifts, prophetic ministry, evangelism, missions, prayer, hearing God, leadership, and church government. Some of these I have taught, but many of these have been taught by those with different giftings that have been brought in to equip people in areas that I am not gifted in.

Many of you were here for the training that Joe Warner did on prophetic ministry. It was an excellent time of equipping. He taught and gave great understanding about prophecy. He gave good guidelines for churches to follow so that prophetic ministry is used properly. He also made time for some prophetic activation.

I did several months of training in evangelism. These weekly sessions were held outside of our Sunday morning gatherings. I taught on how to write and share your testimony. I taught the gospel message, and the bridge approach to sharing the gospel. We practiced sharing our testimonies and the gospel with one another.

Some of you were involved in the two preaching and teaching classes that I taught. In the first class we went through Haddon Robinson's book, *Biblical Preaching*. In the second class, we went through my book, *Solomon's Seven Principles of Teaching*. There were homework assignments and those involved were able to practice what they were learning.

In addition to those classes, I taught a leadership class, using the book I wrote, *A Comprehensive Guide to Biblical Leadership*. This class was not only attended by our church members, but there were a number of pastors from the Philippines that joined us via Zoom.

These are just examples of equipping classes that we have been doing the past few years at the Connection Church. Church leaders are not just tasked with feeding and watching over the flock, they are also charged with equipping the saints for the work of service. The body of Christ must be equipped for the work of service so that each joint can supply, according to the proper working of each individual part. When this happens, the body will grow and mature.

(Eph 4:15–16) “but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, {16} from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

3. **Is a properly functioning member in the body** (Eph 4:16, 1 Pet 4:10-11)

The third key is to have properly functioning members in the body. A believer can know his gifting, and can be properly equipped, and still not be a functioning member in a local church body. Paul wrote that the whole body is fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part. It is not held together by that which all the members know, but by the proper working of each individual part.

(Eph 4:16) "from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

In the past few years many people stopped attending church services. Many of those who were serving in the past are no longer attending at all. To be a functioning member, people need to belong to a church, regularly attend, and actively serve.

One of the most talented and versatile players in the NFL was Deon Sanders. Among other teams, he played for the Dallas Cowboys, where he played cornerback. Deon was nicknamed Neon Deon and also Prime Time. He played in both the National Football League and also in Major League baseball and excelled at both sports. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2011. Currently, he is the head football coach for the University of Colorado. In the late 90's Deon broke one of his little toes. I think it may have been the little toe on his right foot. It kept him on the bench for two months. He wasn't able to run and do all his fancy moves because of the broken toe. One little part of his body kept him out of commission. One little part not properly working hindered the whole body from doing what it was supposed to be doing.

Many people call the church today stadium Christianity. They say that there are 50,000 people in the stands watching 30 people on the field doing all the work. According to the statistics I have seen, the analogy is not accurate, but it does make a point that many people are in the bleachers and not out on the field doing the work of ministry. There has been a real push among Christianity in recent years to change this pattern. John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard churches used to tell people that everyone gets to play. I would take it a step further and say that everyone should be playing. The church will grow and mature when every member is properly working, and every joint is supplying.

(Eph 4:16) "from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

Churches frequently refer to members as the ministers of the body. They want to get away from the idea of a one man show or the pastor doing all the ministry. They want every member to become actively involved in ministry. This is a good thing.

In every arena of life, we learn more by doing than watching. We learn and grow more by experiencing things ourselves. We can read about riding a horse, but until we begin riding horses, we will not become good equestrians. We can read about golf, but until we begin to play, practice and get instructions on how to play golf, we will never grow in our ability to play golf. We grow and mature by doing, not watching.

One more important consideration is being released into ministry. A person can know his spiritual gift, and be equipped to use that gift, but is not being released to use it. I have known pastors who try to do everything themselves, and do not allow others to do things in the church. Those churches have all been relatively small, because the body needs all the joints to supply so that it can grow.

There are reasons why some pastors do not release others to work. Some are fearful of their own position. Some are insecure in their leadership. Some, particularly leaders or captains of ten, just don't have the capacity to delegate and raise up others. Sometimes, there are doctrinal reasons for not allowing others to serve in particular ministries. You have to trust someone before you allow them to minister.

When Karen and I moved to New Mexico, we were looking for a church to be a part of and to serve in. The pastor of one particular church that we visited told me that unless I was a five-point Calvinist I would not be allowed to even teach Sunday School. Since I knew my gift of teaching, and had been equipped to teach, and had been an ordained pastor for nearly twenty years, I knew that God was not calling us to that particular church. We needed to find a church where we could be released into ministry.

Conclusion and Applications

What will it take for the body of Christ to mature? The saints need to know about spiritual gifts, and they need to know what their spiritual gift is.

Second, it will take equipping the saints for the work of service. It will equipping by apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors. The work of equipping is not to be strictly from one gift ministry.

It is also going to require the body to step up to the plate and begin to serve. Many people think of what they are going to get out of a church service. If it is just the message, many of them have opted to watch or listen on line. Our gathering together is to be a time of encouraging one another, and building up one another. Our gathering together is not just about what we receive, but how we can serve others. We must encourage people not to forsake our assembling together, but to get in the habit of assembling together with the saints.

(Heb 10:24–25) “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, {25} not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

We must also encourage people to begin serving the body. In Romans 12, before getting into the nitty gritty about spiritual gifts, Paul encouraged us to present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices, which is our spiritual service of worship. The Greek word for worship there is not the normal word, which is *proskuneo* (Strong's G4352). He uses the word, *latreia* (Strong's G2999), which means service. The root word is *latris*, which means a hired servant. God wants us to present our lives to him so that we can use our gifts in serving Him and His body. Many times people discover their true spiritual gift and calling through serving the body in the areas that need help. They discover that they enjoy certain ministries, or do not enjoy serving in other areas. People will naturally gravitate towards the areas that they are gifted at, and enjoy doing.

(Ro 12:1) “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.”

God wants the church to grow up. He has given us the equipping gifts. He has given us the various parts of the body. Now, the ball is in our court. Those who have been called to equip need to equip. Those with the gift of serving need to serve. Those with the gift of hospitality need to be hospitable. Those with the gift of teaching need to teach. All of us need to get in the game.

Closing Prayer

Father God, thank You for the spiritual gifts that You have given us. Help us to identify the gift or gifts You have given us. Help us to be equipped and to develop our gifts. Help us learn how to operate and function properly in our gift. Help us to be good stewards of these gifts. Help us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, and especially that we would prophesy, so that others will be edified. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Discussion Questions

- Do you know your spiritual gift? What is your spiritual gift?
- Do you know how to operate in your gift? Have you been equipped to serve?
- Have you developed your spiritual gift?
- Are you serving in the local body? What area are you called to serve in?
- Does your serving bring you great joy?
- Are you using your gift to serve other people in the body?
- Are there opportunities in the church for you to serve, and are you encouraged to serve?

Mature Believer Is A Functioning Member

Introduction (Eph 4:11–16)

1. **Knows his gifts and calling** (Eph 4:16, Rom 12:4-8, 1 Cor 12:1-10, 1 Pet 4:10, Nu 11:25–26, Eph 4:11, Je 1:5, 1 Cor 14:3)

2. **Has been equipped to serve** (Eph 4:11-16)

3. **Is a properly functioning member in the body** (Eph 4:16)

Conclusion and Applications (Heb 10:24–25, Ro 12:1)