

GROW

Our Little Preacher

Foundation Statement: *God has a specific model of how the body of Christ is supposed to function in the Earth. When we function according to that model we will be effective in what we do. God gave the 5-fold ministry gifts to perfect the saints so that the saints would be equipped for the work of the ministry and the work of their ministry would edify the body of Christ. Satan always endeavors to pervert God's model and it's deceptive perversion because the model he produces always seems right. Without direct ministry from and exposure to the 5-fold ministry gifts the believer won't grow the way they should. If we are going to grow up we need to make much of the Word and much of the vehicles God uses to get you that word. If all you needed to grow up was a Bible God wouldn't have given you these gifts.*

I. Ephesians 4:12-This is God's model for how the body of Christ is supposed to function; 5-Fold Ministry gifts are perfecting the saints, the saints are working their ministry, the body is being edified

- A. One of the avenues by which God planned for us to grow is the 5-Fold ministry gifts; God gave us these gifts so that we could be **perfected** (complete furnishing, equipping, to complete, make one what he ought to be)
1. **MSG-***He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.*
- B. Without direct ministry from and exposure to the 5-fold ministry gifts the believer won't grow the way they should
1. God called and anointed the 5-fold ministry gifts for the perfecting of the saints
 2. The person in the pew is going to be matured and developed to do the work of the ministry because God works through the person in the pulpit
 3. One reason you go to church is to be exposed to the gifting's that can grow you up – We are here to grow up, not to play church
- C. Satan always endeavors to pervert God's model, but it's deceptive perversion because the model he produces always seems right

1. The enemy has infected the system with the thought that the work of the ministry is the preacher's job. Why? If he can get the preacher running day and night doing "the work of the ministry," and leave him with no time left for the word of God and prayer then when the preacher gets up to preach it won't be anointed the way it needs to be anointed to nourish the people the way they need to be nourished-Acts 6:2
 - a. Not all preaching and teaching is anointed the same; There is teaching that feeds you more than other teaching
2. The one who is doing the preaching doesn't need to be doing the running; That's a faulty model (To the untrained eye it looks noble to have our good little preacher running around all week taking care of all us babies, but it's a faulty model that won't work)

II. If you're going to grow up you need to make much of the Word and much of the vehicles God uses to get you that word

- A. 1 Peter 2:1-3-We grow by the Word of God-If the Word is not giving priority and precedence growth will not be produced
 1. We should value the Word of God-Job 23:12, Psalm 119:72,127,103,131,162,167
 2. You won't desire what you don't value – If you don't value the word, you won't desire the Word and you won't grow
 3. Most people on the planet don't think enough of the Word of God to go to any kind of service or even own a Bible and read it
- B. Ephesians 4:8,11-We grow by the 5-fold ministry gifts
 1. These fivefold ministry gifts are gifts from God given to you and me – How should we treat these gifts from God?
 - a. We're not making much of a man or woman, but we are making much of the call and anointing on their lives because it's a gift from God given to us and if you treat it like it's nothing you are not just disrespecting the gift, you are disrespecting the one who gave you the gift
 - b. This is not about making much of flesh, this is about making much of God-Matthew 10:40, 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 2. If we value God, we value doing what God says; If we value doing what God says (our ministry) we value growing up; if we value growing up, we value the Word of God because we grow by the Word; If we value the word we value the vehicle or vessel God used to the Word to us-Romans 10:10-17
 - a. The Word of God and the vehicles God uses to get me that word, people that are mature, will esteem those two things very highly – If you don't value the word (which you grow by) and the five-fold ministry gifts (which you're perfected by) you won't grow
 - b. If all you needed to grow up was a Bible, God wouldn't have spoken about these ministry gifts in such a way