

## **AND HE GAVE... | The Gift of Spiritual Leadership**

In Ephesians 4, Paul calls believers to live lives worthy of their calling by pursuing unity, humility, and spiritual growth. He explains that Jesus, the victorious and exalted King, has given gifts to His church in the form of spiritual leaders who equip believers for ministry. The goal is not merely conversion or church attendance, but mature disciples who know Christ, serve others, stand firm in truth, and build up the body of Christ in love. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

### **Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-16**

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to guard the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

### **Additional Support:**

- Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).
- Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding (Jeremiah 3:15).
- For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock (Acts 20:27-29).
- Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to

you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away (1 Peter 5:1-4).

**Bible Refs:** [Ephesians 4:1-16](#); [Hosea 10:12](#); [Matthew 3:3](#); [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#); [Matthew 18:18-20](#); [Colossians 1:28](#); [Jeremiah 3:15](#); [Psalm 78:70-72](#); [Acts 20:27-29](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)  
[[SPANISH](#)]

## Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What stands out to you? What spoke to you?
2. Icebreaker: Share about a leader, coach, teacher, mentor, or pastor who had a significant impact on your life. What made their influence meaningful? What qualities did they demonstrate? How did they help you grow?
3. Verses 1-6: What is Biblical unity? Where does it come from? What attitudes does Paul identify as essential for maintaining Christian unity? What are some threats to unity today? How can you contribute to greater unity within the body of Christ?
4. Verses 7-11: In what ways are spiritual leaders gifts? What makes each leadership role uniquely valuable? Which do you relate to most? How have the gifts benefitted you??
5. Verses 12-16: What does it mean to be equipped for works of service? What is the goal of being equipped? Why is spiritual maturity so vital to the health of the Church? How can you use your gifts to serve others?
6. What are shepherds known for? What characteristics define a shepherd after God's heart? Can you think of a leader who served as a shepherd in your life? What impact did they have on you? How can you develop a greater concern for the spiritual well-being of others? Who can you encourage, disciple, or shepherd this week?
7. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

## A Few Takeaways

- Christian unity is not something we create; it is established in Christ. Our responsibility is to protect and cultivate that unity through love, humility, and peace.
- The gifts may be different, but the purpose is the same. Christ gives leaders to equip His people so the Church reaches unity in the faith and becomes mature.
- Every believer is called to participate in ministry. The goal of spiritual leadership is not to do all the ministry themselves, but to prepare believers to serve effectively. Healthy churches function best when every member does their part.
- God's goal is not merely conversion but maturity. Leadership in God's kingdom is not primarily about position or authority. It is ultimately about shepherding people toward Christlikeness; mature believers who are grounded in truth and growing in love.

**In Closing:** Ephesians 4 reminds us that God's vision for the church is a mature, and fully functioning body that walks in unity. Christ has provided the leadership gifts necessary for that growth, but every believer still has a part to play. Leaders who share God's heart of a shepherd equip believers to faithfully serve so that the church grows stronger, healthier, and more Christlike. The goal is not simply gathering people, but developing mature disciples who reflect the fullness of Christ and build one another up in love.