

## AND HE GAVE... | The Perfection of the Saints

One of God's primary purposes for the church is the spiritual maturity of His people. Christ gives spiritual leaders to equip believers so that the whole body grows to become more like Jesus. This is often referred to as “the perfection of the saints,” not meaning sinless perfection, but the ongoing work of making believers whole, mature, equipped, and fruitful. Like a broken bone being set or a torn net being repaired, God works through His church to heal, restore, and prepare His people for ministry. As believers grow in faith, knowledge, love, truth, and godliness, they become more like Christ and are better able to serve others. Spiritual maturity is not merely doing religious activities; it is the Holy Spirit transforming us from the inside out so that Christ's character is formed within us. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

**Bible Refs:** [Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#); [Colossians 1:9-28](#); [Philippians 1:3-11](#); [1 Timothy 4:1-16](#) [[SPANISH](#)]

### Main Points

1. Spiritual leaders are called to equip and restore believers so they can serve, grow, and help build up the body of Christ.
2. God's goal is not merely outward behavior modification. He is making us whole, transforming us into the image of Christ, and producing genuine righteousness from the inside out.
3. Healthy churches provide loving encouragement, honest correction, patient care, and practical support so believers can continue growing in Christ.
4. Spiritual maturity does not happen accidentally. It requires intentional training, faithful teaching, personal discipline, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

### Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What stands out to you? What is the focus?
2. According to Ephesians 4:12, what is the primary role of spiritual leaders? How does the biblical idea of "equipping" differ from simply teaching information? How does the imagery of setting a bone or mending a net help you understand the word "equip"? What signs of spiritual maturity are listed in verses 13-16? Why do you think God intends every believer to participate in ministry rather than leaving ministry to leaders alone?
3. How does Paul describe the kind of growth he prays for in believers in the verses above? Why is spiritual maturity more than simply being a "good person"? How does the imagery of a broken foot relate to how emotional, spiritual, or relational wounds affect our ability to love and serve others? What is the relationship between knowing God and living a life that pleases Him? Why is it important to understand that justification and sanctification both play a role in God's work in our lives? How does Philippians 1:6 encourage us in this?
4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12, what responsibilities do spiritual leaders have toward the church? According to Colossians 1:28, what was Paul's goal in teaching and admonishing believers? Why are instruction, correction, warning, and encouragement

all necessary parts of spiritual care? What warnings does Paul give concerning false teaching and spiritual deception? How does this play into the discussion?

5. How can believers help one another become spiritually healthy and mature? Why do people sometimes resist the help God provides through Christian community? Is the church a hospital or a courtroom? How might one's viewpoint factor into the discussion?
6. What does it mean to "train yourself to be godly"? How is spiritual training similar to physical training? Why are the spiritual disciplines of reading Scripture, prayer, holding to sound doctrine, and perseverance essential for spiritual growth?
7. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

### **A Few Takeaways**

- The perfection of the saints is the process of becoming spiritually mature and Christlike.
- Spiritual leaders equip believers, not merely to attend church, but to actively participate in ministry.
- True spiritual maturity includes unity, love, truth, wisdom, stability, and service.
- Healing and wholeness are important parts of Christian growth; God restores what is broken so believers can flourish.
- Moral transformation is the fruit of a growing relationship with Christ, not merely external rule-keeping.
- The church is designed to be a community of encouragement, instruction, correction, and healing.
- God completes the work He begins in His people. God always finishes what He starts!
- Spiritual disciplines such as Scripture, prayer, teaching, and faithful community train believers for godliness.
- The ultimate goal is not religious activity but becoming more like Jesus.

**In Closing:** The perfection of the saints is God's lifelong work of forming Christ within His people. Through spiritual leadership, biblical teaching, Christian community, healing, and personal discipline, believers are equipped to grow into maturity. As God restores what is broken and strengthens what is weak, the church becomes a healthy, unified body that reflects the character of Jesus. Our calling is to cooperate with God's work, trust His process, and continue pursuing Christlikeness until He completes what He has begun in us. This week, ask: "How can I become more whole and more like Jesus so that I can serve others well?"

## **Bible Readings**

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

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.

### **Colossians 1:9-12**

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

### **Philippians 1:6, 9-11**

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

### **1 Timothy 4:8, 15-16**

8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

### **Colossians 1:28**

28 Christ is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.