
Equipping: Believe, Grow, Serve and Stand (Part 4)
Ephesians 4:11-16 (KJV)

Ephesians 4:11-16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the **equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of **the fulness of Christ**: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be **no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up into him** in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ **From whom** the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

No more children tossed to and fro carried about by every wind of doctrine. Vs 14

I

We must change from being children to **becoming** mature disciples.

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I **spake** as a child, I **understood** as a child, I **thought** as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Childishness is marked by childish speaking.

Childishness is marked by childish **understanding**.

Childishness is marked by childish thoughts and thinking.

Your thoughts determine your actions “As a man thinks so is he”.

You are young once, but you can be childish forever.

🔑 To mature, you must change and put away childish things.

II

We must change from **babes** and grow up into full age.

We must change from the milk of the word to the meat of the word.

KJV Hebrews 5:12-14 For when for the time ye ought to be **teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of **milk**, and not of **strong meat**. ¹³ For every one that useth **milk** is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**. ¹⁴ But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of **full age**, even those who **by reason of use** have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

🔑 When you are a baby in Christ read through the Bible 15 pages a day. The average Bible has about 1500 pages in it and in a little over three months you will have read through the Bible.

🔑 Read the Bible repetitiously 7 to 8 chapters a day in the New Testament, this will take about 3 1/2 years to get through the New Testament.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to **reading**, to **exhortation**, to **doctrine**.

Encourage someone with what you have read.

And we mature as we teach others what we have read; what we have studied.

Strong meat belongs to those who have put their faith in the **practice**.

When the word comes off the page and is in your heart, in your head, in your hands and in your habits.

🔑 This is called a reasonable use of the word when it changes our **behavior** and our habits.

III

Mature people are full age and take **responsibility** for themselves and for others.

Mature people **embrace** the world bigger than themselves.

KJV Psalm 71:16-17 O God, thou hast taught me from my **youth**: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. ¹⁷ Now also when I am **old** and **grayheaded**, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto **this generation**, and thy power to every one that is **to come**.

There is a season where we are young and where we need to be taught.

There is a season when we are young and we teach what we have been **taught** and declare it.

🔑 A shift happens when we begin to show the **current** generation, the strength of the Lord.

A shift happens when we mature and show and **demonstrate** to everyone to come to His power.

🔑 Our assignment is not complete until we have shown this generation His Strength and everyone to come His power.

The assignment is the Elijah task!

🔑 There is a generational cry for impartation from a **credible** current generation.

🔑 There is a generational cry for help to **advance** the kingdom of God to their generation at this time.

🔑 There is a generational cry for fathers and mothers of the faith to show and **guide** them in the right way.

The assignment is to equip this generation to forcefully advance the kingdom of God!

This is called the Elijah task!

2 Kings 2:1-15 take them to Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and Jordan and teach them to stay eye to eye with you.

For those who make the journey let your mantle drop down on them.

🔑 It takes time to change and to grow.

🔑 In America, we want everything yesterday and tomorrow!”

In our kingdom, it’s different, you must grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man.

In our kingdom, to live is to grow, and to grow is to change.

🔑 *Equipping the Saints will take believing, growing, serving, and standing!*

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