



Discipleship Series
Study Guide #36

INWARD - STRENGTHENING GIFTS THAT BUILD THE BODY PASTORS & TEACHERS

Built for Unity, Knowledge, & Maturity | Ephesians 4:11-13

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.

GIFT FUNCTIONS

Pastors

The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues.

Teachers

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians.

LET'S SEE THESE FUNCTIONS IN SCRIPTURE

The Function of Pastor: Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

The Function of Teacher: Read 1 Timothy 4:13-16

LET'S OBSERVE THE TEXT...

Observe Ephesians 4:12-13

- **Verse 12** - to _____ his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be _____ up
- **Verse 13** - until we all reach _____ in the _____ and in the _____ of the _____ of God and become _____, attaining to the _____ measure of the fullness of _____.
 - Unity is clearly defined here. Not to be unified about any random thing, but unity of the *faith* and *knowledge* of Jesus. So that we may attain (be formed) wholly and completely into the image of Christ.
 - We see a clear picture of the heart of Christ that we are to replicate in His Sermon on the Mount (Book of Matthew, chapters 5-7)



CONCORDANCE

- Pastor** (poimén)
Strong's G4166
Found in Ephesians 4:11
- Teacher** (didaskalos)
Strong's G1320
Found in Ephesians 4:11
- Preaching** (paraklésis)
Strong's G3874
Found in 1 Timothy 4:13

Observe 1 Peter 5:1-4

- **Verse 2** - What should be the posture of heart a shepherd must have for the flock of God?
- **Verse 3** - What is a shepherd not to do? What should they do with their own life?
- **Verse 4** - Who is the shepherd / pastor accountable to
 - Since this verse follows immediately after what is stated in verse 3, what can we conclude the shepherd will be rewarded for?
 - What does this tell you about Father God's heart for His church / children?

Observe 1 Timothy 4:13-16

- **Verse 13** - Let's dissect this verse:
 - Paul tells Timothy to be committed to publicly reading scripture, because the people didn't all have scripture in their possession. They relied on public reading to hear it.
 - Be devoted to *preaching*. If you have not already, do a concordance search on the meaning of this word in Greek. To encourage, uplift, comfort. This reflects / mimics the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Be devoted to teaching. To ensure that God's people have sound doctrine, and not to be swayed by false teaching.
- **Verse 14** - Steward the gift. Pastors & teachers are to apply themselves to continually sharpen their gift through their own studying. Always a student, eager to learn themselves. This gift is not man made, but from the Holy Spirit. It was revealed to Timothy when elders prayed & prophesied over him.
- **Verse 15** - Growth in a pastor & teacher should be evident to all. We haven't "arrived". Modeling progress in growth.
- **Verse 16** - *Watch your _____ and _____ closely.*
 - Having sound doctrine is not enough. We win people over by practicing what we preach.



ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Observe Ephesians 4:13

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for **Ephesians 4:13** in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

This study reminds us that pastors and teachers are not given to the Church for status or spotlight, but for strengthening people. According to Ephesians 4:11-13, these gifts exist so the body of Christ may be built up, not fractured or impressed. Pastors care for people and protect their spiritual health, while teachers ground believers in truth so faith does not drift. Together, these gifts serve one shared goal, unity in the faith and maturity in Christ.

When we look at 1 Peter 5:1-4, we see that pastoral leadership is shaped by posture, not power. Shepherds are called to care willingly, not under compulsion, and to lead by example rather than control. This shows us that God deeply values how His people are treated. Pastors build up the body when they reflect God's heart, serving with humility and remembering they are accountable to the Chief Shepherd.

In 1 Timothy 4:13-16, teaching is shown as a steady and disciplined commitment to Scripture, encouragement, and sound doctrine. Teachers help the Church grow by helping people understand who Jesus is and what following Him actually looks like. Paul makes it clear that teaching is not only about what is said, but how it is lived. Life and doctrine together shape credibility and protect the Church from being pulled off course.

Ultimately, Ephesians 4:13 brings everything into focus. The goal is not information, influence, or spiritual talent, but formation into the likeness of Christ. Pastors and teachers build up the body when they help people know Jesus more deeply, grow together in unity, and move toward spiritual maturity. These gifts are acts of stewardship, entrusted by God to strengthen His Church until we reflect the fullness of Christ together.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Pastors / Shepherds - Applying 1 Peter 5:1-4

Application Question

How do I actively participate in the care and direction God provides through shepherds, rather than remaining distant or passive in the life of the church?

Deeper Question

If Christ is the Chief Shepherd, how might He be inviting me to surrender independence in order to experience deeper formation and unity within His body?

Teachers - Applying 1 Timothy 4:13-16

Application Question

How intentional am I about regularly engaging with Scripture so my faith is grounded in truth rather than opinion or emotion?

Deeper Question

As Paul instructs Timothy to watch his life and doctrine closely, where might there be a gap between what I know to be true and how I am actually living it out before others?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father God, we thank You for every gift You have given to Your church, especially the gifts of pastors and teachers who care for us, guide us, and ground us in truth. We acknowledge that these gifts come from You and are meant to build up the body of Christ, leading us toward unity in the faith and maturity in the knowledge of Your Son, as You have shown us in Your Word. Shape our hearts to receive shepherding with humility and to hunger for sound teaching that forms both our lives and our doctrine.



As we close this series on the Gifts of the Spirit, remind us that nothing we have is self-owned, but entrusted for Your glory. Teach us to walk in obedience, dependence, and love, so Your Spirit may continue forming us into one body that reflects the fullness of Christ. May our lives bear lasting fruit and point others to You until we are fully conformed to Your image. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

WHAT'S AHEAD...

New Series
The Way: A Spirit-Led Life
Formation at the Table