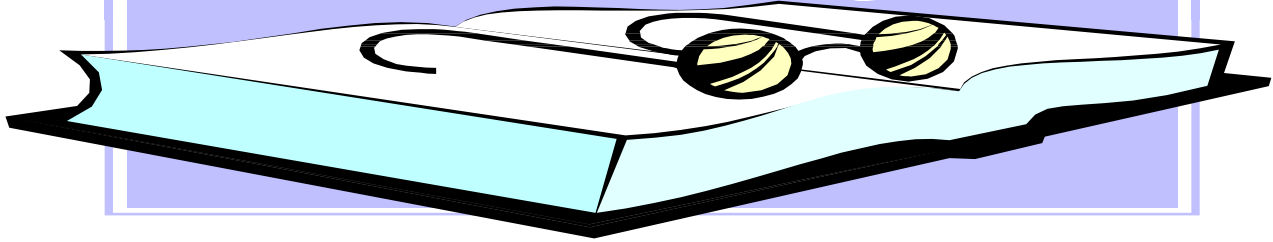


# BIBLE

*Study*



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Topic:  
**“Edifying the Body of Christ”**

## BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

### Edifying the Body of Christ

#### Lesson #1: “Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry”

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:7-12

**PROPOSITION:** The Body of Christ is edified as converted Christians use their spiritual gifts and as gifted leaders equip the saints for their works of ministry.

#### **I. Christ ascended on high in order to give the Church the power and spiritual gifts. (7-10)**

- A. Christ ascended on high. (Eph. 4: 8-10; John 3:13; 20:17)
  - 1. He was received into heaven. (Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:9-11)
  - 2. He was seated at the right hand of God. (Acts 2:33, 38, 39; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3)
  - 3. He was highly exalted. (Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:9-11)
- B. Christ descended into the lower parts of the earth. (Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 2:4)
  - 1. He descended in order to destroy him who had power over death, the Devil.
  - 2. He descended in order to release those bound by the fear of death.
  - 3. He descended in order to lead captivity captive.
- C. Christ gave gifts to men. (Eph. 4:7, 8)
  - 1. He gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to saints. (Acts 1:8; 2:33, 38, 39)
  - 2. He gives spiritual gifts to saints. (Rm. 12:6-8; 1 Co. 12:4-11, 28-30; Eph. 4:7-11)

#### **II. Christ gave the Church gifted leaders to equip the saints for the work of ministry. (11, 12)**

- A. The Body of Christ is edified through the ministry of gifted leaders. (11)
  - 1. Apostles: those with the gift to plant churches and provide oversight
  - 2. Prophets: those with the gift to speak God’s special message to the church
  - 3. Evangelists: those with the gift to share the gospel and train others to do so
  - 4. Pastors: those with the gift to care for souls and nurture them to maturity
  - 5. Teachers: those with the gift to teach the saints to obey God’s Word
- B. The Body of Christ is edified as gifted leaders equip saints for the work of ministry. (12)
  - 1. They must assist them with their spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12:4)
    - a. They must help them discover their spiritual gifts.
    - b. They must help them develop their spiritual gifts.
    - c. They must help them use their spiritual gifts.
  - 2. They must assist them with their ministries. (1 Cor. 12:5)
    - a. They must help them discover their ministries.
    - b. They must help them fulfill their ministries.
  - 3. They must assist them with their operations. (1 Cor. 12:6)
    - a. They must help them discover their operation.
    - b. They must help them function in their operation.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

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### **Edifying the Body of Christ**

#### **Lesson #2: “Nurturing the Saints to Maturity in Christ”**

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:13-16

**PROPOSITION: The Body of Christ is edified as gifted leaders are faithful in nurturing the saints to maturity in Christ.**

**I. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints are properly disciplined. (13)**

- A. The saints must be brought into the unity of the faith.
- B. The saints must be brought into the knowledge of the Son of God.
- C. The saints must be brought to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**II. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints are nurtured to maturity in Christ. (14)**

- A. The saints must be nurtured in order to grow to maturity in Christ.
- B. The saints must be nurtured in order to avoid the pitfalls of immaturity.
  - 1. Spiritual instability
  - 2. Spiritual vulnerability
  - 3. Spiritual gullibility

**III. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints show maturity in their communication. (15)**

- A. The saints must communicate (speak).
- B. The saints must communicate honestly (speak the truth).
- C. The saints must communicate graciously (speak the truth in love).

**IV. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints faithfully do their part. (16)**

- A. The Body of Christ is held together by what each joint supplies.
- B. The Body of Christ grows as each part does its share.