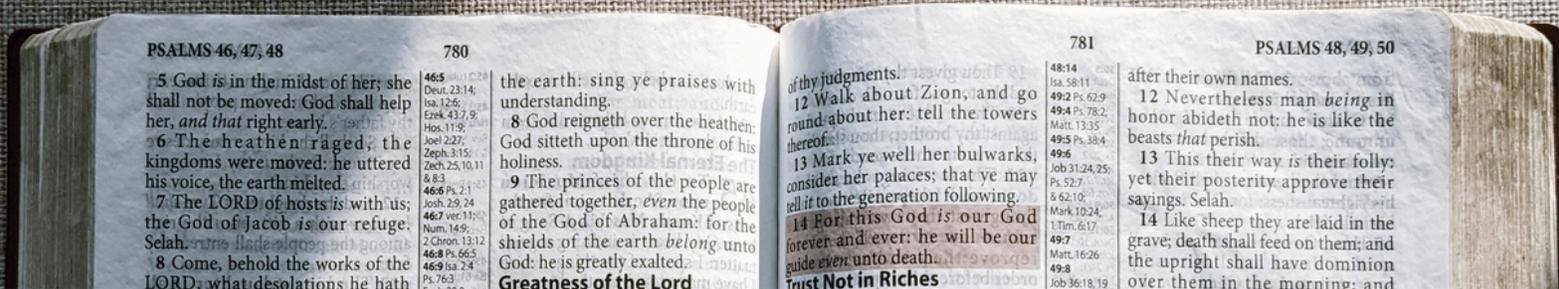


Sermon Weekly Devotions



“Unity in Christ: Embracing Our Gifts Together”

Day 1: Unity in the Body of Christ

The unity of the body of Christ is essential for the church to function as God intends; when one part suffers or is out of sync, the whole body is affected. Just as physical pain in one area can impact a person’s entire well-being, so too can disunity or neglect of our spiritual gifts disrupt the health and mission of the church. God calls each member to work together, care for one another, and share the good news in harmony, so that the church can be a powerful witness to the world. When we invest in God’s Word together and use our gifts in concert, we experience the fullness of Christ’s love and purpose for us as His people. [36:01]

Ephesians 4:1-7 (ESV)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Reflection: Is there a relationship or area in your church life where you sense disunity or distance? What is one step you can take today to move toward reconciliation or deeper connection with that person or group?

Day 2: Christ Gives Gifts to All Believers

Jesus, the conquering King, has given spiritual gifts to every believer—not just to a select few—so that the whole church may be built up and equipped for ministry. These gifts are distributed according to Christ’s wisdom and purpose, and each one of us is called to discover, develop, and use our gifts for the good of the body. Whether our strengths are in pioneering new ministries, developing and nurturing others, teaching, shepherding, or evangelizing, every gift is needed and valuable. When we recognize and honor the diversity of gifts among us, we reflect the generosity and grace of Christ, who equips His people for every good work. [41:24]

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Reflection: What is one spiritual gift or area of service you sense God has given you? How can you intentionally use or develop that gift this week to bless others in your church or community?

Day 3: Growing in All Aspects of Christlikeness

We are called not only to recognize our primary spiritual gifts but also to grow in all areas of Christlikeness, striving to mature in every aspect of faith and service. Jesus Himself is the perfect apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher, and as His followers, we are invited to grow in each of these areas, even those that may not come naturally to us. This growth happens as we learn from others, step out of our comfort zones, and allow God to stretch us through new experiences and challenges. In doing so, we become more like Christ and better equipped to serve His purposes in the world. [54:04]

Ephesians 4:14-16 (ESV)

So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Reflection: Which aspect of Christ's character or ministry (apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, teacher) do you find most challenging? Who could you learn from or partner with to grow in that area this month?

Day 4: Saved by Grace for Good Works Together

Our salvation is a gift of grace through faith, not a result of our own efforts, but God has also prepared good works for us to do together as His people. We are not saved by our works, but we are saved for a purpose: to walk in the good works God has set before us, in unity with one another. This calling is both individual and communal, as we encourage, support, and spur one another on to love and good deeds. When we embrace our identity as God's workmanship and step out in faith together, we become a living testimony to His grace and power in the world. [56:22]

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Reflection: What is one "good work" God may be inviting you to join with others in this week? How can you take a step of faith to participate, even if it feels outside your comfort zone?

Day 5: Confession, Grace, and the Power of Community

We all fall short, sometimes hiding our gifts, causing division, or failing to encourage one another, but God's grace is greater than our failures. When we confess our sins and bring our pain, shame, and struggles to Christ and to one another, we receive forgiveness and healing. The church is called to be a place where we support each other, pray for one another, and walk together through both joys and hardships. In this community of grace, we are made whole and empowered to go out and share the good news of Jesus with the world. [01:00:02]

James 5:16 (ESV)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Reflection: Is there a burden, sin, or struggle you've been carrying alone? Who is a trusted fellow believer you can reach out to today for prayer, support, or confession?