

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

Ephesians 4:12-16

Introduction

- The spiritual growth of the local church...
 - is crucial to the spiritual well-being of all the members of the local congregation.
 - is only possible when the members are *“endeavoring to the keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Introduction

- The Lord has given the local church everything it needs to promote spiritual growth.
- In the first part of this lesson, we saw...
 - The need to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - The need for proper leadership and teachers.
- In this lesson, we will talk about the need for ongoing effort.

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**The Need for
Ongoing Effort**

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- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. ***vs 12***
 - Involves teaching sound doctrine. ***2 Tim 2:1-2***
 - Paul's admonition to Timothy. ***2 Tim 1:13-14; 4:1-3***
 - The responsibility of the elders. ***Titus 1:7-9***
 - This is why we have multiple services and Bible classes.

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- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. ***vs 12***
 - This would also involve ministering to one another. ***1 Pet 4:7-11***
 - This requires an attitude of submission and humility. ***1 Pet 5:5***
 - This also requires an attitude of love and like-mindedness. ***Phil 2:1-4***

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- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - **Building up the body of Christ. *vs 12-15***
 - To the *unity of the faith*.
 - To the *full knowledge of the son of God*.
 - To *spiritual maturity and to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*.
 - To *speaking the truth in love*.
 - To *grow up in all things into Christ*.

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - Keeping us unified and growing together through Jesus Christ. ***vs 15-16***
 - When each member grows to maturity, they both know and speak the truth in love.
 - When each member speaks the truth in love, the body grows together in Christ. ***vs 15***

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- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - Keeping us unified and growing together through Jesus Christ. ***vs 15-16***
 - Every member promotes the growth of the body when they do their part.
 - This action results in the growth of the local body *“for the edifying of itself in love.” vs 16*

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - Keeping us working together to fulfill the needs of the local church. ***Rom 12:3-8***
 - Those who prophesied the word and will of God.
 - *After the age of inspiration, this role is continued by pastors (elders) and evangelists.*
 - Those who ministered or served others.
 - Those who taught God's word to others.

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- **The Need for Ongoing Effort. *Eph 4:12-16***
 - Keeping us working together to fulfill the needs of the local church. ***Rom 12:3-8***
 - Those who exhorted and encouraged others in the things of God.
 - Those who gave with liberality.
 - Those who led with diligence.
 - Those who showed mercy with cheerfulness.

Conclusion

- This local church must continue to grow spiritually in order to properly serve the Lord and proclaim His message to the world around us.
 - *“but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*
1 Tim 3:15

Conclusion

- We are to:
 - Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - Maintain proper leadership and teaching.
 - Keep putting forth the ongoing effort to grow and edify one another.