# *Fully Equipped to Overcome Spiritual Weakness*
## *Ephesians 4:11-16*

***Big Idea:*** *Because Jesus Christ greatly loves His Church,*
*He does not* ***create*** *or* ***approve of*** *spiritually weak Christians.*

## 1. The Church needs godly Christian _____. *(Eph. 4:11)*

- Jesus **gave** **His Church gifts** in the form of spiritual leaders:
  - Apostles and Prophets – *no longer operational*
  - Evangelists
  - Shepherds (Pastor-teachers)

## 2. The Church needs to be spiritually _____ for ministry. *(Eph. 4:12-14)*

- Spiritual leaders are given for **the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry.** *(vs. 12-13)*
  - *Involves the spiritual* ***edification*** *(illustration #1) of the* ***Body*** *of Christ (illustration #2).*
  - *Involves attaining…*
    - *The unity of the faith*
    - *The knowledge of the Son of God*
    - *Spiritual maturity*
    - *Identifying with Jesus Christ in both mind and practice*
- Spiritual leaders are given for **combating spiritual weakness/immaturity within the Church.** *(vs. 14)*
  - *Spiritual immaturity keeps one ungrounded & fickle.*
  - *The spiritually immature can be easily led away into false & dangerous doctrines.*
  - *The spiritually immature can be easily deceived by worldly & humanistic schemes.*

**3. The Church needs to be ministering the _____ of the Gospel to itself in _____. *(Eph. 4:15-16)***

- Spiritual maturity comes through personal demonstration of the truth in love.
    - *Biblical truth and love will mature Christians into the image of Christ. (vs 15)*
    - *Biblical truth and love will mature Christ's Church into the ultimate reality of spiritual health and vitality. (vs. 16)*

## Two Observations

**1.** The Church is **designed and gifted by Jesus Christ** to be spiritually mature, equipped, fit, and strong.

**2.** Therefore, Jesus Christ never gives His Church **an excuse or an exception** to remain (or become) spiritually immature, unfit, or weak. **(Revelation 2-3!)**

## Four Questions

**1.** How are you **praying** for your church family?

**2.** How are you **pursuing** being fully equipped for church ministry?

**3.** How are you **actively ministering** the truth of the Gospel in love to your church family?

**4.** How are you **being ministered to** by your church family with the truth of the Gospel in love?

## Application

**1.** **Be serious** about becoming a spiritually strong Christian.

**2.** **Be unselfish** in ministering to one another within your church family.

**3.** **Be "all in"** when it comes to your role and responsibility as a member of the Body of Christ.