

Attaining a Measure

† **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.

To help with the on-going growth and equipping of the people of God, the Holy Spirit has gifted some to be the spiritual encouragers and leaders. Not all are so gifted, but those who are, have been given a responsibility to use the Word of God to strengthen and encourage. The 'equipping' in verse 12, will be most effectively accomplished as the study of God's Word becomes central to your life. Your spiritual leaders help you to become ever more mature in your life of living for the LORD. We aren't all gifted to be a pastor, but we can all use our gifts to serve the church.

While we are young, our understanding of God's will is limited in part because of our lack of life experiences. As we get older, learning more about life and especially God's Word, it becomes easier to understand and apply what we learn from Scripture. This spiritual maturity is one of the 'goals' of being a child of God. Obtaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ is the spiritual goal of every believer.

Being sinners makes it impossible to be completely like Christ, but it doesn't remove the goal of being more Christ-like as we daily repent. Working towards maturity as a Christian shows changes in behavior, attitude, and what is important to us. Wanting to be more like Jesus is a maturity in the faith. Complete maturity will not happen until heaven, but we press on toward that goal. Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.