

I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God IN KING JESUS. (Philippians 3:14)

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Unity of the Faith—United in the Son’s Faith

There is **one body** and **one spirit**; you were, after all, called to **one hope** which goes with your call. There is **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and father of all**, who is over all, through all, and in all. But **grace was given to each one of us**, according to the measure the king used when **he was distributing gifts**. (Ephesians 4:4-7 Kingdom NT [bold added])

And He Himself gave, on the one hand (indeed), the ones sent with a commission (the apostles), yet also the prophets, and on the other hand those who announce good news (the evangelists), and the shepherds and teachers, toward the preparation (mending; knitting together; adjusting; repairing; perfectly adjusted adaptation; equipping; completely furnishing) of the set-apart (holy) ones unto (into) a work (action; deed) of attending service, unto (into) construction (building the house) of the body of the Christ, until we all may come down to the goal (attain; arrive at; meet accordingly; meet down face-to-face) into **the state of oneness (unity) of the Faith, and of the full, experiential and intimate knowledge** (recognition; discovery) **of the Son of God, into** (unto) **a perfect** (complete; finished; mature; full-grown) **man**, into (unto) [the] measure of stature (full age; prime of life) of the entire contents (of that which fills up; of the fullness; of the complement; of the full number; of **the completing**) **of the Christ**, (Ephesians 4:11-13 JM-NT)

Alternate reading: Then we shall reach the stature of the mature Man measured by the standards of the king’s fulness. (Ephesians 4:13 Kingdom-NT [bold added])

Instead, we must speak the truth in love, and so grow up in everything into him—that is, into the king, who is the head. He supplies the growth that the whole body needs, linked as it is and held together by every joint which supports it, with each member doing its own proper work. Then the body builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16 Kingdom-NT)

Before getting to the meat of the message, here are some opening thoughts.

First, the NASB and other translations state that He gave *some to be*, implying He didn’t give *many to be*. Over the years, many have taken upon themselves (i.e., apart from being directed by the spirit of the Lord) these giftings, making them official titles, demanding they be treated as an “anointed one” or a special “man of God”. This I have witnessed firsthand.

Second, Paul seems to join pastor and teacher together as if they are one gifting (i.e., a teaching shepherd). This would make it the *four-fold ministry*. **But then again, why do we even need to refer to it in this fashion in the first place, thus elevating the five or four to some big-time ministerial status?** Once a label is attached to something scriptural, it inevitably takes on greater significance than intended. This is a prime example. Besides, in Ephesians, Paul’s emphasis is on *grace was given to each one of us, according to the measure the king used when he was distributing gifts*. Notice: gifts were given to each one of us, not a few of us. It’s time we throw out the concept of big-time ministries of the “some” and return to the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ of the many.

Third, the sole purpose of the *some to be* is for perfecting and building up the saints in love. The emphasis is not so much on their gifting—that is, simply four or five out of any number of giftings that the Lord sees fit to grace His body with as the needs arise—as it is on their responsibility to the body of Christ. They work for (i.e., serve) the body as a member of it, not the other way around. To put it bluntly, the ones gifted in this way are nothing special; they are integral to the body of Christ, just as every single member of the body is. Within the body, Christ must be all in all—meaning all must decrease so that Christ increases in all, filling His entire body with His life.

Fourth, the work of service (ministry) is one work, not many, meaning that the *some to be* are representative of this one work of the many, not central to it.

Thus, when taken as a whole, one can’t help but notice that Paul’s emphasis is not on a special group gifted in a certain way, but rather on the entire body of Christ being gifted for the sole purpose of being built up together in love into the complement or full measure of *the* Christ, the mature Man, not only patterned after but also manifested as the Son of God, both Head and body (of many sons) in oneness.

Anything, even a prophecy, that does not line up with God’s building work of oneness, centered in His Son and His ultimate purpose of all in all, must be rejected. To achieve His ultimate purpose, God will have many sons patterned after His Son—that is, conformed and transformed into His image—many sons of glory, corporately united as one body. Those that stress [*“five ministry-gift anointings”*](#) as if they are official titled positions that have some special anointing over and above the anointing that has been given to the entire body of Christ miss the heart of the Lord, as expressed through Paul. In so doing, the emphasis is misplaced—those that call themselves one of the so-called *five-fold anointed ministers* need to be extremely cautious that their flesh doesn’t take hold and they become a platform ministry that woos an adoring audience with their “power”. To repeat, those gifted in one of these ways are not the top of a hierarchical structure, as if they are intermediators between the body and the Head—they are part of the every joint that supplies.

Repeating Mitchell's rendering but with some modification: the goal is to arrive at **the state of oneness, the unity of *the* Faith, and of the full, experiential and intimate knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect, complete, finished, mature, full-grown man, into the measure of stature of the fullness of the Christ.**

To this, we need to add another word from Paul: Christ ... **as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement (fullness) of the One completing the all in all** (Ephesians 1:22-23 CLV).

So, at the start of his epistle, Paul lays out the fact that, as Jesus' body, the ekklesia is full of Christ (i.e., *the* Christ; 1 Corinthians 12:12), the very one who fills or completes all in all (or: all things), which, in turn, leads to 1 Corinthians 15:28, where Paul declares God's ultimate purpose is to fill all in all. This makes the Lord's ekklesia an integral part of God's plan to achieve His purpose. So that no one misses this most important point: Christ's mission is to complete the all in all for God, but He is not going to do this alone—He requires a complement of Himself, much like He Himself is a complement of God. On earth, the beloved Son was the visible image of the invisible God who called forth a body for Himself that would be in His image (filled with His life by His spirit of the truth) on earth after He rose in glory. The Lord made it clear to Peter that He will build His ekklesia. Do any of us truly believe He is going to fail to do so? Of course, not! But here's the point: He is building one body (or: one house of God, a temple in the Lord) with Himself as the Head. He is not building a divided one with many little heads, meaning the five-fold "whatevers" are not the heads of His ecclesia; they are part of the every joint-supplying member of His body. Each and every member has the very same goal that the Lord Himself is bringing about: to arrive at the oneness, the unity of [*the faith*](#). As stressed of late, the faith is the faith of Jesus that we were given at the outset of our new-creation life. But this poses a new question: **What is the faith of Jesus? Simply, it is the Son's faith in His Father.** So, when we receive the Son's faith, we receive the same faith He has in His Father.

The most sublime words of faith ever uttered from the mouth of man came as God's Son was dying on the cross: *Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit* (Luke 23:46).

My dear brethren, this is *the* faith. It is committing all into the hands of our heavenly Father who loves us. Jesus' faith was in putting His whole life into the Father's hands, no matter the outcome. **Your will, will be done, and to You will go all the glory!** If the Father wanted Him to stay in the grave subject to decay, it would have happened. Thank God; the Father willed resurrection and glorification for His beloved Son, in whom He was well-pleased. This is the faith that must fill the body of Christ as we exercise our multi-various giftings while we press on toward the unity of the faith. Each and every member of the body must die to self, committing their death into the hands of the Father of all.

By the way; the faith is not about everyone holding to the same doctrine. Fact of the matter is, it is not so much about doctrine. The Author and Perfecter of the faith has made it quite clear in John 17:3 that it is all about relationally and experientially knowing God and Jesus Christ—the Anointed. This is life in God's age—[eonian life](#).

The one and only way for any of us to arrive at the full goal of unity is by coming into the **full, experiential and intimate knowledge of God and His Son**. This is what it means to come into His presence while we still occupy these bodies of death.

Take note of how, in Ephesians, Paul pivots from using the title *Christ* to using the deeply relational concept of *Son*. This unity has everything to do with *the* faith and a father-son relationship, and nothing to do with title. We approach our God by sonship, not by title, and true sons know their father.

To repeat: this speaks to eonian life or life in God's age of knowing God and Jesus Christ, the one He sent. We know the Father through the Son, and we know the Son through life's experiences that drive us deeper and deeper into an intimate knowing of the Son.

If we know the Son, we know the Father. If we have the faith the Son has in His Father, then we too have the same faith in the Father. When we are called to take up our cross in life's experiences, dying to self, we too commit our lives to our heavenly Father. All of this leads to the goal of sonship.

Yes, there is an individual component to all of this, but it is driving toward making all of us together into a corporate expression **unto a perfect, complete, finished, mature, full-grown man, into the measure of stature of the fullness of the Christ**. Using Paul's earlier description of the ekklesia, which is the body of Christ, the unity of the faith leads to a body that is a full complement of Christ, fully grown into all that He is—that is, the many sons of glory.

Now, where does this leave the so-called *five-fold ministry*? Well, it doesn't put them on the platform to be exalted as anointed ones or as "men of God". It puts them among the brethren as members of the one body. There is no platform and audience in the body of Christ.

See: [Do Not Be Called](#)

Their mission or, if you like, their work is to equip the rest of the body with their gifting, meaning the entire body is to manifest all that is associated with being sent forth, prophesying (hearing and knowing the heart of God), proclaiming the good news, and taking up the care for one another and sharing with one another the Reality of the Son

of God. The sharing of Reality comes through the experiential and intimate knowledge of the Son.

You see; if the misnamed *five-fold ministry* does its task well, there will be less need for them; perhaps putting themselves out of a job, leaving them to sit among the brethren, applauding how well the body is functioning. In my book, this is the definition of successfully equipping the saints.

In the early years of my working career, I recall my dad advising me to never train anyone to the point they could do my job. In other words, never train a replacement for yourself. I respectfully disagreed with my dad, for to me, the greatest legacy I could leave was to have someone take my place that could not only do my job, but do it much better than I did. By the way; this is exactly what I did and what happened. I would call this a truth, something I intuitively knew before the Lord broke into my life.

Interestingly, this is the same pattern we see in the first apostles, even in John the Baptist: *He must increase and I must decrease!* The effectiveness of any work of the Lord is based in this principle: the more we decrease, the more Jesus increases, until it is no more of us and all of Him! This is the measure of spiritual effectiveness.

Unfortunately, in our day, the five-fold ministry, at least outwardly, has largely failed. Why? Because it has grown into a platform ministry to showcase a gifting that has been sold as the [anointing](#) that uniquely resides in (or: upon) a select few and not the entire body of Christ. The euphemistic platform ministry has become a hierarchy of official positions over the [nominal](#) church, drawing attention to itself, even as it lifts up the name of Jesus. The result is that the centrality and preeminence of Christ is lost and those caught in the web of this platform ministry are ill-equipped to function as a body.

Today, many are saying a great awakening is coming. However, there seems to be two types of awakenings being talked about. The first is an awakening of the general population to the evil that is working overtime to destroy humanity. Added to this is an awakening to the lies and deception we have been fed by governments, the establishment, the media, and the deep state. The second is an awakening of God's people—that is, revival is coming. To be sure, there are various views of what this will look like.

I agree with this first view, for there are signs that more within the general population are waking up to the [dark force of evilism](#) in our day. How many and how far this will go, we'll have to wait and see, but there does seem to be some momentum at the moment. Will it survive and grow stronger through the [massive event](#) that is coming, or will it succumb to it? The Lord knows.

[As an aside, after posting the word about a massive event coming, I have noted many others saying the same thing, generally worded as “something big is coming”.]

Those who have been reading my posts should know by now that I do not share the latter view of revival, based on what the Lord has spoken to me over many years. The great awakening that is coming is not top down, as in the existing mislabeled five-fold ministry leading the charge of a revival. It is going to be a full-bodied [great awakening of our true identity](#) in Christ and Christ in us and what it means to have the anointing, the spirit of the truth residing in all of us. For more along this line, see: [Glory - Ultimate Freedom & Union](#).

This awakening is going to be in the streets (i.e., at the local level) and not on the platforms. It is going to be a full-bodied awakening to one another and what it means to be built together. It will be based in life and love, not in doctrine or any sort of emphases. It will be a brethren-to-brethren awakening, welling up from within the Lord’s people, manifesting among the many without name recognition and without platforms. Names, titles, ministries, or any of the existing trappings of today’s nominal church will have no part in this, as all will be united as brethren. There will no longer be any circus atmosphere filled with the flesh that permeates certain groups. There will only be boasting in the Lord, as no flesh will have any part in this. It will be led by the one spirit of God. **Its center of gravity will be King Jesus.** The good news is that this has [already begun](#).

The world is about to witness the greatest manifestation of unity built on God’s life, love, peace, righteousness, justice, and much more than has ever existed on planet earth. The power of God will burst forth through a people unknown to the world. They will manifest the reality of life as God has always intended it to be. Their names will not fill the marquees because there is room for only one name that doesn’t need to go on man’s billboards, for it is a name that is written on their hearts and emblazoned in the life they present to the world.

No names will be lifted up and associated with this awakening except the one name above all names—JESUS.

This great awakening will be a manifestation that proves God the Father of all sent forth His Son to reveal that [God is love](#). The unified life and love of the body of Christ will be the proof.