

# **In Order to Shift We Must Mature**



**Ephesians 4:5-17**

- Paul is expressing to the church of Ephesus that there is only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.
- Verse 7 – means that there is no excuse for us not being productive.
- Verse 12 – tells us why He gave some. We are to perfect the saints.
- God has put these perfecting gifts into the body of Christ so that we might teach the body of Christ.
- Verse 13 – how long should we do this? Until we come into a place called unity.
- Verse 14 – so that we will not be tricked.
- Verse 15 – so that we grow up into Christ.
- Verse 16 – There is a measure in your part.
- Once our gift is in operation it makes increase.
- Purpose: to mature us for our next assignment, to shift.
- Goal: for us to resolve in our hearts that we will shift as mature believers.
- Spiritual principles: Organization, Obedience, Authority, and Unconditional Love.
- Objectives: (1) We must mature in love; (2) We must mature in faith; (3) We must mature in knowledge; (4) We must mature in works; (5) We must mature in our togetherness.

1. We must mature for several reasons (Eph. 4:12-13).

- A. So that we can work our ministry.
- B. So that we can come into the unity of the faith.
- C. So that we will stop being tossed back and forth with every wind of doctrine.
- D. So that we will grow up and not be little children anymore.
- E. So that we might edify the body of Christ in love.

2. How do we mature (2 Pet. 1:1-9)?

- Verse 2 – He wants grace to be multiplied.
- Grace: “The empowering presence of God, enabling me to be what He has created me to be and enabling me to do what He has created me to do.”

- Verse 4 – all these promises have been given when I became a born-again Christian.
  - A. I must examine my virtue.
  - B. I must examine my knowledge.
  - C. Examine your temperance.
  - D. Examine your patience.
  - E. Examine your godliness (our witness).
  - F. Examine your brotherly kindness.
  - G. Examine your charity (love).
  
- 3. I must make a commitment to be different than the old (better).
  - A. I am going to be renewed in the spirit of my mind (Eph. 4:21-23).
  - B. I am going to be renewed in the inward man (2 Cor. 4:16).
  - C. I am going to be renewed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:2-5).
  - D. Be renewed in your mind (Rom. 12:1-2).