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COMMUNITY **DISCUSSION**  
**gr:ups** **GUIDE**

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**SERMON PASSAGE:** Ephesians 4:7-16

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**REVIEW THE SERMON**

1. Read the prep verse (Romans 12:4-8) and the sermon's Bible passage to recall the content.
  2. Briefly review the sermon outline:
    - a. The Great Exchange (vv. 7-10)
    - b. Every Christian is Gifted (vv. 11-12)
    - c. Every Christian has a Place (vv. 11-12)
    - d. Everyone in the Church Benefits When We Exercise Our Gifts and Find Our Place (vv. 13-16)
    - e. Application:
      - i. Look up and Eat up - Meaning the prioritize God's Word and His ways
      - ii. Step Up - Meaning God in His grace has saved you to service. You are gifted in Christ. Find your place. StepUp.
      - iii. Grow Up - Growing up is a byproduct of looking up, eating up, and stepping up as a Christian. 1 Cor 13:11 says, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways."
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## DIGGING DEEPER

### 1. What Are Your Spiritual Gifts?

Pastor Eric taught that every believer is gifted based on Eph 4:11-12. Read these other passages that contain representative lists of gifts and roles God has given to the church:

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30
- 1 Peter 4:9-11

Peter Wagner defines a spiritual gift as “a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God’s grace for use within the context of the Body.”<sup>1</sup> That is, a spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers which empowers them to serve the body of Christ, the church.

Do you know what your spiritual gifts currently are? There are many spiritual gift surveys available that can be used to help determine your spiritual gifts. [Click this link](#) to obtain a commonly used survey.

Take the survey and reflect on your perceived spiritual gifts.

- Note that children who have professed Christ as their Lord and Savior have the same Holy Spirit as adults. There is not a mini-version of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they can have spiritual gifts too.

Ask God how He wants to utilize your gifts to edify Living Hope Bryan.

Next, talk to one of the elders to see what opportunities for exercising your spiritual gifts exist for you to come alongside other members of the church.

### 2. Warning: Do Not Forget the Proper Motivation

Paul spends the first half of Ephesians (chapters 1-3) discussing doctrine (i.e., orthodoxy) and spends the second half of Ephesians (chapters 4-6) discussing how to practically live out doctrine (i.e., orthopraxy). This week’s and last week’s sermons focused on what it means to be a healthy church, namely to walk in unity and to grow and serve together.

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<sup>1</sup> C. Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*, Regal Books, 1979.

Did the church of Ephesus learn from Paul's letter and from being shepherded by Timothy? Were they a healthy church?

Fortunately, we do not have to guess. We have an assessment of the church ~30 years later by nonetheless Jesus Himself. Read Revelation 2: 1-3, 6.

The church was recognized for its works for Christ, for its patience and perseverance in the culture around them, and for being discerning about false teachers. The church was not straying from their doctrine nor their behavior.

However, read further verses 4-5. What happened?

The church was healthy in terms of several aspects, but they were straying in their affections. They were believing all the right things and doing all the right things, but a coldness had grabbed their hearts. They were lacking in Christ-centered love and compassion.

Reflect on your motivation for unity and service at Living Hope Bryan. Does it stem from a love for God and others or does it stem from family tradition, pride, or desire for recognition?



## PRAYER

1. Pray for how God wants you to exercise your spiritual gifts.
  2. Pray that we do not forget our motivation for having a healthy church, that we do not forget "our first love."
  3. Praise God that He has given us His Spirit that gifts us uniquely to edify Living Hope Bryan and to expand His kingdom.
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