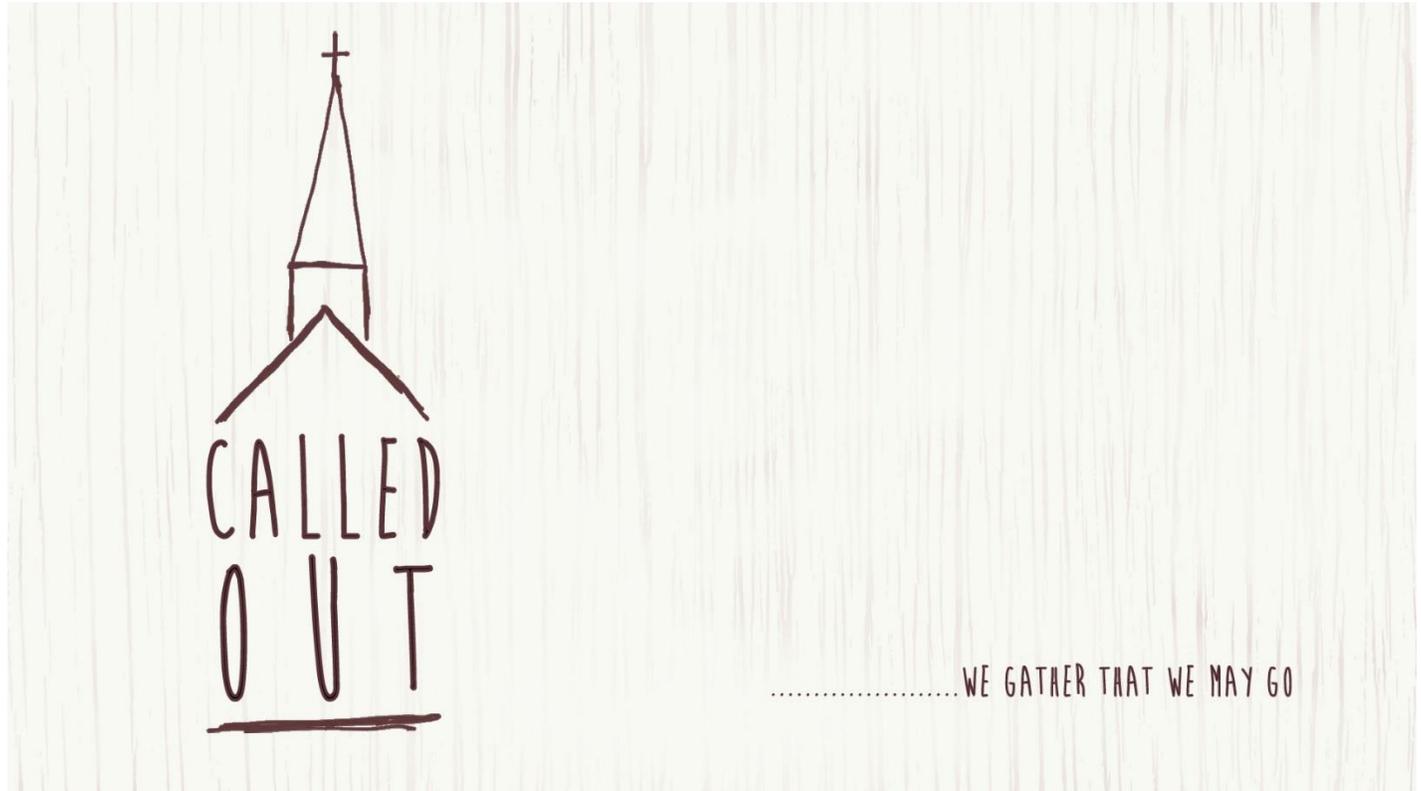


## CALLED TO MATURITY



### Notes:

1.

2.

3.

# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of January 19, 2019

Eph 4:7-16

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that Jesus gifts His church by gifting his individual people. What are your gifts and how are you putting them to practice in the church?
- 2 We also see that we are to grow in maturity to be like Jesus. What are practical ways in which you can grow to maturity in Christ?
- 3 As part of the body of Christ (the Church), our growth and maturity effects those around us and ultimately, effects the growth and unity of the church. How have you grown in your faith this past year? Have you had a positive or negative impact on the growth of the church? Explain.

## DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 **1 Cor 12:4-7, ESV** – <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

**Rom 12:3-8, ESV** – <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Looking at the passages above, explain why knowing and using one's gifts is so important?

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Using my gifts to serve within my church is an act of worship." Explain.

**2** *Heb 13:8-9, ESV* – <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup> Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

*Heb 5:13-6:2, ESV* <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. <sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Why does the writer of Hebrews exhort believers to press forward in spiritual maturity?

Looking at the passages above, we see that we are to avoid diverse and strange teachings. Describe a diverse and strange teaching that you have encountered. How did you know that it was not from Christ?

**3** *Phil 3:12-16, ESV* – <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

What compels Paul to move forward towards greater maturity? Does Paul think he is perfect in Christian maturity? Explain.

What hinders us from pressing toward the goal of maturity in Christ? How can we overcome these barriers?

## TAKING IT HOME

God has called us to spiritual maturity and ministry. Each of us has a responsibility to grow more like Christ and to fulfill the role He has called us to within the church. Is there something you need to change, get rid of, or new practice you need to implement? Take time this week praying about your spiritual walk and what your next steps need to be.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 3:13

Acts 2:33

1 Cor 13:11

Phil 2:9-11

Phil 3:10

Col 2:19

Heb 13:21