

# Living with New Eyes

## *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians*

### Study 9 | Ephesians 4:7-16

- 1. What do you think of when you hear someone is “gifted”? What do you think of when you hear the phrase “spiritual gifts”? Define “giftedness” and “spiritual gifts” from this passage.**

The purpose of this set of questions is to set the stage for a more in depth discussion of the themes in the passage itself. We'll do so by encouraging your group to think broadly about how they think of 'giftedness' at work and in their families. From a more religious standpoint, then, you can discuss how Christians think of spiritual giftedness. What are the accurate ways we normally think of giftedness? What are the unhealthy ways? Notice that in verse 7 of this passage, right out of the gates, Paul mentions that Christ's (immeasurable) gifts were given to each individual by his grace.

- 2. What are the gifts that Jesus gives to the church? For what many purposes are they given, according to Paul?**

This is perhaps the most important point in this study: Christ's gifts are *people*! Let me write it again: Christ's spiritual gifts to his church are people! To be sure, these are people who are given the grace equal to certain functions or tasks. Nevertheless, the gifts themselves are people: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. These people-gifts are given to the church to: 1) equip all the saints, 2) do the work of ministry, 3) build up the body of Christ. All of this is so that the whole church might attain: 1) the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of God, 2) mature manhood, 3) the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Continue to read verses 14-16...

- 3. What benefits do you receive from the gifts of others? What benefits do others receive from your gifts? Are Christ's appointed purposes for his gifts becoming manifest in our church?**

These questions, of course, are reflection/discussion questions. This will be a great opportunity to press the individuals in your group to identify the ways that Christ has graced them with gifts to contribute to the church at large. Make them be specific! Then ask in what ways they are using those gifts for the sake of others. Also get them to reflect more intentionally on the ways in which they receive the grace of others' gifts in service to them. Make them be specific! In all of this give and take, how is our little congregation becoming more unified and growing more and more into maturity in Christ-likeness?