

Each One Teach One Discipleship Lessons

Part Four:

FAITH THAT BUILDS UP

Participating in the Church of God

LESSON SIXTEEN:

SOME BODY NEEDS YOU

Congratulations! You are about to begin the final lesson in this course. We hope these lessons have, in some measure, accomplished the goals we outlined in the Introduction. We hope you have been enabled to:

1. Understand some of the most **basic principles** of faith in God.
2. Gain **assurance** in your standing as a child of God.
3. Realize the importance of **spiritual growth and maturity**.
4. Prepare to **lead others** to Jesus.
5. Prepare for positions of **service/leadership** in the Body.

The title of this lesson is "Some Body Needs You." The Body it refers to is a local *ekklesia*--assembly of called-out ones of Christ, a local fellowship group where you can take your place as an "eye" or "ear" or "finger"--or whatever part you have been called to be. Just as you **do** need to be a part of some local Body, where you may grow spiritually, be nourished, and nourish others, that Body needs **you**.

[Rom 12:4-8]

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

This passage by no means exhausts the kind of natural and spiritual gifts that individuals may have received from God to be used in service to others. Some gifts you may have been born with, such as lifting others up with a musical talent. Others you may receive through God's Holy Spirit at the time of your baptism, such as a gift of unusual faith to pray for the healing of others. Still others may be natural gifts **supernaturally** enhanced, such as a natural gift for teaching that is particularly empowered by God in the area of imparting understanding of Biblical principles.

[1Thes 5:11]

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

You need to meditate and pray for understanding on just what gifts God would have you use to build up others in the Body.

The gifts given to the individual members of the Church were given to “build up” the whole body. And you can't **build up** others if you don't **gather** with others:

[Hebrews 10:25]

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The "Day" spoken of here is the time of the return of the Lord to take up His Kingdom. The "signs of the times" surely seem to indicate that "Day" is fast approaching. So the admonition in Hebrews above is vital for every Christian. The Lord **doesn't** want “Lone Ranger Christians”!

We hope these lessons have emphasized to you that "putting in time" for two hours one day a week to satisfy some "religious duty" is not what this scripture is talking about! If we are to become a "family," we need to spend as much time as possible with other members of the Body, both at formal meeting times, such as worship services and Bible study classes, and informal gatherings just for fellowship. We need to "invest" our God-given "talents" at every opportunity.

You **need** the Body. The Body **needs** you!

You don't need to join some large denominational church. You don't need to join some small independent church. The issue here isn't “joining” **anything!** You simply need to find others who are sincerely seeking to be disciples of Jesus, and commit to fellowship with them. They **may** be part of a larger group. They **may** simply be a tiny group of folks meeting in someone's living room. Together you can grow into Family.

REVIEW:

1. Every Christian has **natural gifts** given by God at birth.
2. Every Christian has **spiritual gifts** given by God.
3. God expects us to invest **all of our gifts** for His glory.
4. We cannot fully use either kind of gifts in **isolation**.
5. These **gifts** are given to Christians to edify the Body.
6. These **gifts** can be shared through regular fellowship.

MEMORY VERSES

LESSON SIXTEEN MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 10:25

**Let us not give up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another--
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

LESSON THIRTEEN MEMORY VERSE:

I Peter 2:9

But you [Christians] are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

LESSON FOURTEEN MEMORY VERSES:

II Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Mark 2:27

Then he [Jesus] said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

LESSON FIFTEEN MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and *be baptized*, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS:

1. Name one gift you feel you were born with.

2. Name one gift you feel may have been given more recently by God for your use in building up the Body.

3. What excuses do you think some people may give for not finding ways to fellowship regularly with other believers?

4. Write one Memory Verse from this series of lessons that has particular meaning for you. Explain why.
