

Working From Him

Ephesians 4:11-16 (Topical Message)



Many churches make the critical mistake of thinking they are *working for God to grow the ministry, instead of working from God to grow the ministry!*

Brothers & Sisters – There is a big difference between the 2 approaches in ministry. Working for God produces *your temporary fruit*, while *working from God produces His long-lasting fruit*. One lasts, while the other is temporary.

I want to look at this topic today as we examine Eph 4:11-16 about growing personally, and how to grow a ministry. In these verses we will discover that the source of all work in our Lives is God. The source is God, and not ourselves. We will see how God structures ministry by His sourcing model:

Thus, the title of my message – “*Working From Him*”

- 1. Workers Provided***
- 2. Working From***
- 3. Working In***

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NASB)

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

1. Workers Provided

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NASB)

¹¹ And *He gave* some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

Apostles – These men were with Christ and were taught by Him, witnessed His resurrection, and were commissioned by Christ (Great Commission – Matt 28:19-20).

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Prophets – These men are preachers and expounders of God's word under the influence of the Holy Spirit. They are reiterating known truths about God, and His word.

1 Corinthians 14:3 (AMP)

³ But [on the other hand], the one who prophesies [who interprets the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching] speaks to men for their upbuilding *and* constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation.

Evangelists – A bringer of Good News (Gospel).

Pastors & Teachers – Pastors (Shepherds) who are also teachers.

2. Working From

¹² for the *equipping of the saints for the work of service*, to the building up of the body of Christ;

What does the prophet, evangelist, and pastor teacher do in verse 12 – They equip the saints for the work of service, to building up the body of Christ.

Equipping – (Greek) Only here is used in the NT. The idea here is perfecting and mending. Or in other words “Mending the Saints”. Putting them back together like mending a net.

Matthew 4:21 (AMP)

²¹ And going on further from there He noticed two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, **mending their nets *and* putting them right**; and He called them.

Same form of the word used in Matt 4:21.

So, the prophet, evangelist, and pastor teachers are “Mending the Saints” back together the for work of service, and building up the body of Christ.

How do they do this?

I see it as teaching that God as one’s source of life in which all the saints work comes from:

This goes back to the Garden of Eden. Man was designed by God to be connected to Him spiritually. When sin entered the into the world, man died spiritually. But man was always designed to be connected to God.

*Teaching that the saint is reconnected and now has a new source to live life is **“Mending & Equipping the Saints”**. This is explaining how the Saint has been mended back to God. Is now connected to God, and has a restored spiritual connected with Him.*

Connecting to God as our source to Work From – Amen!

This should be priority #1.

You don't have to be a prophet, evangelist, or pastor teacher to teach this powerful truth.

You can equip the body of Christ by telling your fellow brothers & sisters in Christ that building up the body of Christ starts with the revelation that all works are from Him. And that the trap of working for God, like an employee of a company is not the way, and will never have lasting fruit.

We don't work for God; we work From God!

3. Working In

¹³ until we all attain to the *unity of the faith*, and of the *knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man*, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are *no longer to be children*, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to *grow up in all aspects into Him* who is the head, *even Christ*, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the *building up of itself in love*.

What? How long is that going to take?

Brothers & Sisters – The answer to that is until man gets a revelation of truths about God is ones only source of life (you're not the source). But how long? As long as it takes because it's all in God's timing. Amen!

Brothers & Sisters – Speak the truth in Love so your fellow Christians will grow up in all aspects of what it means to be “In Him”, and God is one’s source of life. Amen!

Result – Unity, Maturity, Lasting Fruit, Building Up of the Body of Christ!

God is working in you, so you can work from Him!

Are you listening?

Are you cooperating?

Are you saying yes, God you are my source of life?

Is God showing you areas in your life of unbelief?

Have you asked God to reveal to you Himself as your source of Life?

Working From Him

God Will Produce Eternal Fruit Thru You

Or

Working For Him

You Produce Temporary Fruit That Will Perish

What's your choice?

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