



Equipping so that...we Root the Paradigm

Unifying our Hearts, Praying Ephesians 3:16-20

- I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,
- and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
- I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
- and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NRSV)

1970

1990

2010

2030

2050

2070

1st Generation - **Recovering** The Way of Christ and His Apostles paradigm

2nd Generation - **Rooting** The Way of Christ and His Apostles paradigm

Col 2:7 **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith**, just as you were taught..

rooted - **ρίζώ** - **rhizoo** - to be established, conceived of as if a plant being or becoming fixed in the ground - fix firmly, solid



Family Budget

Budgeted for week 39

\$365,400

Accumulated income

\$317,914

Weekly budget

\$9,135

Income for 9/15/19

\$5,977

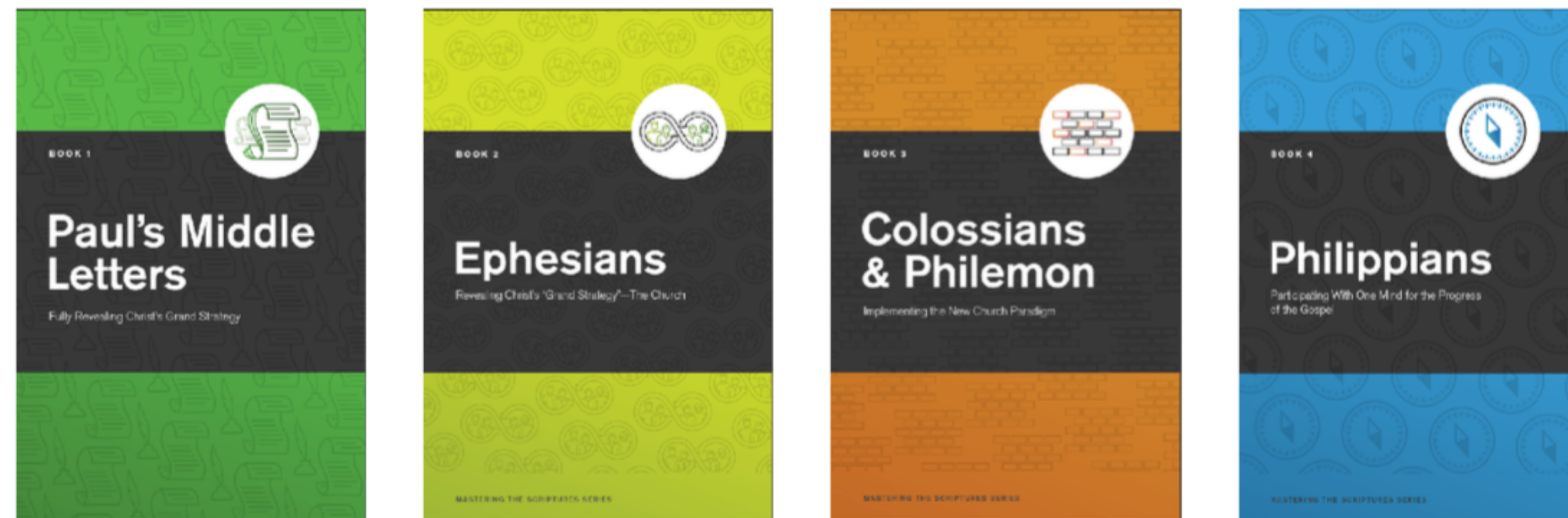
BILD Conference Commitment Sheets \$91,000

Gifts to Date \$36,623

Paul's Early Letters



Paul's Middle Letters



Reflections

Being rooted in the paradigm means being able to withstand the winds of other teaching. If you are constantly being blown around (getting upset), then you probably aren't rooted in the paradigm.

Being rooted in the paradigm means that our theology and church practice is shaped more by the first 300 years of the church than the last 300 years. I don't think most people recognize how much Catholicism they still have.

Paul's Early, Middle and Later Letters

Early Letters



The Battle of Clarity for the Kerygma/Didache

- 3 years in Arabian desert, Paul
- Peter's five proclamations (Acts)
- 1st confrontation of Paul & Peter (Gal 2:1-10)
- 2nd confrontation of Paul & Peter (Gal 2:11-16)
- Jerusalem Council Decisions

- Writing to Galatians
- Writings to Corinthians
- Writings to Thessalonians
- Writing Romans - full treatment of Gospel

Middle Letters



Church is the Plan

Mystery Revealed! Ephesians

Live Accordingly

Be rooted, established, built up! Colossians, Philemon

Participate with Us

Participate as Churches with the work of apostolic teams! Philippians

Later Letters



Teach the "Way of Life"

1 Timothy Use your apostolic gifts, be self-disciplined, hold to the teachings

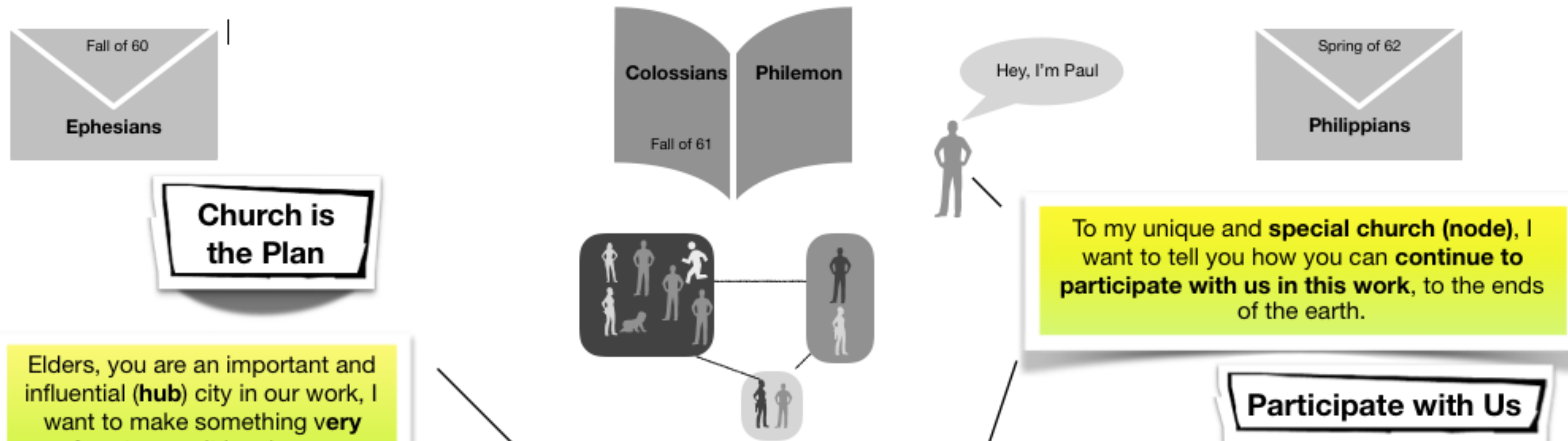
Put the Churches in Order

Titus Appoint Elders Instruct people to be devoted to Good Works

Fully Entrusted, Equip Everyone

2 Timothy Follow and remember the kerygma/didache Expect people to follow their own teachings Work hard

Paul's Middle Letters - Providing a Complete Picture of Christ's Instructions to the Churches



Church is the Plan

Elders, you are an important and influential (**hub**) city in our work, I want to make something **very clear** to you, it has been a **mystery in days past**, but now is clear for all the churches. The **church is the centerpiece** of the expansion and establishment of the gospel.

Participate with Us

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of **your sharing in the gospel from the first day** until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you **hold me in your heart**, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense of the confirmation of the gospel.
Philippians 1:3-7

Hey there, you group of churches (**cluster**), you now need to **live according to the mystery** of the church being revealed.

Live Accordingly

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught**, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world,

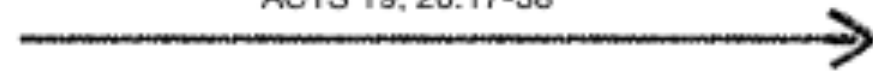
Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to **make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rules and authorities** in the heavenly places. Eph 3:7-10





City of EPHESUS

ACTS 19, 20:17-38



First Section

1:10 - God's Plan
3:9 - Christ's Plan

Paul's role was to reveal the management or administration of God's Plan. He does this through his letters to the churches.



1:3 - 3:21 God's Plan: Jesus is head of the Church, the Church will show God's wisdom.

Prayer 1:15-23 - to be fully enlightened to truly know our calling and the power available to Christ and His church to accomplish His purposes.

- God developed a plan in Christ and His Church to accomplish His eternal purposes. 1:3-14
- God put His power to work in Christ, putting Him head over the Church. 1:15-23
- We are now created for good works as we participate in the plan, in Christ, in His Church 2:1-10
- We are members of God's household, one foundation laid by the apostles, Christ is the Cornerstone. 2:11-22
- The mystery, of which Paul made clear, through Christ and His church God's wisdom would be made known to everyone, even rulers. 3:1-13
- Churches need to fully understand Christ and His Church as central to God's plan for the power to be unleashed in their churches for God to be glorified. 3:14-21

Prayer 3:14-21 - to have the power to comprehend God's plan, that God might be glorified in the Church and in Christ.

Implications for the Church

1. We need supernatural enlightenment to fully comprehend Christ's plan and the administration of the plan.
2. This includes both our individual and collective (church-wide) enlightenment, which we can fully understand if we are continuously striving to be part of God's plan.
3. God's power raised Jesus from death, same power is now at work moving Christ's plan forward, with His Spirit empowering the church.
4. These two prayers summarize the essence of all of it!

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it significant that we need the Spirit's empowerment to truly understand? How does this look for us individually and collectively as a church?
2. What is your individual lifework that is aligned with Christ's plan? How can you move towards fully participating? How can you be fully enlightened?
3. What is our collective lifework (ADMCC) that is aligned with Christ's plan? How can we move towards fully participating? How can we be fully enlightened?

Full Picture of Participating with Christ

- Fully Participating in Christ's Plan
- Living a Full Abundant Life

Gospel,
Kerygma

Teachings, Didache

- Gospel aligned with the teachings
- Fully understanding how to live in the gospel

How do we fully participate in what God is doing? How do we know if we are partially, nominally or fully participating?

1. Churches Function as Families
2. Leaders and elders of families shepherd and establish in the gospel/teachings
3. Churches participate with churches and apostolic gifted leaders around the world
4. Apostolic type leaders equip everyone for good works, good occupations, the work

Resulting in:

- Our good works, occupations, homes, marriages, parenting, everything being aligned to the churches, participating with the global church
- Impacting our cultures, solving modern problems, hope with in us
- Fully connecting us to Christ's building of his global church from the first days until he comes again

Today's Church Models and Systems

- **Seeker Friendly** - focused on initial acceptance of gospel
- **Purpose Driven** - lacks training of leaders into church families
- **Gospel Communities** - confusion on Christ's plan, strong on kerygma, unclear on participating in global missions
- **Healthy Church** - pragmatically driven, lacks full didache teachings
- **Simple Church** - based on simple relationships
- **House Church** - lacks local and global leadership, effective at authentic relationships
- **Saturation Church Planting, Disciple Making Movements** - goal is to finish evangelizing everyone, lacks roots in didache, high attrition
- **Cell, Organic Church** - churches lack the social structure of a family
- **New Age** - truth is relative, love everyone, lacks truth of Christ and His teachings

Our systems of "church" result in the following:

Everywhere in the world today, church is:

- a pastor, a Sunday morning event, praise songs
- attendance and/or baptism for salvation

Resulting in:

- Good works for the sake of good works, live in siloed categories
- Jobs, homes, family decisions independent of church mission
- Mission work disconnected from local churches' culture, and apostolic teams
- Minimal impact on culture, not fully participating with Christ

Aligning our Lives with Christ

Gospel, Kerygma

Gospel and Teachings Integrated

Lifetime renewing mind in the Teachings

Fundamental Teachings (Didache) for All
People from the New Testament Letters

Participating with Christ in Impacting
Individuals, Families, Neighborhoods, Cities,
Civilizations, Cultures and the World! In our
lives they see the fullness of Christ!

Today's Church Models and Systems

Accept Jesus as your
personal Savior

Attending church is the teaching

My denomination is the teaching

My teaching is whatever is taught in Sunday school

I really like the music here

The pastor and staff do it

I'm presbyterian because my parents were...

My pastor is good at preaching

I love their children programs

If I don't like the teaching, I just find another church

I just want my kids to be saved

Men's retreats are the best

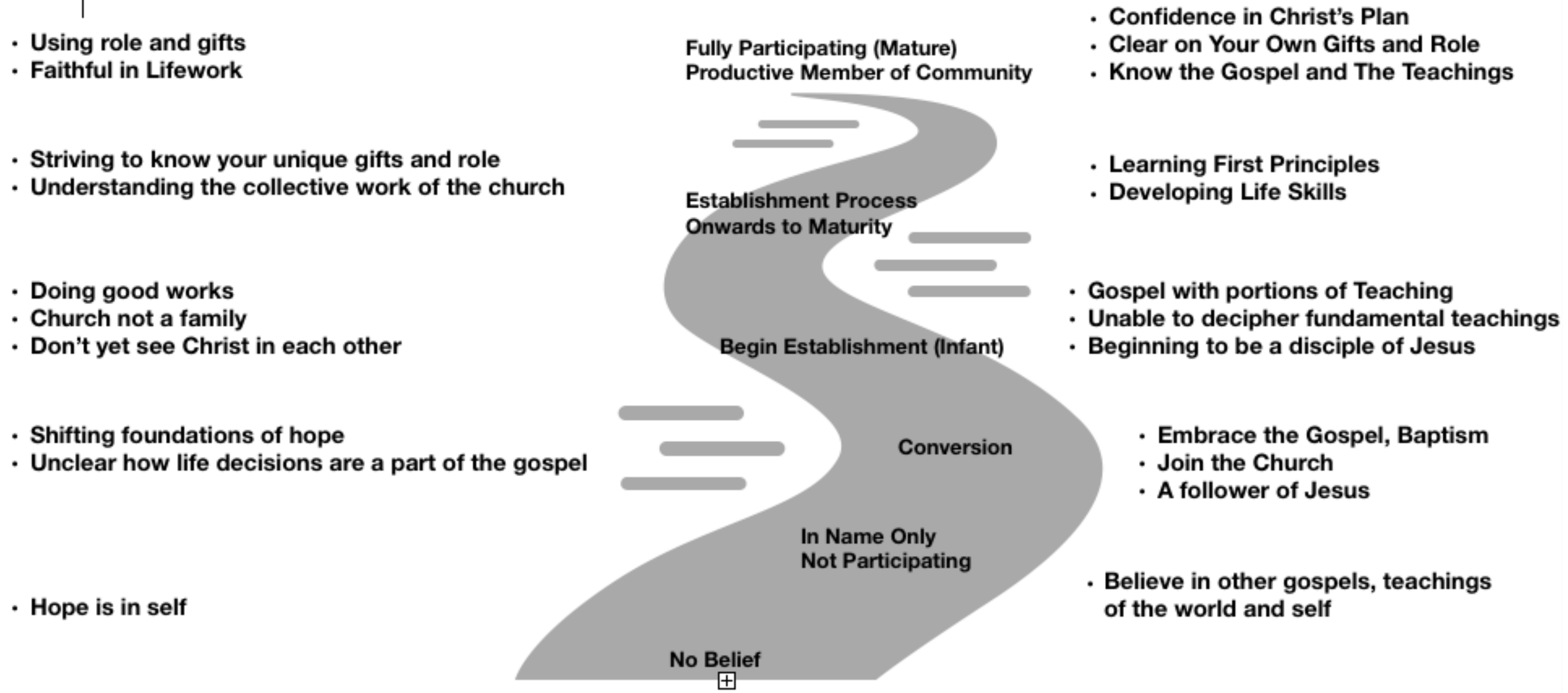
Nothing gets between me and my family

I invest in people's lives in the fellowship hall

Participating with Christ is attending church,
listening to sermons, singing the songs, learning in
Sunday school, going on a mission trip.

Meanwhile remaining at an elementary
understanding of the gospel/teachings doing well
intentioned but haphazard good works that show the
world the nominalism of our faith.

How do we fully participate in what God is doing? How do we know if we are moving towards maturity and fully participating?



**Everyone starts at the same place
We all grow little by little**

Ephesians 1:1–3:21 (NRSV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God developed a plan in Christ and His Church to accomplish His (God's) eternal purposes.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. **5** He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight **9** he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11** In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, **12** so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; **14** this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

God put His power to work in Christ, putting Christ head over the church.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **17** I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, **18** so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. **20** God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. **22** And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

We are created for good works as we fully participate in God's plan, with Christ and His Church

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

We are members of God's household, with one foundation laid with Christ as cornerstone and apostles as the foundation.

11 So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— **12** remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. **15** He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, **16** and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. **17** So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; **18** for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, **20** built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. **21** In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The mystery, through Christ and His church, God's wisdom will be made known to all.

1 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— **2** for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, **3** and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, **4** a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. **5** In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: **6** that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. **8** Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, **9** and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; **10** so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11** This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. **13** I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Churches need to fully understand Christ and His Church as central to God's plan for the power to be unleashed in the churches for God to be glorified.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. **16** I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, **17** and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. **18** I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Key Words - Semantic Range

Strengthened - to become strong, to grow, powerful

Inner being - inside man, the soul, literally the hidden person

Dwell - live, reside, inhabit, make residence, home, household

Rooted and grounded - source of strength, to become strengthened - steadfast, foundation, establish

Comprehend - to understand, realize, to grasp, attain, seize, lay a hold of

Fullness - completeness, totality, fulfill, fill, total quantity

EPHESIANS Prayer - To Unify and Equip the Global Network Family

Intention of Ephesians

To reveal the mystery that the church is God's plan, urging them to understand the fullness of this plan and that the body (church) is built up and has unity led by apostolic leaders, while everyone is to grasp the significance of their calling.

Outline (Literary) of Ephesians

1:1-3:21 - God's Plan - Jesus is head of the Church, the Church will show God's wisdom.
4:1-5:21 - Walk worthy of the calling, unity led by apostolic leaders, putting off the old, put on the new.
5:22-6:24 - Stand firm, giving instructions on the foundations of the household.

Strengthened - to become strong, to grow, powerful

Inner being - inside man, the soul, literally the hidden person

Dwell - live, reside, inhabit, make residence, home, household

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Fullness - completeness, totality, fulfill, fill, total quantity

...I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

...I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be strengthened in your inner being? Strengthened with what? What is your inner being? What is meant by power?
2. Why do we need the power to comprehend? Who are we "comprehending" with? What is the significance of this?
3. How can we know something that surpasses knowledge? What is the fullness of God?
4. How do we individually and collectively grasp the significance of "living and being" this prayer?

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