

Pursuing the "So That" of Grace

Ephesians 4:13-17

Revival in the Family

- A. Revival to bring to life, spiritually. To reinvigorate from a state of spiritual slumber or apathy, self-will or self-absorption.
- B. In the family to embrace revival in my particular "season of life," i.e., single, married, widowed, divorced.

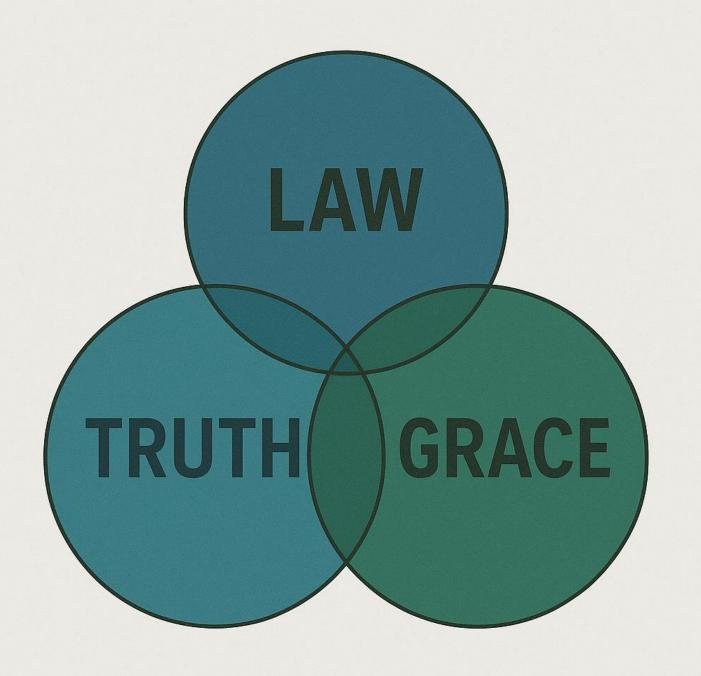
- 1. Has the "fullness of Christ" had its intended "so that" result in your life? How do you read V13 15, 17?
- A. V13 "until we all attain"... to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
 - Is Paul actually saying that we can know God the way Jesus knew God?
- B. V17 Is Paul saying that changed lives are the expectation for all believers even to the stature of Christ? For all Christian families?

What if you read Eph 4 as if Paul were writing a letter directly to you? What would he be saying about your spiritual, moral, and emotional growth in Christ?

Eph. 4:14-15 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (ESV)

What is this "fullness of God/Christ" that believers are expected to strive for?

- Eph 1:22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- Ephesians 3:19 "...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."
- Colossians 1:19 "In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell."
- Colossians 2:9 "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."
- **John 1:16** For from his *fullness* we have all received and *grace upon grace...* 18 For the *law* was given through Moses, *grace and truth* came through Jesus Christ.



2. All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. You either have the Holy Spirit or you don't. (Rom 8:9, John 14:17) So how can I be more full of who I already have, i.e., the Holy Spirit of Jesus?

A. V 16. How can the church, the body of Christ, be built up so that every "part is working properly"; and so that the "body builds itself up in love?"



Think of Jesus as the fountain that never runs out of water. We decide when the fountain is turned on, and whether we will drink the water he offers.

- 3. Why do believers not grow spiritually? Do you think our families are impacted when we do not grow spiritually? What about our church?
- A. Bc we get preoccupied??? Bc we have never tried?? Bc we see spiritual growth as all about making us "feel better," and the way we "feel" is good enough?? Rather than, what Paul says it is about? rather than about others knowing the goodness of God?
 - Do you see an emphasis on others in v 11-12?
 - Do you see an emphasis on the church in v 16?
- B. Paul's "rather" is telling us to replace what we believe with what Christ expects. V15.



2 Tim. 1:6 For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (ESV)

Call to Action

- A. Will you evaluate why you do the things you do relative to your own emphasis on Jesus Christ in your life? Will you ask Jesus to give you eyes to see those around you who need Jesus?
- B. What activities can you embrace in your church that will both build you up and simultaneously others in your church?

The promise of his "fullness" is progressively claimed as we grow spiritually.

- 1. Jesus is the *never empty*, *never scarce*, *ongoing fountain* of God's fullness, *poured out* and into believers as we serve and abide in His word. Eph 3:19, 4:13; Jn 1:16-17; John 8:31-32
- 2. The church is the *collective body of the fullness of God* in the world. The church, as the body of Christ, carries on what Christ began on earth. Ep 1:22-23
- Believers are urged to spiritual growth which is progressive and wo limit since it is likened to the immeasurable fullness of God in Christ. Eph 3:19

• Every believer is indwelt by the presence of the Holy Spirit and has received, and is receiving, of the fullness of Christ, as we yield our controls to Him.

Jn. 1:16-17 For of His *fullness* we have *all received*, and *grace upon grace*. ¹⁷ For the *Law* was given through Moses; *grace* and *truth* were realized through Jesus Christ. (NAU)

Jn. 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (NAU)