

## “What I Do” Part 3

### Ephesians 4:11-16

Jeff Wall

#### What can I do to make Friends a great church?

##### 6. Depend on God Given leaders who can help you to develop your God given gifts.

*“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.”* Eph. 4:11 (NIV)

#### What can I do to make Friends a great church?

##### 7. Decide to use your gifts to serve others.

*“to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”* Eph. 4:12 (NIV)

“Nothing is more foreign to the New Testament than the idea that spiritual gifts are to be exercised privately, or that the individual receives them for personal enrichment.” Ralph Neighbor

“Spiritual Gifts are not toys to play with. They are not weapons to fight with. They are tools to build with.” Warren Wiersby

*“Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace.”* 1 Pet. 4:10 (NCV)

*“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”* Eph. 4:13 (NIV)

**And so we come full circle: our unity is built upon our individual gifts. Our individuality grows back into our unity!**

#### What can I do to make Friends a great church?

##### 8. Decide to grow spiritually .

*“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.”*

Eph. 4:14 (NIV)

**Christian Growth is the process of moving from Spiritual Infancy to Spiritual Maturity.**

#### GROWTH STEPS

I am Consumed by Possessions	I am Content with Possessions
I am Selfish in Relationships	I am Sacrificing in Relationships
My Body is MY Business	My Body is HIS Temple
Prayer is an infrequent cry for help.	Prayer is a constant act of trust
Work expresses my Worth	Work expresses my Worship
Problems are destroying me	Problems are developing me
I seldom handle the Bible	I accurately handle the Bible
Time is spent wastefully	Time is spent wisely

*“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly – mere infants in Christ.”* 1 Cor. 3:1

## Immature Churches and immature people are controlled by three things: Eph 4:14

- **Circumstances**  
*“tossed back and forth by the waves”*
- **New ideas “Give me something I’ve never heard before!”**  
*“Every wind of teaching”*  
  
Jesus described His teaching as a rock...  
  
Paul describes false teaching as a “wind.”
- **Selfish people**  
*“The cunning and craftiness of men.”*

*“Though by this time you ought to be teachers,... Heb. 5:12-14 (NIV)*

## Mature Churches and people give control to Christ in three areas: Eph. 4:15-16

- Our communication.  
How we talk: gossipers, “spiritual language”  
  
False teachers don’t do that... they tell you what you want to hear, not what you need to hear. That’s why they can be so attractive.
- Our direction. **Who’s the leader of this church? Jesus Christ!**  
How we decide: We look to Him first together and decide together, “We want to follow You. We want our body to be controlled by You.”
- Our service.  
How we work: We tell the truth in love, we grow together in love.
  - Joined and held together by every supporting ligament
  - In love
  - As each part does its work