
Every church age believer has been given 2 Great Divine Provisions, which enable the believer to execute the plan of God for their lives. These 2 Great Divine Provisions are the Word of God and the Spirit of God. They are logistical grace provisions.

Logistical grace is a descriptive term based upon military analogy for a Bible Doctrine. Logistical grace is God’s complete provision for the believer’s every physical and spiritual need in the devil’s world in order that they may execute the Plan of God for the Church Age and become an Invisible Hero. It is the divine planning, support, provision and blessing for the Church Age believer to execute the plan of God.

Logistical grace provides every believer regardless of spiritual status, Bible teaching, air to breathe, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, friends. It keeps the believer alive and enables him to grow spiritually even though he lives in the devil’s world. Logistical grace provides the believer with a divine nature, i.e., the Christ-nature, a divine Mentor, namely, God the Holy Spirit and a Pastor-Teacher who is to feed the believer his spiritual food, namely, the Word of God.

Logistical grace is composed of four interrelated categories of blessings: (1) Life support (2) Temporal supply (3) Security provisions (4) Spiritual provisions.

The Word of God provides the believer vital information that is essential for the believer to achieve tactical victory over the enemy and tactical victory for the believer is achieved by exploiting Christ’s victory at the cross over the believer’s 3 great enemies: (1) Satan (2) Satan’s Cosmic System (3) Old Sin Nature. The Holy Spirit reveals the Word of God to the believer making it understandable to the believer since it the Word of God is spiritual phenomena (Jn. 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:10-16).

A passage, which teaches that the Word of God is the 1st great divine provision, is 2 Timothy 2:1.

2 Tim 2:1-4, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things, which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with {me} as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”

A “good soldier” endures and perseveres in the midst of undeserved suffering from spiritual combat with the kingdom of darkness by exploiting God’s logistical grace support. The believer must be confident that God will take care of the logistics if he is to persevere and endure. The believer acquires confidence that God will take care of the logistics by being confident that God loves Him. The believer acquires confidence that God loves Him by trusting or having faith in the promises found in the Word of God that emphatically state that God loves him. The greatest provision under logistical grace that God has given the believer is the Word of God which when applied to the believer’s thought process not only protects the believer’s soul as spiritual armor but also serves as a spiritual weapon in spiritual combat. Satan seeks to separate the believer’s communication lines with God and he does so by separating the believer from the communication of the Word of God. The Word of God states clearly that God loves us with a love that is unconditional, immutable, eternal, and self-sacrificial. The Holy Spirit’s job is to reveal this to us while we are in fellowship.

“Be strong” in 2 Timothy 2:1 is the present passive imperative form of the verb endunamoo, which is endunamou, “to be empowered, to be invigorated.” “In the grace” is composed of the
following in the Greek: (1) Preposition en, “by means of.” (2) Instrumental feminine singular definite article te, “the.” (3) Instrumental feminine singular form of the noun charis, which is chariti, “grace.” This prepositional phrase refers to logistical grace support. “Which is in Christ Jesus” is composed of the following: (1) Locative feminine singular definite article te, “which.” (2) Preposition en, “in.” (3) Locative masculine singular noun Christo, “Christ.” (4) Dative masculine singular proper name Iesou, “Jesus.”

The prepositional phrase en Christo Iesou contains a figure of speech called metonymy of the cause where the cause is put for the effect. There are 4 categories of metonymy of the cause: (1) The person for the action (2) The instrument for the effect (3) The thing or the action for its product (4) The material cause for the matter made. We have the person put here for the action. The unique Person of Christ is put for His teaching or doctrine.

This last prepositional phrase en Christo Iesou states the location of logistical grace, namely, it resides in the mind of Christ, which is expressed in the doctrine of Christ Jesus, i.e. the Word of God. The context of the book indicates that the present imperative of the verb endunamoo is ingressive and progressive meaning Timothy is begin and continue being empowered by the grace which is located in the doctrine of Christ Jesus. This is a permissive passive, which implies consent or permission of the action of the verb on the part of the subject. Paul is commanding Timothy to permit himself to be empowered by means of logistical grace provision, which is resides in the doctrines of Christ, i.e., the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:1: “You therefore, my son, from this moment on permit yourself to be empowered by means of the grace which resides in the doctrine of Christ Jesus.”

This metonymical use of the prepositional phrase en Chisto Iesou also appears in Philippians 4:7.

Philippians 4:6-7, “At this very moment, all of you stop continuing to be anxious about absolutely anything, but rather, concerning anything at all by means of reverential prayer in the presence of the Father and by means of petition accompanied by the giving of thanks, let your specific detailed requests be repeatedly made known in the presence of the Father and as a result the peace produced by God the Holy Spirit, which is always superior to any and every human conception, will as a dogmatic statement of fact cause your hearts to be protected and as a result your thoughts by means of the doctrine of Christ Jesus.”

So, if we are to exploit God’s logistical grace support we must learn and apply the Word of God. The 1st great divine provision under logistical grace that God has given the believer is the Word of God which when applied to the believer’s thought process not only protects the believer’s soul as spiritual armor but also serves as a spiritual weapon in spiritual combat. Logistical grace support resides in the Word of God and we will note other passages in Scripture and in particular 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 which state this.

Acts 14:3, “Therefore they spent a long time {there} speaking boldly {with reliance} upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.”

Acts 20:32, “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build {you} up and to give {you} the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Colossians 1:6 states that we know of the grace of God by means of Truth.

Col 1:3-6, “We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the
word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as {it has been doing} in you also since the day you heard {of it} and understood the grace of God by means of truth.”

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ or His gift is His Words, His thoughts. His grace here is synonymous with His Word. So we must conclude that logistical grace support and provision cannot be utilized and exploited by the believer unless he applies the Word of God to his very own special set of circumstances.

Another passage where this biblical principle is taught is 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

2 Cor 12:7-10, “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me– to keep me from exalting myself. Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

“He has said” is the 3rd person singular present passive indicative form of the verb ereo, which not only indicates the speaking of words but also the forcefulness of the speaker. This forcefulness is expressed in a command, affirmation or objection. Here we have an affirmation. Christ affirmed to Paul what he already knew…which is that the Word of Christ was sufficient to deal with his problem…his weakness. This is an intensive perfect emphasizing the present results of a past action. It means that Paul has remembered what the Lord said to him in the past and it still has present application for him in his suffering. The word “grace” is the noun charis and refers to logistical grace provision from God in the form of the doctrines of Christ, i.e. the Word of God. So we know that when Christ tells Paul that His “grace” is sufficient, we know it is not only directly related to Christ’s divine omnipotence but it also related to His logistical grace support and provision.

Now, what does Paul possess that Christ has given him that would provide Paul with divine power and logistical grace support and provision to handle his thorn in the flesh? Quite simply, the Word of God, which is the mind of Christ. The Word of God is the gift or the grace that provided Paul with the divine omnipotence he needed to handle the thorn in the flesh. The Word of God is truly sufficient to handle our adversities. The Word of God is the logistical grace provision that God has given every believer to handle their problems in life. The power of Christ dwells in the believer and the believer is thus sustained logistically when the believer thinks like Christ or when he applies the Word of God, which is the mind of Christ. This in turn enables the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit to convert objective truth (Bible doctrine) into subjective experience (application). The Holy Spirit makes the Word of God understandable to the believer while the believer is in fellowship (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:9-16).

2 Corinthians 12:9, “And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

The phrase “is perfected” is the 3rd person singular present passive indicative of the verb teleo, “to achieve one’s object.” The Lord’s divine power as it is expressed in His Word achieved its purpose or objective in Paul’s weakness. Divine power becomes efficacious in our human weakness. The power of God finds its consummation or reaches its objective by means of human weakness. This is a gnomic present expressing a general timeless fact or dogmatic statement of fact. So the gnomic present is saying here that the power of God as a general timeless fact or as an eternal truth, or dogmatic statement of fact, finds its consummation or reaches its objective by
means of human weakness. This is a permissive passive, which implies consent or permission. The permissive passive is saying here that our human weakness allows the power of God and the grace of God to achieve its purpose or objective in the life of the believer.

2 Corinthians 12:9: “And He has said to me for my benefit and it still has application at the present time, my grace is as an eternal truth is sufficient for you, for my power is as an eternal truth finds its consummation in human impotence. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

The objective of human weakness and the crucifixion of self is to manifest the power of Christ as Paul says at the end of verse 9. In Paul’s human weakness Christ was present to him with His power since he could no longer depend upon self, but God. The believer cannot experience the grace of God, the power of God and the life of God until self is out of the way.

Gal 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the {life} which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

When we are not dependent upon self, then the life of Christ can emerge in us. We must not be dependent upon reasonings but rather upon the Word of God. We must reject human viewpoint and utilize divine viewpoint. So the power of God and the grace of God are expressed in the believer when self-life has been put to death. When our lives are shaken and we lose confidence in ourselves and are no longer dependent upon ourselves, then the power of Christ and the life of Christ will manifest itself in our lives.

The Word of God is the believer’s spiritual armor and spiritual weaponry. The Word of God is the believer’s logistical grace support, which provides the believer with spiritual armor and weaponry to defend his soul and attack the enemy’s thought projections. It is the Word of God that reveals God’s will, purpose and plan for our lives.

Eph 6:10-18, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual {forces} of wickedness in the heavenly {places.} Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil {one.} And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Ephesians 6:10-18 reveals to us that the Word of God performs a 2-fold function for the soldier of Christ: (1) Defense: The Word of God serves as spiritual armor to protect the believer’s soul from the thought projections of the kingdom of darkness and the propaganda produced by the cosmic system of Satan. (2) Offense: The Word of God serves as a spiritual weapon to destroy the lies propagated by Satan and his cosmic system and cosmic army.

The phrase “of the Spirit” is possessive genitive composed of 2 words in the Greek: (1) Genitive neuter singular definite article tou. (2) Genitive neuter singular form of the noun pneuma, which is pneumatos. Since this is a possessive genitive, we could translate this “the sword wielded by the Spirit.” The Word of God serves as the weapon.
Heb 4:12, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

The Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity who wields or uses the Word as a spiritual weapon in spiritual combat for the believer. Christ used it in the desert with the devil. It is the sword wielded by the Spirit because the Spirit of God gives it and inspires it. The Spirit’s aid is needed for its illumination, interpretation and application. We must allow the Spirit to perform His function. The analogy that Paul is using here is from the ancient world of course. The Holy Spirit employs the Word of God as a sword to defeat the enemy. It is the Holy Spirit that wields the word of God as a weapon against our invisible enemy the kingdom of darkness.

We disarm ourselves spiritually speaking when we are not filled with the Spirit or in other words, not permitting the Spirit to fight for us. When we as Christian soldiers permit the Holy Spirit to influence and are applying the Word of God, we will defeat Satan and the kingdom of darkness. When we are obedient to the Word of God then the Holy Spirit can wield the Word of God to defeat our enemy, Satan and the kingdom of darkness. They cannot stand against the Christian soldier who is armed and knows how to use his weapon: the Word of God.

The Christian soldier has superior weaponry than his invisible enemy, Satan and the kingdom of darkness. So the promises of the Word of God serve as an anchor for the soul of the believer in adversity. They serve as a protection and give the believer encouragement to persevere and endure in the devil’s world.

These 2 Great Divine Provisions, the Spirit of God and the Word of God work in concert with one another to provide the believer everything that his soul needs to be sustained and protected by the lies of the cosmic system of Satan. They work in conjunction with one another to serve as spiritual armor and weaponry for the believer, which enables them to exploit the strategic victory of Christ over Satan at the cross of Calvary.

The Spirit does not operate independently from the Word of God when He is actively working on behalf of the believer. His primary mission on planet during the church age is to glorify Christ.

John 16:13-15, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose {it} to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose {it} to you.”

The Word of God informs the believer of all that God has provided for the believer through Person, Work and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ. We also noted that all of the believer’s logistical grace support in the form of air to breathe, food, clothing, shelter, and transportation is the creation of the Word of God. Everything that exists has come into existence because of the Word of God and continues to be sustained because of the Word of God.

John 1:3, “All things came into existence through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into existence that has come into existence.”

Heb 1:1-3, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

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The Word of God has provided every believer regardless of spiritual status, Bible teaching, air to breathe, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, friends. We employ the military metaphor logistical grace to describe these provisions, which have been created by the Word of God. None of these things mentioned above would ever exist were it not for the Word of God. The air we breathe, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, friends would not exist if it were not for the Word of God. All of these logistical grace provisions, which are the creation of the Word of God, are designed to sustain the physical body, human life. But the Word of God not only sustains human life, but it also more importantly serves to sustain, protect and prosper the soul of the believer when it has been applied to the believer’s thought process. As we have noted the human soul is the battleground for the war that is taking place between Christ and Satan.

2 Cor 10:3-6, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. [We are] destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and [we are] taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

Human history was designed to resolve this conflict between Christ and Satan and in particular the function of the human soul. The obedience of the impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union defeated Satan at the cross.

Philippians 2:5-11, “Everyone continue thinking this (according to humility) within yourselves, which was also in (the mind of) Christ Jesus, Who although existing from eternity past in the essence of God, He never regarded existing equally in essence with God an exploitable asset. On the contrary, He denied Himself of the independent function of His deity by having assumed the essence of a slave when He was born in the likeness of men. In fact, although He was discovered in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by having entered into obedience to the point of spiritual death even death on a Cross. For this very reason in fact God the Father has promoted Him to the highest-ranking position and has awarded to Him the rank, which is superior to every rank. In order that in the sphere of this rank possessed by Jesus every person must bow, celestials and terrestrials and sub-terrestrials. Also, every person must publicly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God the Father.”

The voluntary substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the cross has achieved this victory over Satan. God is proclaiming this victory ever since by means of the Gospel. Christ’s victory at the Cross can be appropriated by members of the human race through faith in the Gospel message, which proclaims Christ’s death and resurrection (Jn. 3:15-16; Acts 16:31). The impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union, the Last Adam has defeated Satan and has reclaimed the authority and dominion over creation that Satan usurped from the 1st Adam.

This victory was achieved 2000 years ago at the cross and the gospel is the victorious proclamation of Christ’s victory at the cross. Satan seeks to suppress this victorious proclamation that he has been defeated. This victorious proclamation of Christ’s victory sets members of the human race free from satanic tyranny when it is accepted through faith alone in Christ alone. Satan is the enemy of the human race. He enslaves the human race through fear of death. Christ has defeated the power that the fear of death has over the entire human race with His death and resurrection.

Heb 2:14-15, “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who
had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

Fear is the great power that Satan uses to enslave the human race. The only deliverance from such fear is Christ. The human soul needs Christ! He is the only provision from God that gives the human race deliverance from the tyranny of Satan. The human soul if left to its own devices cannot stand against the fallen angels because they are superior to humanity in every way. In fact, they are invisible and seek to deceive the entire world that they don’t exist.

1 Jn 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in {the power of} the evil one.” Rev 12:9, “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Satan has an ingenious propaganda system. He majors in misinformation and deception. Satan and his legions attack the veracity and integrity of the Scriptures and they wage war against its communicators.

2 Tim 3:8, “Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.” Why do they attack the Word of Truth and its communicators? They do so in order to suppress the Truth of God, which they cannot defeat.

2 Cor 13:8, “For we can do nothing against the truth, but {only} for the truth.”

The unbeliever has no defense for the deception and propaganda from the kingdom of darkness since they will not receive the Lord Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. They have no defense against the deception and lies of Satan because they do not possess Truth of the Word of God in their souls. The unbeliever receives his freedom from Satan through faith alone in Christ alone. Faith in the Word of Truth brought us forth out of the bondage of the tyrant Satan.

James 1:18, “In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.”

And our faith in the Word of God after salvation appropriates Christ’s strategic victory over Satan at the cross. It is faith in the Word of the Cross, which provides the believer the omnipotence of God that can defeat the enemy.

1 Cor 1:18, “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Faith in the Word of God is the way to victory over the enemy, Satan.

1 Jn 5:1-4, “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the {child} born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

1 Jn 2:13-14, “I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”
Victory over the enemy is achieved by the believer who submits to the authority of the Word of God and is obedient to the Word of God.

**James 4:7, “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”**

The 2 Great Divine Provisions of the believer (Spirit and the Word) enable the believer to exploit the strategic victory of Christ at the cross, which was achieved by means of His voluntary substitutionary spiritual death on the cross. God is proclaiming this victory ever since by means of the Gospel. Christ’s victory at the Cross can be appropriated by members of the human race through faith in the Gospel message, which proclaims Christ’s death and resurrection (Jn. 3:15-16; Acts 16:31).

The impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union, the Last Adam has defeated Satan and has reclaimed the authority and dominion over creation that Satan usurped from the 1st Adam. This victory was achieved 2000 years ago at the cross and the gospel is the victorious proclamation of Christ’s victory at the cross. Satan seeks to suppress this victorious proclamation that he has been defeated.

As we have noted every believer at the moment of salvation has been enlisted as a soldier in the army of Christ. Just as in the natural realm a nation provides for its soldiers logistically to fight in battle with the enemy to defend its sovereignty so God has provided for the believer logistically in order that they might fight the kingdom of darkness and defend the sovereignty of Christ. Every nation provides for its soldiers armor and weapons. God has done this as well. In fact the believer has infinitely superior weaponry than the fallen angels. The enemy cannot stand against the Word of Truth. The Word of God serves as spiritual armor and weaponry for the believer as we noted in Ephesians 6:10-18.

As we have noted, Paul commanded Timothy to get his priorities straight and utilize the logistical grace provision of the Word of God to deal with his adversities that he was facing as pastor.

2 Timothy 2:1: “You therefore, my son, from this moment on permit yourself to be empowered by means of the grace which resides in the doctrine of Christ Jesus.”

The Lord had to remind Paul of this same grace provision of the Word of God, which the Lord told Paul was sufficient to handle his physical problem, which was an eye disease called ophthalmia.

2 Corinthians 12:9: “And He has said to me for my benefit and it still has application at the present time, my grace is (as an eternal truth) sufficient for you, for my power is (as an eternal truth) finds its consummation in human impotence. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

Because the believer possesses superior armor and weaponry than he does, Satan seeks to distract the believer from hearing the communication of the Word of God. We noted this in Luke 10 with the story of Martha and Mary and also Luke 8 with the parable of the seed and the sower. He will also try to wear us out with problems and difficulties.

Dan 7:25, “He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”

So the Word of God and the Spirit of God working in concert together provide the soldier of Christ Jesus with superior resources to fight spiritual combat. Satan knows this and as we have noted seeks to blind the believer to this fact. He knows that the believer will achieve certain victory over him and his army if the believer utilizes these Superior Resources-the Spirit and the Word.
I Jn 4:4, “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

The Word of God provides the believer vital information that is essential for the believer to achieve tactical victory over the enemy. This information from the Word of God reveals to the believer the implications of Christ’s death and resurrection on their life. This information involves revealing who and what God is and His modus operandi. It involves communicating to the believer what God has provided for the believer at the moment of salvation, namely the Spirit and the Word.

This vital information informs the believer of who God has made him to be as a result of accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. It reveals that the believer is a son of God, in union with Christ and positionally higher than the angels. The Word of God reveals to the believer that he has an invisible enemy, namely Satan who seeks to deceive him. It also reveals to the believer the means of defeating this invisible enemy, namely the Word of God. It reveals to the believer that he has the Spirit of God as their spiritual Mentor to guide and empower to do the will of the Father and thus defeat the enemy.

The Word of God reveals to the believer that he has the provision of prayer where he can go to His heavenly Father and ask for aid to defeat the enemy. The Word of God is the believer’s spiritual food.

Matt 4:4, “But He answered and said, "IT IS WRITTEN, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.” The Word of God provides encouragement to the believer.

Romans 15:4-5, “For whatever stands written was written for our instruction so that through the endurance and through the encouragement which is derived from the Scriptures, we might possess confidence. Now may the God of confidence and encouragement provide all of you with the same mind toward each other according to Christ Jesus.”

Failure to receive this information spells certain spiritual defeat for the believer. So the strategy of Satan and his legions against the church is to sever its communications with God. For they know that if the church becomes aware of who and what God has made them to be, they know that they will be defeated. They know, if the church becomes aware of the implications of Christ’s victory at the cross and His resurrection, they will be defeated.

They know, if the church becomes aware of the fact that they are a son of God, in union with Christ, positionally higher than the angels, possessing superior armor and weaponry, they will most surely be defeated.

The soldier of Christ Jesus must be obedient to his written orders just as the soldier in the natural realm must be obedient to his written orders. The believer manifests obedience to God when he is a doer of the Word (James 1:17-25).

The Spirit of God through the communication of the Word of God instructs the believer as how to defeat the enemy and therefore, the Word of God is the means by which the believer can exploit that strategic victory of Christ’s at the cross. The Spirit of God (the 2nd Great Divine Provision) through the communication of the Word of God is the means by which God the Father communicates to the believer the strategic victory of His Son Jesus Christ over Satan at the cross.

The Spirit of God through the communication of the Word of God instructs the believer as how to defeat the enemy and therefore, the Word of God is the means by which the believer can exploit that strategic victory of Christ’s at the cross.
John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 15:26, “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, {that is} the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.”

John 16:13-15, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose {it} to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose {it} to you.”

1 Cor 2:9-11, “but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. For to us God revealed {them} through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the {thoughts} of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the {thoughts} of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”

There are several passages that state the believer is to give heed to what the Spirit is saying to the churches because of this spiritual principle that the Spirit takes the doctrines of Christ and makes them understandable to the believer. The Spirit speaks to the church through the communication of the Word of God.

Acts 21:11, “This is what the Holy Spirit says.”

Acts 28:25, “"The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers.”

1 Cor 12:3, “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.”

1 Tim 4:1, “ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”

Heb 3:7, “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE.”

Rev 2:11, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
Rev 2:17, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
Rev 2:7a, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
Rev 3:6, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
Rev 3:13, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
Rev 3:22, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Also, another essential item that every single believer in the Lord Jesus Christ must understand if he is to ever grow to spiritual maturity is that God has given the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher to the church. God has delegated authority to certain men in the body of Christ to exercise this authority.

The spiritual growth of each individual believer is dependent upon that which the pastor-teacher provides, namely, the Word of God, which he is to communicate (Eph. 4:7-16). He is described in Ephesians 4:16 as the “joint.” This joint metaphor is found in the book of Colossians as well as in Ephesians.

Col 2:18-19, “Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on {visions} he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire
body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.” Every believer has been assigned to a pastor-teacher.

1 Pet 5:1-4, “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as {your} fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to {the will of} God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

God has given the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher to men only.

1 Tim 3:2, “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.”

According to the Scripture a woman is to never exercise authority over a man.

1 Tim 2:12, “But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.”

The pastor has been delegated authority from the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the human instrument used by God to communicate His Word. The pastor-teacher has 3 responsibilities that are the means by which he tends and shepherds the flock of God: (1) Study (2) Teach (3) Pray.

Study:

2 Timothy 2:15, “Diligently study to present yourself to God approved, a workman not ashamed, accurately communicating the Word of Truth.”

Teach:

1 Timothy 4:13, “Give attention to the public reading (of Scripture), exhortation (message of grace for the sanctification of the believer), and teaching.”

1 Timothy 4:2, “Proclaim the word.”

Titus 2:1, “But as for you (Titus), speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.”

Pray:

Acts 6:1-4, “Now at this time while the disciples were increasing {in number} a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic {Jews} against the {native} Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving {of food.} So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

If a pastor loves the Lord and the Lord’s flock, he will feed them.

John 21:15-17, “So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, {son} of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend My lambs. He said to him again a second time, "Simon, {son} of John, do you love me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, {son} of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.”

Those pastors’s who are diligent in feeding the flock of God are to be highly esteemed.

1Thes 5:12-13, “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,
and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another."

The congregation is to imitate their conduct, which is a result of applying that which they teach their congregation.

Heb 13:7, “Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

The congregation is to submit to their spiritual authority since they keep watch over the souls of the congregation.

Heb 13:17, “Obey your leaders and submit {to them} for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

The pastor is to make the Word of God available on a daily basis to the congregation. Our Lord set the example for the pastor-teacher in the church age by teaching daily in the Temple (Matt. 26:55; Mark 14:49; Luke 19:47). He is to be repetitious in his teaching since he is the believer’s spiritual drill instructor and just like drill instructor in the military is repetitious in training troops in the use of their weapons for combat so the pastor-teacher is to be repetitious in training his spiritual troops in their use of the spiritual weapon (the Word of God) for spiritual combat (Phlp. 3:1; 2 Pet. ).

2 Pet 3:1-2, “This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior {spoken} by your apostles.”

Although the pastor-teacher is the spiritual authority in the local assembly, he is not to lord his authority over the congregation. He is to adhere to the principle of spiritual authority operate, namely, humility. The pastor’s humility is expressed through sacrifice and service to the congregation by study and teaching, which provides the congregation their spiritual food. His authority is solely derived from the Scriptures. His policies are to be solely are to be derived from the mystery doctrines for the church age. He is not to employ any Madison Avenue techniques to get people to come to his church. He is not to institute programs to attract parishioners, but is simply to communicate the Word of God. The Word of God is to be the attraction.

The spiritual growth of each individual believer is dependent upon that which the pastor-teacher provides, namely, the Word of God, which he is to communicate. Ephesians 4:7-10 speaks of the Ascension and Session of the humanity of Christ as a result of our Lord’s Strategic Victory at the Cross in the Angelic Conflict.

Ephesians 4:11 says that as a result of our Lord’s Ascension and Session, the Church was given 4 spiritual gifts designed for the communication of Bible Doctrine. Ephesians 4:12 states the 3 fold purpose of these spiritual gifts.

Ephesians 4:13-15 goes on to state that attainment of Christ-like character in the believer is our Lord’s ultimate purpose in providing these 4 communication gifts. Only 2 of these communication gifts are extant today. The spiritual gift of evangelist was designed by God to communicate the doctrine of the Gospel to the unbeliever.

The spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher was designed by God to communicate the whole realm of Bible Doctrine to the believer. The apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:16 used the Haphe Metaphor to describe the function of the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher in the Body of Christ.
In the *Haphe* Metaphor, the man with the spiritual gift of Pastor who supplies the believer with the necessary spiritual food which when metabolized and applied produces spiritual growth. Just as joints are essential in the physical body to provide freedom of movement so the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher is essential for freedom of movement spiritually in the spiritual body of Christ.

Outline of Ephesians 4:7-16: Ephesians 4:7-10: Paul speaks of the ascension and session of the humanity of Christ as a result of our Lord’s strategic victory at the cross in the angelic conflict. Ephesians 4:11: The Church was given 4 spiritual gifts designed for the communication of the Word of God as a result of our Lord’s ascension and session. Ephesians 4:12: The 3-fold purpose of these spiritual gifts. Ephesians 4:13-15: The communication gifts are designed to produce spiritual growth for the attainment of Christ-like character, and for the protection from false doctrine. Ephesians 4:16: The Pastor-teacher is designed to produce spiritual growth and the function of the diverse spiritual gifts in the body of Christ.

Eph 4:11, “And He gave some {as} apostles, and some {as} prophets, and some {as} evangelists, and some {as} pastors and teachers.” “Pastors and Teachers” is the phrase *tous poimenas kai didaskalous*.

Corrected translation of *tous de poimenas kai didaskalous*, “and the Pastor-Teachers” Poimenas is from the noun *poimen*, “shepherd.” Didaskalous is from the noun didaskalos, “teacher.”

This is a hendiadys, or 2 nouns used to express 1 idea. The Granville Sharp rule applies here which states that when 2 nouns are separated by the conjunction kai (and) and the 1st noun has a definite article preceding it and the 2nd noun does not, the 2 nouns express 1 idea or concept. Thus, the phrase *tous de poimenas kai didaskalous* translated “Pastor-Teachers” refers to 1 office, 2 fold ministry. Poimenas refers to the Pastor-Teacher’s spiritual authority over his congregation. Didaskalous refers to the Pastor-Teacher’s function.

Ephesians 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

There are 3 prepositional phrases in verse 12 which express the 3-fold purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ providing the church with the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher.

1st Prepositional Phrase in Ephesians 4:13: (1) Preposition pros, “for the face to face.” (2) Accusative masculine singular definite article ton, “the.” (3) Accusative masculine singular form of the noun katartismos, which is katartismon, “training.” (4) Genitive masculine plural definite article ton, “of the.” (5) Genitive masculine plural form of the adjective hagios, which is hagion, “saints.” “For the face to face training of the saints”: The pastor-teacher trains individual members of the body of Christ under his spiritual authority for Christian service through the communication of the Word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ had a definite purpose in mind when he gave the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher.

The noun katartismon is a hapax legomenon meaning it is found only once in the NT, which is here in Ephesians 4:12. The noun katartismos is from the katartizo word group. The verb katartizo was used as early as the 5th century B.C. and meant “to put in order, to restore, to put into proper condition, to make complete, to prepare, to make, to create.” The word is found 13 times in the NT (Matt. 4:21; 21:16; Mark 1:19; Luke 6:40; Rom. 9:22; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 3:10; Heb. 10:5; 11:3; 13:21; 1 Pet. 5:10).

The noun katartisis expresses the resulting condition of the verb katartizo and is used only once in the NT (2 Cor. 13:9). Plutarch used katartisis with regards to “training” in order to be made “complete.” Katartismos is a medical term in classical Greek denoting the “setting of the
bone.” It also has a more general meaning “preparation, equipment, equipping,” and it also can be translated “training,” or “discipline.” Plutarch used the word twice of education with paideia (Themistocles and Alexander).

Paideia referred to a child’s training, teaching and its goal was for the child to become an obedient and useful citizen of the community. The training was designed to produce character, self-control and courage.

Katartismos refers to the training one receives which equips them to serve in a particular capacity. Katartismos in Ephesians 4:12 refers to the training received by the church age believer from the communication of the Word of God by the pastor-teacher that trains and prepares them to operate in their spiritual gift, which is designed to edify the body of Christ.

The preposition pros plus the accusative katartismon expresses the first purpose of the communication gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11. The definite article ton preceding katartismon says that the Lord had a definite purpose in mind when He gave these four communication gifts to the Church. The preposition pros in Ephesians 4:13 not only expresses purpose but is also used adverbially to express the manner in which this training is to take place. Pros means “face to face,” implying a close intimate personal intercourse with someone.

The apostle John uses the word in this manner in John 1:1 where he writes that in the beginning the Word (logos) was pros, “face to face,” with God the Father. The apostle Paul also uses pros in this same manner in 2 Cor. 5:8, where he states that when the believer dies he is pros ton kurion, “face to face with the Lord.”

In Ephesians 4:12, pros plus the adverbial accusative of katartismos expresses the face-to-face training received from the communication of the Word of God by the pastor-teacher.

God’s purpose in giving the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher is to train, educate, prepare, and discipline the Church Age believer through the face-to-face communication of Bible Doctrine in order to equip them to execute the Plan of God. The apostle Paul under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit does not use the preposition eis here as he does in the following prepositional phrases because he wants to emphasize the manner in which the training is to take place. “For the face to face training of the sanctified ones”

2nd Prepositional Phrase in Ephesians 4:13: (1) Preposition eis, “for.” (2) Accusative neuter singular noun ergon, “the work.” (3) Genitive feminine singular form of the noun diakonia, which is diakonias, “of the ministry.”

Eis plus the accusative denotes a purpose or a goal in time. Ergon diakonias refers here to Christian service. Ergon refers to divine good that is produced through the utilization by the believer of the 2 Great Divine Provisions: (1) Word of God (2) Spirit of God. The anarthrous construction connotes quality of service.

Ergon diakonias refers to Christian service, which produces divine good. The communication of Bible Doctrine trains and prepares the believer for Christian service. The believer has been set apart to serve God by God the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation in order to produce divine good of intrinsic value (Eph. 2:10). One must accept by means of faith that which one has been taught must precede application.

Learning the Word of God and believing that which the believer is taught produces right thinking in the believer, which in turn produces right motivation and thus right action. Christian service is nothing but “wood, hay, and straw” when there is no application of Bible Doctrine (1 Cor. 3:12).

Ephesians 4:12 teaches that the training of the believer through the communication of the Word of God from the man with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher precedes Christian service.
The prepositional phrase *pros ton katartismon ton hagion* preceding the prepositional phrase *eis ergon diakonias* emphasizes the fact that the believer must first receive training from their right pastor-teacher before they are to serve. The work of the ministry is accomplished through learning and applying the Word of God.

The function of the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher provides the necessary training needed to perform effective Christian service. There can be no effective Christian service or production of divine good without the Word of God in the believer’s stream of consciousness.

There is a definite progression taking place in this verse. The first prepositional phrase *pros ton katartismon ton hagion*, “for the face to face training of the sanctified ones,” states that the initial purpose of the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher is to communicate and train the individual believer in a face-to-face manner. Secondly, this training through the communication of the Word of God by the pastor-teacher is followed by effective Christian service, which in turn produces divine good. Thirdly, there is the ultimate goal or purpose, which is expressed by the following prepositional phrase.

3rd Prepositional Phrase in Ephesians 4:13: (1) Preposition *eis*, “for the ultimate purpose of.” (2) Accusative feminine singular form of the noun *oikodome*, which is *oikodomai*, “building up.” (3) Genitive neuter singular definite article *tou*, “of the.” (4) Genitive neuter singular form of the noun *soma*, which is *somatos*, “body.” (5) Genitive masculine singular definite article *tou*, “the.” (6) Genitive masculine singular form of the proper name *Christou*, which is *Christos*, “Christ.”

*Oikodome* is a common term in the Koine and its basic meaning is “building.” The word is used both metaphorically and literally denoting the act of building and can also mean the finished building which is the result of construction. The word is used literally in the Gospels for the buildings in the temple (Matt. 24:1; Mark 13:1-2). It is used metaphorically for the spiritual house, which is being built in the soul of the believer through the Word of God and the Spirit of God (2 Cor. 5:1; 10:8; 13:10).

This is called the Edification Complex in the soul, which is technical nomenclature for the spiritual house or spiritual building in the individual believer’s soul, which is built upon the 2 Great Divine Provisions, which is the Word and Spirit. It refers to the spiritual growth of the believer in time. *Oikodome* is also used collectively for the Church, which is God’s “building” (1 Cor. 3:9), and “spiritual house” (1 Pet. 2:5).

The Church as God’s spiritual building or spiritual house is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom (Christ) the whole building (*oikodome*, i.e., the Church), being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:20-21).

*Oikodome* in Ephesians 4:12 has both a metaphorical and collective connotation and should be translated “construction, building up,” or “building process.” *Oikodome* in Ephesians 4:12 refers to the building up of the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:16 uses the joint metaphor to describe the Pastor-Teacher’s function in the Body of Christ which is to supply the necessary spiritual food which “causes the (spiritual) growth of the body (the Church) for the building up (oikodome) of itself in virtue-love.” “For the ultimate purpose of the construction of the Body of Christ”

Ephesians 4:11-12, “And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) gave the apostles, and the prophets, and the evangelists, and the Pastor-Teachers, for the face to face training of the sanctified ones for the work of the ministry, for the ultimate purpose of the construction of the body of Christ.”
Ephesians 4:13-16, “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. 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; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, {even} Christ, 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.”

“By what every joint supplies” in Ephesians 4:16 is a prepositional phrase in the Greek text and is composed of the following: (1) Preposition dia, “through.” (2) Genitive feminine singular form of the adjective pas, which is pases, “every.” (3) Genitive feminine singular form of the noun haphe, which is haphes, “joint.” (4) Genitive feminine singular definite article tes, “which.” (5) Genitive feminine singular form of the noun epichoregia, which is epichoregias, “abundantly provides.”

The preposition dia with the genitive denotes intermediate agency and denotes the means or the instrument by which a thing is affected. The Source of the spiritual growth of the Body of Christ is Christ Himself. Christ affects this spiritual growth through the intermediate agency of the man with the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. Haphe refers to the pastor-teacher who is the intermediate agency that the Lord uses to affect the spiritual growth of the individual members of the Body of Christ. The word is found only twice in the NT (Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19). Haphe has three basic meanings in classical literature.

The word is used by the historian Herodotus for the “lighting of the lamps” (Herodotus 7.215). It also meant “point of contact, or “touch,” and was used for the “grip” of wrestlers. Haphe was used by Aristotle for the point of contact in the physical body such as a ligament or joint. The word is used metaphorically in Ephesians 4:16 and Colossians 2:19 for the Pastor-Teacher and should be translated “joint.”

Epichoregias a compound word found only twice in the NT (Eph. 4:16; Phil. 1:19) and means “ample supply, ample provision, ample support and aid for someone.” This compound word is composed of the preposition epi, “over, above,” and choregia, “support to defray the cost of a public chorus.” The preposition epi intensifies the meaning of the noun choregia. Its cognate verb is epichoregeo, which means, “to give, to provide for, support someone or something at one’s own expense.” The preposition epi also intensifies this verb’s meaning, thus it means, “to provide or supply with unrestraining generosity.”

The verb choregeo in classical literature meant, “to lead a chorus.” Metaphorically, the word means “to minister to, to furnish abundantly with.” It is found only twice in the NT (2 Cor. 9:10; 1 Pet. 4:11).

The great dramas that were produced in Athens, Greece during the 4th and 5th century B.C. were financially supported by one of the rich citizens of the community. This person was called a choregos meaning “director of the chorus.” It was the privilege and responsibility of this man to pay the cost of training the singers, dancers, and actors, and to meet the expenses of presenting one of the compositions. Sometimes the choregos would spend a fortune upon scenery, costumes, and actors.

The choregos would often spend a fortune to produce the play that would win the prize. The word choregeo developed from the role of provider of the needs of a production to the metaphorical meaning, “to supply, to furnish, to minister.”
The root meaning of the noun *epichoregia* is derived from this verb *choregeo* and means “ample support and provision for the members of a choral dance troupe.” The metaphorical meaning of the noun is “abundantly provide.” We will translate this, “through every joint which abundantly provides”

The prepositional phrase *dia pases haphes epichoregias* is used by the apostle Paul as a metaphor for the pastor-teacher who is the intermediate agency used by the Head (Christ) to supply the Body (the Church) with the necessary spiritual food (Bible Doctrine) that produces spiritual growth.

The *Haphe* Metaphor is used by Paul to illustrate the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ uses men with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher to amply supply the individual members of His Body with the Word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Head of the Body, feeds the individual members of His Body (the Church) through men with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher, who by metaphor are referred to here in Ephesians 4:16 as His “joints.”

The Pastor-Teacher is to amply supply his congregation with the Word of God (John 21:15-17). This joint metaphor is found in the book of Colossians as well as in Ephesians.

**Col 2:18-19**, “Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on {visions} he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.”

Spiritual growth in the believer is based upon the information, which the Pastor-Teacher supplies in his daily communication of the Word of God. Submission to the Pastor-Teacher’s authority is absolutely essential in growing to spiritual maturity. The spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher is the vehicle that God uses to feed the believer the necessary spiritual food which when applied produces spiritual growth in the believer. God in His grace has given every believer at the moment of faith in Christ the necessary equipment to learn and apply the Word of God.

We have been given a human spirit at the moment of salvation through Regeneration (John 3:3; 1 Thess. 5:23). God has given us a non-meritorious system by which every believer can learn the whole realm of Bible Doctrine and grow spiritually regardless of educational background or human IQ. In grace, God has provided the completed canon of Scripture. The spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher is the vehicle to communicate the Word of God. The local church is the classroom where doctrine is taught. The privacy of the Royal Priesthood allows the believer to be objective as he learns. The human spirit in conjunction with the human soul converts doctrine from something that is merely comprehended into something thoroughly understood and useable for both spiritual growth and application to life.

Knowing God is dependent upon knowing God’s Word. As it is sometimes said, “a man’s name is as good as his word,” so God’s reputation or name is dependent on the truth, faithfulness and accuracy of His Word and one’s knowledge of the Scriptures. The importance of the Scripture in our lives as believers is further expressed in Psalm 138.

**Ps 138:2**, “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

With this in mind, let us consider the attributes of the Word of God.

**Ps 19:7-14**, “The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous
altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern {his} errors? Acquit me of hidden {faults.} Also keep back your servant from presumptuous {sins;} let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.”

The Word of God is eternal (Is. 40:8). The Word of God is omnipotent (Heb. 4:12). It is perfect, tried and true….tested and found flawless (Ps. 12:6; 19:7; 119:140). The Scripture declares its own inerrant and unadulterated character (Ps. 19:8-9). The Word of God is more valuable and precious and desirable than gold (2 Pet. 1:2-4; Ps. 19:10). It is through the Scripture that God builds up the believer’s trust in Himself (Rm. 10:17).

The spiritual growth of each individual believer is dependent upon that which the pastor-teacher provides, namely, the Word of God, which he is to communicate. We must remember that each believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a member of His body. Each member of the body of Christ has a certain function in the body. Paul employs the body of Christ metaphor in 1 Corinthians 12 in order to teach the Corinthians that they are not independent of each but rather dependent upon each other. Each believer has a different function in the body of Christ, which the rest of the body is dependent upon.

Rom 12:4-8, “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, {each of us is to exercise them accordingly;} if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

God gave the gift of pastor-teacher in order to feed the body of Christ so that it could have freedom of movement and function towards each other, operating in their spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving each other and as a result serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

The pastor-teacher is dependent upon the congregation and the congregation is dependent upon the pastor-teacher. The Pastor can’t teach if there is no congregation and the congregation can’t grow spiritually if there is no pastor. If the pastor has no congregation to teach, he can’t function in his spiritual gift. If the congregation has no pastor to feed them, then the congregation will not grow spiritually. If the congregation cannot grow spiritually, then they will not be able to operate in their spiritual gifts since the information that the Pastor supplies is the means of spiritual growth, namely, the Word of God.