



## Devotional \_\_\_\_\_

Read Ephesians 4:13-16

Ephesians 4:16 TPT

*For his "body" has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.*

**We are all connected in Christ. We can't get away from it; we are "closely joined together and constantly connected as one."**

I recently injured my foot, which not only affected my ability to walk. I also could not drive, cook, shop, shower or carry a cup of coffee. This relatively minor injury had a massive effect on my functionality, which resulted in excessive strain being put on my husband, who had to do double-duty in pretty much everything related to our home life.

In a similar way, if some parts, or members, of our local church, are inactive, it causes an overload on other parts. This is often true of church life. Much of the ministry (serving) is done by a core group of people, putting unnecessary strain on them. However, that is not how God designed it. Each part is significant and necessary and meant to be an active functioning unit. When each part is working, the whole **body is "built up and made perfect in love."** If we each do our part, it eases the load and makes the journey a joy for everyone!

None of us are **left out of God's plan**. Some are teachers, others encouragers, others provide practical help... May we each recognise our part and have the confidence to do it.

### Application

1. What is God saying to you through this passage?
2. What gifts or abilities has God given you to contribute to the growth and edification of others in his body?
3. What, if anything, is stopping you from serving God and his people fully?

### Prayer

Father, thank you for placing me in a body, your church. Help me to recognise the significance of my part and guide me to find my place of service in your kingdom, according to your will and purpose, for your glory. **In Jesus' name, amen.**