



Part 6 – EQUIPPING



“The church we see is **EQUIPPING**: maturing people in their faith, encouraging them in their gifts, developing them in their leadership, and releasing them to be everything they can be for the Lord.”

- * If we're RAISING and RELEASING people, everything else becomes POSSIBLE.
- * We'll never be an OUTREACH centre until we first become a TRAINING centre (Ephesians 4:11-16)

→ “We've heard it said, that flourishing church will be a hospital, classroom, gymnasium, army, home. I'd argue that we'll never fulfil any of that, without first becoming equippers.” Is the church those things? Should it be? Are those metaphors helpful? Can you think of any others?

→ Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What does it tell you about your leaders' responsibilities to you? What does it tell you about your personal targets?

1. EQUIPPED in WORD

- * Your greatest potential vulnerability is WEAK in WORD (Eph 4:14).
 - * 2 Timothy 2:15 → Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who CORRECTLY HANDLES the word of truth.
 - * 2 Timothy 3:16 → ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for TEACHING, REBUKING, CORRECTING AND TRAINING in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED for every good work.
- Why is 'weak in Word' dangerous? What does it mean to be 'tossed to and fro'? How do you recognise someone weak in Word? What about strong?

OUR COMMITMENT / RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU is to help you:

- Know the SCRIPTURES → 'Rightly divide,' balanced, thorough ... in close + detailed, also wider lens overview.
 - Know the TRUTH → So you can live free, effective, undistracted, unshakeable life.
 - Know JESUS → Deep and real, personal and intimate.
 - Know the SPIRIT and HIS WAYS → Sensitive, yielded, inspired, matured.
- How are you doing in each of these? How are we at the Barn doing in our responsibility to you? What is your own responsibility?

→ The Word is your sword, rock, daily bread, lamp for feet + light to path ... Father heart of God, revelation of Jesus, Holy Spirit handbook. Is it for you? What do each of those look like?

2. EQUIPPED in WALK

- * Ephesians 6:10-12 shows you that it's going to be a STRUGGLE; that you must TAKE YOUR STAND and BE STRONG IN THE LORD.
- * In the rest of Ephesians 6, Paul teaches us about the EQUIPMENT God has given us → TOOLS, WEAPONS, PROTECTIVE ARMOUR
- * In the light of Ephesians 6, do we know what we HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL? Can we WIELD the WEAPONS of our WARFARE?

→ What do we have at our disposal? What are the tools, weapons, armour? Do you consider yourself equipped, ready to respond, prepared for action, skilled in what God has given us for the journey?

3. EQUIPPED in WORK

- * Ephesians 2:10 → For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can DO THE GOOD THINGS he planned for us long ago.

THIS IS ABOUT:

- FLOURISHING in what God's CALLED you to.
→ Are you 'flourishing' in what God's called you to do? Do you know what God's called you to do? What's your sweet-spot? If you're not 100% sure, any clues you've picked up?
 - Being TRAINED to use your GOD-GIVEN GIFTS (Romans 12:6-8).
→ Do you feel you have been or are being trained in your God-given gifts? What do you still need? How might your Connect Group help?
 - Our desire for God to say to us one day: "Well done, GOOD & FAITHFUL servant."
 - * Faithful is CHARACTER; good is EQUIPPED.
 - * And EQUIPPING is what God does (Hebrews 13:20-21).
- Is God going to say well done? Have you been faithful? Are you working to become good?

4. EQUIPPED in WITNESS

- * Our COMMISSION (Matthew 28:19) and our TASK (1 Corinthians 5:18-20)
- * AMBASSADORS for Christ, ministers of RECONCILIATION, preachers of the GOSPEL, makers of DISCIPLES.

WE NEED TO BE EQUIPPED TO:

- ELEVATE conversation onto SPIRITUAL matters.
- Explain the GOSPEL in simple terms.
- DEFEND the faith with skill.
- Recognise DIVINE ENCOUNTERS.
- Respond to the tug of COMPASSION.
- INVEST and INVITE, REACH and TEACH, PRAY and PREPARE ground, SOW seed and REAP harvest.

→ How good are you at each of those? What further equipping do you need?