



Love Incorruptible
#7 The Church (part 2)
June 4, 2017
Courage Church, Detroit, MI

Good morning Courage Church.

Okay! So today marks the big shift that we have been talking about for the first six weeks of this series... today we begin Ephesians chapter 4... and if you remember, Paul doesn't give us any

commands in Ephesians 1-3... he doesn't lay out rules and give practical advice.

He spends the entire first half of the book focusing on Jesus... on what Jesus did...on all of the ways that we should be changed by what Jesus did. He doesn't give us a SINGLE COMMAND the entire first half of the book. He just tells us in several different ways, just how much Jesus did for us... Jesus saved us by grace... Jesus broke down the dividing wall of hostility... Jesus is able to do exceedingly more than we could ever even imagine...

and then, in chapter 4 Paul starts with the words "I therefore"

Therefore...

Because of everything that Christ did FOR YOU... Now, lets look at how YOU SHOULD LIVE FOR HIM...

and then we get some of the most practical, timely passages, all laid out one after another after another.

And Paul starts by talking about the thing that is really theme of the entire book of Ephesians, and that is: The Church.

So lets open our bibles to Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1-16.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Lets Pray

In 1985, a man named Robert Bellah wrote a book called “Habits of the Heart” - it was essentially about how individualistic people are in our society... and in it he said that said that 81% of all people believe that a person should come to his faith... his religious beliefs, on their own. Apart from any church.

And that was in 1985... we all know that society has only grown more and more in that direction... In fact most people, even when you hear it now, in this place, may be saying “yeah... that makes sense”

Now, I believe that Christ has to do something personally in the hearts of every person on an individual level, but HE DOES THAT WORK through his body moving forward together, and the problem with you figuring out everything on your own is that you will make whatever decisions you make based on your worldview... whether it has been shaped by the world, by your friends and family, or it has been shaped by the bible, or by the church... no matter where it came from, it is there.

When you get sick, you may be able to self diagnose yourself if you have a cold, or even the flu... but what happens if your whole body breaks out in something you have never seen before... what happens when you literally cant get out of bed in the morning for weeks straight? There is OBVIOUSLY something wrong with you, but you don't know enough to know what it is... you can keep trying to figure it out, and treat it yourself and quite possibly die trying...

or you can go to the hospital. Or go see a doctor.

The church is here for a reason. Well, a lot of reasons.

Let me put it for you another way. If I were to do a poll in this room today, and say "Is it possible to be a Christian and not go to church" - odds are almost all of you would give me a RESOUNDING YES!

I know that, because I am a pastor here, and my first response would probably be YES! Why? Because we all know that we are NOT SAVED BY WORKS!!! and we aren't. But the problem is, when we hear things like that, we immediately think of the individual and not the whole... we immediately think, "am I saved?"

and if being a Christian only means that we are saved by grace, then yes, of course we can be a Christian without being a part of the church... but if being a Christian means being a Christ follower, which by definition means we are the body that he puts his head on, and if it is about the effectiveness of our lives... - then the answer gets a little more complicated. It is a little more to think through.

The truth is that the MAJORITY of people even claiming to be Christians saying that they believe that it is possible to live an EFFECTIVE Christian life while not be a part of the church.

now listen... I am going to say a few things like that today... things that other "Christians" today believe... That is not to justify yourself. It can be so easy to throw yourself into the mold that everyone else is fitting into right now, but I am telling you, the course that we are on, when it comes to people's view in our age of the church, IT IS NOT GOOD.

The Apostle Paul loved the church so much and believed in the church SO MUCH that he was willing to die for it.

and yet we think, in our society, that we can be nonchalant about it!

Wake up church.

or Paul puts it this way in what we just read... GROW UP CHURCH.

The world is dying. And you will never be a part of its rescue if you keep to yourself, focus on yourself, and live for yourself.

AND, on the flip side of that, you will never be a part of its rescue IF you come in here, learn a bunch of cool stuff about Jesus, and then never apply it out there...

never serve...

never put feet to your faith.

The church is bigger than this room... and if we think we can be passive about coming, OR we think we can be passive about GOING OUT... we are lying to ourselves, AND we are still spiritual babies as Paul so notably puts it.

J.D.Greear, a pastor I have been reading a lot from lately, is even bolder with his words about the church than I am... though I completely agree with him...so I will let him do the talking:

*“Can God be powerfully at work in your life apart from being a part of Christ’s body, the church? The answer in the New Testament, consistently and **without exception**, is resoundingly NO.”*

No. He can’t work.

The church is the plan.

But what does that actually look like?

Paul tells us that we, the church, need to walk in a manner that is worthy of our calling. What is he saying?

He is saying that Jesus Christ saw that you were so valuable that you were worth dying for...

does your life reflect that?

and then Paul tells us what that should look like... it should look like:

humility.

gentleness.

peace.

love.

and unity.

Now, we have done teachings on the all of these subjects before... and today we can’t break down them all because there is just so much packed into this passage, but Paul really dives deeper on the last one... unity.

He tells us to be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace - and then he says: (v4-6)

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

one one one one.

So even though we know that there are many members of the body... which is the church... Paul says: there is only one.

Now, if you jump ahead to verse 14,

Paul says “that WE may no longer be children” another translation says “infants.” or “babies” but the way it is written, is it is plural. It is talking to a group of people... a group of individuals... they don’t see a bigger picture... they only see themselves - babies only are concerned with their own needs, they aren’t concerned for others... they aren’t concerned with how they affect others, only themselves... and that is okay... BECAUSE THEY ARE BABIES.

When a person first comes to Christ... they are going to be a Spiritual baby... thats okay. But 20 years later, hopefully they have grown up a little. 6 months later hopefully they have grown up, at least a little.

But if you notice this, the language is plural when Paul talks about being a baby... when it talks about being immature... when it talks about the churches that haven’t grown up yet... and everybody there is about themselves, and about what they can get out of every service, and never about what they can give...

its plural. It is a group of individuals.

But then when Paul begins to talk about what we are to grow up into...

suddenly, you get singular language.

We grow up, from being a bunch of immature people who are only concerned with our own needs, and we grow into one body that is moving BOLDLY in the direction of love, *in unity*.

We are going to talk about this in a few weeks when we get to the second half of Ephesians 5, but one of the hardest to understand principles about God is the concept of the Trinity.

How can one person be 3 persons? How can 3 persons be one?

but what you will find is that the church functions in the same exact way... and the more we experience unity and oneness... the more accurately we are able to reflect God and his triune nature.

So Paul starts by talking about unity... EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE ONE.

But then, he throws a curveball... and he begins to talk about DIVERSITY.

How does that make any sense?

you see, you CAN have diversity, and still have unity, which I will show you in a moment...

but YOU CAN'T LIVE FOR YOURSELF and still have unity. Unity requires that you look for the best interests of the body even when maybe it is not the best interest of yourself.

look how Paul describes this: (v8-10)

But grace was given **to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.** ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and **he gave gifts to men.**”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

What this is saying, in a nutshell, and there have been entire sermons written on this one passage along which we won't do today... but the basic gist is that Jesus did everything that he did... he left a high and lofty place to come and live among us, to live perfect life and die for our sins, in order to anoint us... in order to give us gifts. But to each of us he gave specific gifts...

1 Corinthians 12 is a bit of a parallel passage to these verses in Ephesians... that is where it says “there is a variety of gifts... but ONE SPIRIT...” and Paul there talks about how each person is given a different gift, but that gift is essential in seeing the church accomplishing its mission.

God literally, on purpose, created us differently... in ways that WE ALL FIT TOGETHER.

There in 1 Corinthians 12 (v27), Paul says: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

You are only individual in as much as you are contributing what God specifically gifted you with... to the body... to the whole. You are an individual piece created to make the whole picture WHOLE.

You have a responsibility in the body to do your part... and it is a part that not just anyone can play. There are things that you are going to do much better than Dawn or I could ever do... and there are other things that maybe God has equipped us to do in a more effective way than you would be able to do it... and that is what makes us A BODY!

But if you get try and take the “individual” out of the body... you aren’t going to accomplish anything for the Kingdom.

God gifted you with exactly what HIS BODY needed. This is why I am trying to get better at putting people in their gifts... If you are creative... we would love for you to be on the creative team... if you are a people person, WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO HELP CONNECT WITH PEOPLE... I used to feel bad asking people to help with the church, especially in the areas that they are already really good at or if they do it vocationally... because I always worry about burning people out... God has really had to work with me on that one.

and I always used to have this idea that said “God has given you everything YOU NEED” - but the more I read the scriptures, and the more I understand the significance of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ... I

really am realizing, GOD GAVE YOU EVERYTHING THAT HIS CHURCH NEEDS. And when we all come together, we are better... we can do more.

and I think that this is so significant... it has to be...

Paul, talking about Jesus here, says: "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and **he gave gifts to men.**"

but he is quoting Psalm 68:18 which says:

You ascended on high,
 leading a host of captives in your train
 and receiving gifts among men...

Do you notice anything different about these?

In Psalm 68, it says He was receiving gifts among men.

But in Ephesians, Paul swaps it. He says: HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.

I hope that by now you understand that Jesus Christ changed everything.

He brought more hope than even the prophets could anticipate. For everything that anyone ever thought they saw coming, Jesus was better. This God didn't come receiving...

This God came giving.

Don't waste it... Don't waste what God gave you... Don't waste what Jesus died to make sure that you had... live your life in a manner that is worthy of the call... that is worthy of the unfathomably high price that was paid for it.

now, verses 11- 14:

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the

stature of the fullness of Christ, 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.”

okay... now, this is the meat. This is it. This section and the next one... It is one of our theme verses here, if you go on our mobile app, in our EQUIP section you get this verse, Ephesians 4:12 - “its the job of the church to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.”

Here is the thing that people don't understand. I have tried since we got here to help you guys understand this...

Most people believe that “the church” should be doing things... we should be feeding more people... we should provide the shelter for the homeless, we should have more programs that help people... and you are right! The church should be doing all of those things...

but that means YOU.

The scriptures say VERY CLEARLY that MY JOB... or “the leaders,” if you will... our job IS TO EQUIP YOU to do the work of the ministry.

and hopefully you all know that Dawn and I are not beyond getting ourselves dirty in order to see the work get done... we are not “beyond” taking in the stranger or giving someone a meal... that is not what I am saying.

What I am saying is that the bible says that my job is to Equip you to do it. And from my perspective that certainly does mean leading by example and I hope we have done that... but my job is to teach you why its so important that we value everyone... that we meet people in the broken places of their lives and come alongside of them RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE.

If my job were to meet every need, and do all of the ministry, I would die. My marriage would die... my kids would hate me... my family would fall apart and soon after I would just die.

The job is so much bigger than me... its bigger than our leadership team, and even all of the volunteers that we currently have serving.

The job of the church can only be accomplished by a BODY in which EVERYONE is playing their roles... and primarily, Dawn and I's role is to EQUIP you to DO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY.

one pastor (J.D. Greear, the same guy I quoted earlier) actually says it like this: The day I became pastor, I left the ministry.

Because the day he became pastor, he stopped doing all of the work of the ministry and started doing all of the work on an equipper.

It is not the pastors job, IN ANY CHURCH, to make sure that there are a whole bunch of ministries going on... its not his job to do adopt a block - its not the pastors job to meet all of the needs - its his job to equip the saints to meet the needs... to do the work. You come in here, and you should leave compelled to have a more intimate relationship with Jesus... you should leave compelled to tell your neighbors and friends about Jesus. You should be compelled to go deeper and deeper in Christ...

See we see it as a Mother or a Father feeding a baby. Doing things for a child... always doing things for them instead of equipping them to do it themselves. But Paul says that its a sign that a church has grown up... that they have left infancy... when the leaders are EQUIPPING the saints... NOT JUST FEEDING THEM... and the saints are the ones changing the world.

That is a New Testament church.

and the last thing we read is verses 15 and 16 -

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

The first thing here is so crucial. This is how grown up Christians talk to each other... and how they talk to others... they speak the truth... but they ALWAYS speak it IN LOVE.

and we are actually going to focus on this concept a lot more next week... we can't spend much time on it today... but as we begin to grow up in Christ... we begin to learn how to talk to each other.

and when we get to a place where we can have honest dialogues with each other, which is a whole lot harder than you may think... that is a HUGE sign that we are growing in our unity... When we can have those types of hard conversations, and not be destroyed by them... when we can be honest with each other, and still be in community with each other at the end of it... do you realize how powerful that makes us? We can do so much for the Kingdom of Heaven because we will have rooted out the bitterness, and the unforgiveness... and the silent killers that we don't even realize are rendering us powerless.

but ONLY when we have grown up in the faith... and when we have realized that it is only in the context of community that we are as we should be... ONLY WHEN the EQUIPPED SAINTS are DOING WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO... ONLY THEN - will the body grow - only then will it build itself up in love.

Now, if you remember a couple of weeks ago, what John Stott calls Ephesians? He says that it is THE GOSPEL OF THE CHURCH.

Woven throughout every line of this book is, what should be considered the heartbeat of the church. And Paul uses a variety of examples to demonstrate the church and its relationship to Jesus.

In Ephesians 1, Paul describes the church as a body. In Ephesians 1:22-23 he says: 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.

He returns to that language here, in chapter 4:15-16 when he tells us to grow up into Christ, who is the HEAD.

In chapter 2, Paul says that the church is a temple. He says Christ is the cornerstone and together we are being built up into a dwelling place for the spirit...

Then in chapter 3, Paul says that the church is a MYSTERY. An idea that he returns to in chapter 5 when he relates marriage to the church which we will study in a few weeks, and I am really excited for that.

So in relating the church to Christ, in the first half of Ephesians, Paul says the church is: a body, a temple, and a mystery.

Then here he is again, in chapter 4, saying it is body again.

In Luke 9 (v57,58) we get a very strange scenario, and conversation that takes place between Jesus and three people, one at a time... who want to follow him.

The the second man said to Jesus that he would follow Jesus, BUT FIRST he needed to go and bury his Father... the third one said "I will follow you... but first, let me say goodbye to my family..." both seem reasonable... but to one Jesus said: Let the dead bury their own dead!

and to the other He said "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

and Jesus' response to these guys seems so harsh... but here lies the problem: But first.

They both wanted to follow Jesus... but the problem was, they both put other things first. They had "their own business" to tend too. And when you read it, it can be easy to jump to the defense of these poor wanna be disciples, because it seems like what they were asking for was reasonable...

and the reason I believe we think that these requests seem reasonable, is because if we look closely at ourselves in the mirror... that is us.

Isn't that us? "The church is important..." but only so much as it doesn't interfere with the rest of our lives...

They say that the average "Christian" attends church one time every 4-5 weeks now... every 4-5 weeks they come together and are in community with others, sharpening each other... once every 4-5 weeks they are a part of something bigger than themselves.

Because to most of us, our lives come first.

But think of it like this... these guys want to follow Christ, they just have to do this one thing... but if something else is first now, in that HIGH MOMENT OF ACTUALLY BEING CALLED... something will ALWAYS be first. There will always be excuses not to be there, not to go to outreaches, not to serve... To not fully follow the call or follow it at all... THERE ARE ALWAYS THINGS THAT WILL GET IN THE WAY. because everything about discipleship HAS A COST... and most of us don't want to pay.

Now please hear my heart... because I want the church to be life to you...

it should be a place where we go, and we share together, and we commune together, and we love it... I am not the guy who gets mad when people take vacations or even need to take a week off and really get some rest... because we want people to minister from a place of health, and I understand that everyone has various factors and circumstances... this is NOT condemnation... WE WANT HEALTH.

But you have to be able to gage that health... and if it is real health.

Rest can make you healthy, but it can also make you lazy...

and if under the guise of "health" we stop serving people... stop connecting with people... stop being a part of the body... THAT IS NOT HEALTH. Paul says what health is here in Ephesians. Because things that are healthy grow... look again at what he says at the very end:

"when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Health is all of us using our gifts together for the Kingdom, moving forward together and growing TOGETHER.

But these men who had the opportunity to follow Jesus, because of their selfish responses, were denied the opportunity to follow Jesus!

Which again, most people have the hardest time understanding...

but its not hard to understand, when you really think about what Jesus said to the FIRST of the three men.

The first of the three men came enthusiastically, and said "I will follow you wherever you go." - he didn't really even count the cost, he just said the words... and you know that, because of how Jesus responded... He said this:

"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Foxes have holes. Birds have nests. As of now... I have no where to lay my head.

And the common application to this is simply this... "it costs a lot to follow Jesus (which it does!)... he sleeps without a pillow every night and is homeless... that might be your life... are you SURE you want that life???" - but Jesus was a rabbi... he was a traveling teacher, and he was constantly invited into people's homes. He had places to sleep.

Holes and nests, they are much more than just a place to call home or a place to sleep...right? In fact, birds don't create nests so that they have a place to sleep. Foxes don't dig holes for a place to sleep.

Think of a birds nest, and what is the first thing you think of? Most likely, it is eggs. Birds build nests, to lay eggs. Holes and nests are places that foxes and birds have *children*... where they nurture their offspring, where reproduction happens... IT IS ALL ABOUT REPRODUCTION...

but Jesus is saying in Luke 9, I don't have that. I have nowhere to reproduce myself yet. The church hadn't been established yet. HE WAS STILL CALLING DISCIPLES... The birds... they can reproduce. The foxes, they can reproduce...

But the church... as of now that hasn't come yet... and that is what I am looking for.

I am looking for a body. I am looking for a body to lay my head onto. A body, who will let me be their head.

Colossians 1:18 says (talking about Jesus): "he is the head of the body, the church."

But before any of this happened, Jesus had to establish the church.

And he did it by hand picking his disciples and reproducing who He is into them... Because he needed a body to put His head on... he needed people who would be able to take the Great Commission and live it for the rest of their lives... He needed people who were willing to be used by the Holy Spirit... people who would go into the places that nobody else wanted to go... and reach the people that nobody else wanted to reach... JESUS WAS ESTABLISHING HIS CHURCH.

But if we are going to be his body... we have to know what it is that he actually established...

because when he finally did establish it, this is what He did... He looked at Peter (Matthew 16), and He spoke life into him and into the future spread of the gospel by saying "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!"

and most people read this backwards.

Most people, when they read "the gates of hell will not prevail" we automatically assume that hell is coming after us but it won't be strong enough because we have Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the power to defend ourselves... and we do have those things, and Paul talks about that

in Ephesians 6... we have the entire armor of God... but that is not what Jesus is saying to Peter.

Because a gate's job is to keep people out... so if a gate doesn't prevail... if a gate doesn't do its job, that means *its coming down*... it means it is not keeping people out... but what that means for the church is... we are going IN!

This is so important, because so many people go to church thinking that they are safe inside these four walls... hell can't get us here! Not realizing that we are supposed to be knocking down hells gates... we are supposed to be out there rescuing people from the hells that they are in now, and the eternity that they are headed for... WE ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE POSITION.

and that is why Jesus was so hard on those potential followers who wanted to follow Jesus but insisted on putting something else FIRST. Because he knows, "we can't beat hell like that." We can't be about ourselves and our business... we need to be about the Father's business...

But we need to grow up into Christ if we are going to do that. You go on the offense by taking action. By getting out there, serving, living the love you claim to have... living the things that you come here and are taught about and equipped to go and do.

This is a VERY serious mission and you will fail if you go at it alone.

Jesus has a very clear, razor focused mission... and the entire thing will take shape by way of the church.

Please hear this... I need you to leave here today understanding this:

The church, the BODY that is the church, not the building... it is where God lives.

and when Paul says that we need to be joined together with this body that Christ is the head of... the whole thing is connected... you are connected to me... I am connected to you... and together, we are connected to Jesus.

But the church IS the body that Jesus put his head on. You, by yourself, off in your own little world of all things you... IS NOT the body that Jesus put his head on. You, by yourself, are going to need a gate of your own... you won't make it.

and so often people think that they can have the world the way they want it... they can have Jesus the way they want him... they can get all the benefits but not make any of the contributions... they can go and be a part of the church when it is socially fulfilling but they can keep to themselves and do their own thing whenever they want... as if the hand can just sometimes say to the arm, I don't want to be there today... I am going to cut myself off for a few days, and then reattach when I feel like it.

It doesn't work.

and when we try and be the church by ourselves, we find ourselves powerless... because Jesus doesn't empower the man, HE EMPOWERS THE CHURCH. He works THROUGH THE CHURCH. and so often people are frustrated because they aren't seeing the ways that God is moving in their lives... and SOMETIMES... and I hate to be the one to tell you this, but Paul says in verse 15 that we need to speak the truth in love... and if I won't say it to you, most likely nobody will...

Sometimes, the reason that it feels like God is not moving in your life, could be because HE IS NOT MOVING.

Don't get me wrong... God is ALWAYS MOVING. But He is moving through his church... and if you expect to live a life of power, while you aren't connected to the very source that he PROMISED to make powerful... you will constantly be frustrated because you will know the truth but you won't experience the power of it.

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I have this electric toothbrush that Dawn bought for me, and it basically brushes my teeth for me... but after I charge it, I put the charger away and

then when the toothbrush battery dies, its usually a week or so that I am brushing my teeth with it, as if it was a normal, powerless toothbrush...

and whenever I brush my teeth with it without the power... Dawn reminds me... "that tooth brush is not meant to be used that way... you need to charge it..." and after several days of hearing that, and of brushing the human way...

Finally I get sick of not having the power and so I finally take the time to get out the charger, set it up, and put the toothbrush on it.

Then the next time I brush my teeth, its amazing again.

But I can't expect that toothbrush to charge itself.

I need to plug it in. I need to make sure its connected. Just yesterday I finally brushed my teeth with a fully charged tooth brush again, and it was night and day the difference...

and I know that its weird that I just told you that story...

but the truth is, the church is like that.

We are powerless without it... Even when it comes to spiritual gifts... we get distracted when we make them about ourselves... and it is easy to do... because we all have different gifts... but the bible says that the gifts are given in order to EDIFY to body... in order to BUILD UP the church.

We have the power. We are the power. But the key word is WE. Its not a you thing... its not a me thing... its a we thing.

Only together are we the church. and ONLY through the church will Jesus save the world.