Summer in the Spirit: Growing in the Spirit
Ephesians 4:1-14
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Ephesians 4:1-14 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. [2] Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. [3] Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; [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 to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. [8] This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." [9] (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? [10] He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) [11] So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. [14] Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ to grow up

_____ immaturity: Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Ephesians 4:14 (NLT)

_____purpose: I encourage you, even as God's prisoner, to let your commitment be equal to the calling of grace that you have received. With humility, meekness, and long-suffering in everything…. Ephesians 4:1 (JOT)

2. _____ for spiritual growth

_____ for it: Bear with one another in love by setting your sights on keeping a unity with the Spirit through building the muscle of peace! One Body, one Spirit, and you have been called into one Hope! Ephesians 4:3b-5a (JOT)

_____ the grace: Each one of us has been given grace according to the wealth of the gift of Christ. For it is written…he gave gifts to his people! (Psalm 68:18) So Christ gave us apostles, prophets…. Ephesians 4:7-8, 11 (JOT)

_____ the Body: It is that God's people will be equipped…building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we…all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (TLB)

3. _____ the power of growth

_____ to Christ: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. Matthew 11:28-29 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

Are you tired? Worn out? Are you longing for a greater purpose and a genuine hope? Isaiah the prophet said: *Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare*. (Isaiah 55:2, NIV) Listen to the invitation of the Holy Spirit. It is calling you from the dead, tired, paths of brokenness to the joy and hope of God's presence. Accept God's invitation to love you and share with you forever! This week, read Isaiah 55 and Ephesians 4 to allow the Holy Spirit to connect you to God's power!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; NLT: New Living Translation; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible; MSG: The Message