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The promise of a Spiritual Growth

‘Promise of spiritual Growth.’

(Ephesians 4:11 - 15)

Intro: When someone tells you that they don't like _____ religion, they obviously have an axe to grind with someone who has done them wrong, or they are spiritually _____ and have no clue that God isn't as much interested in religion, as He is in us having a relationship with Him.

Having said this, God is _____, has perfectly thought-out plans and purposes for everything He does and one of the things He has planned is a well-organized, _____ church, and the lives of the people who will make up that congregation. And for the local assembly to function as a spiritually mature group.

Those who do not want to belong or join a local assembly, especially if they are fundamental and separated is because they want to _____ to their own thoughts, their own ways and own wills regardless of what the Bible states. While some local churches are nothing more than social in nature with a smattering of Gospel, such individuals contribute _____ to very, very little to God's purposes and God's plans. And as we go through this lesson, I believe we will see the necessity of an organized local church under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IX. God has promised us spiritual growth – Ephesians 4:11 – 15.

- A. These verses show beyond a shadow of doubt that God _____ the local church/assembly to not only be organized, but to be organized for purpose.
- B. The primary purpose is to _____ the Redeemed of the Lord to serve Him and one another as well to reach a lost world with the Gospel.
- C. When we consider **I Corinthians 12 – 14** where the Holy Spirit makes known the mind of the Lord on how these spiritual gifts or gift are to be used and the _____ placed on them and the individual, they are to accomplish only that which an organized assembly can accomplish.
- D. So, the Apostle Paul, used of the Holy Spirit is expressing a tremendous promise that comes with a great _____ for the Believer.
 - 1. One must be _____ to apply themselves to attaining spiritual growth as well as yielding themselves to the leadership and influences of the Holy Spirit, being grounded

in the Word of God.

2. In this process given to us in our text, we are promised through this _____ to which we are to yield to, spiritual maturity, an equipping for the ministry of the Gospel.

(Ephesians 4:12.)

- a. The word “perfection” comes from the Greek word [katartismos] meaning a furnishing or equipping.
 - b. And there are three stated goals for these individuals whom God calls.
 - (1). The “**perfecting of the Saints.**”
 - (2). The “**work of the ministry.**”
 - (3). The “**edifying of the body of Christ**”. Edifying meaning to build up.
3. Wrapped up in these verses we find,
- a. We have been _____ “perfection” or an equipping.
 - b. We have been _____ spiritual “equipping” so we can do the work of ministry.
 - c. we have been _____ the ability to “edify” others which is to strengthen other Believers through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Overall, we have been promised that we will have all of the Lord’s _____ at our disposal to enable us to grow-up in the Lord – **verses 13 – 14.**