

Training for Service

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Apostles give foundation, prophets give direction, evangelists give expansion, pastors give protection and teachers give instruction.

Their purpose is to equip the saints and build up the body.

To equip means to furnish; to perfect; to set in place; to make complete for a purpose; to prepare; **to train**

The question is, is training necessary?

I.

Untrained saints do more harm than good.

Untrained saints develop incorrect theology.

Acts 8:18-19 (NLT) says, ¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. ¹⁹ "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!"

Untrained saints serve for the wrong reasons.

Matthew 6:2 MSG says, "When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure—'playactors' I call them—treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds."

Untrained saints place themselves in harm's way.

Acts 19:13-16

II.

Training prepares everyone to participate in serving.

Luke 9:1-2 (the 12) and Luke 10:1 (the 70)

Training breeds confidence in our assignment from God.

Luke 10:17 NIV says, *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord even the demons are subject to us in your name.*

Training prepares us to produce results.

Acts 2 (Peter's trial sermon) & Acts 5 (God uses Peter to heal the sick)

III.

When trained saints serve, the body of Christ is built up.

Trained saints encourage with the Word of God (foundation).

Trained saints protect their brothers and sisters in Christ (walls).

Trained saints inspire others with their testimony (windows).

Trained saints cover each other with prayer (roof).

*Rhema Christian Center
Minister Tony Ransom
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