

DAY 3

JOY JOURNEY 2020
TOGETHER FORWARD

Devotionals

“...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16 NKJV

As I have been praying with you and for you as we walk together through this season of God’s abounding grace at Oak City, I realize how easy it would be to become overwhelmed and immobilized as we look at the scope of God’s plan, rather than the simplicity of God’s plan. I am always amazed and grateful that God has given us Himself in Christ and that Christ is the fulfillment of all His promises in His Word!

God teaches us the great truth of how He himself will accomplish His work in this verse as His truth is faithfully taught, and as each part of the body (each individual believer) at Oak City receives the truth and every believer does their share. This causes the body to grow as it builds itself up in the love of Christ. Therein lies the simplicity of God’s plan: each believer’s willingness to daily obey the task set before him/her as he/she is led by the Holy Spirit. In this verse, we learn both our privilege and God’s purpose.

Our privilege: As the adopted children of God, He has not only placed us in the body of Christ, but He has also given us dignity and worth by equipping us with a spiritual gift to serve and glorify Christ. This occurs in our lives as we serve others through the local church body. Although it is our privilege, there remains the necessity of daily willingness of intentional obedience as we joyfully surrender to the Holy Spirit, and acknowledge that no one can do, or will do, my share for me.

God’s purpose: as every part of the body does its share, we can confidently expect to see the fruit of labor that is energized by the Holy Spirit. The wonderful truth is that many of you are already doing this, as the need for physical expansion shows!

As we continue to seek to live out Ephesians 4:16 by the power of the Holy Spirit, God is demonstrating the power of the Gospel and the reality of His power and grace at work in our hearts.

— Richard Glenny

Prayer Thought

There remains only our response to the call of God. Pray, “Am I ready and willing to be obedient to Christ in doing my share?”