

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 men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)

Grow Up

That is exactly what I want to do. **What is it that you want to do?** I want to grow up in your body. I no longer want to be an infant. I don't want to be weak. I don't want to be tossed back and forth by the storms of life. I don't want to be driven by every wind of popular opinion. I want to be strong. I want to be mature. I want to be complete. **Those are very good desires.**

How will you grow up in my body? That is a good question. **Do you have any answers?** I have several answers. **I would like to hear your answers.** First, I need to remain vitally connected to you and your body. **How will you do that?** I will live in an intimate relationship with you. I will draw near to you. I will pray to you. I will worship you. I will meet with you in your word. I will listen to your instructions. I will follow your guidance. I will walk with you through life. That is a good answer. **What else will you do so you can grow up in my body?** I will live vitally connected in your body. I will remain grounded in your body. **How so?** I will live in intimate relationships with my fellow believers. I will allow myself to be known. I will seek to know others. I will accept what you want me to receive through the ministry of others in your body. I will use the spiritual gifts that you have given me to help build up others in your body. **That will be very good.**

You have learned a very important principle that will help you to grow up in my body. What's that? **You must receive and you must give. As you live in an intimate relationship with me, I will teach and train and prepare you to give to others what you have received from me. Only in receiving and giving will you be able to fully grow up in my body. Are you committed to giving to others what you have received from me?** Yes Lord, I am. **Then you will grow up in my body. You will become strong and mature and complete in me.** That will be very good. **Yes, it will.**

Lord, thank you for rooting me in your body of believers where I can be protected, encouraged, and strengthened, as I love, follow and serve you. Help me to know and use my spiritual gifts so I will be able to build up your body so that each part does its work. Amen

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Infants*

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 men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

NIV Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Immature*

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. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

NLT Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Children*

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

NRSV Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Children*

So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead. Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

AMP Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer To Be Children*

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

NASB Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Children*

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. 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.

ESV Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Children*

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 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.

NKJV Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Prolonged Infancies*

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

MSG Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Like Children*

Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly—and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of his body, the Church. Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

TLB Ephesians 4:14-16

Spiritual Warfare *No Longer Be Babies*

Then we will no longer be babies. We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another. We will not be influenced by every new teaching we hear from people who are trying to fool us. They make plans and try any kind of trick to fool people into following the wrong path. No! Speaking the truth with love, we will grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love.

NCV Ephesians 4:14-16

No Longer Be Infants

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 4:14-16

In Context: *Read Ephesians 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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 men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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 men | in their | deceitful scheming. | Instead, | speaking the truth | in love, | we will | in all things | grow up | into him | who is | the Head, | that is, Christ. | From him | the whole body, | joined | and | held together | by every | supporting ligament, | grows | and | builds itself up | in love, | as each part | does its | work. Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for rooting me in your body of believers where I can be protected, encouraged, and strengthened, as I love, follow and serve you. Help me to know and use my spiritual gifts so I will be able to build up your body so that each part does its work. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you been most susceptible to being tossed back and forth by deceptive and false teaching?

Why is following Christ and living for Him not meant to be done in isolation for others in the body of Christ?

How will consistent coming together to fellowship and worship with the body of Christ offer you protection?

How have others using their spiritual gifts helped prepare you to also serve others in the body of Christ?

What spiritual gifts have you been given to serve others in the body of Christ?

How are you using your gifts to lovingly serve others and build up the body of Christ?

How are you joined together with other believers so that you can both give and receive strength from each other?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Find a place where you can use your spiritual gifts to serve and build others up in the body of Christ.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you have been given spiritual gifts to serve and build others up in the body of Christ.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have grown as you have served others in the body of Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you use your spiritual gifts so you will be able to build up the body of Christ.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will use my spiritual gifts so I can build up your body.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I use my spiritual gifts to build up your body?
