A Call to Action The Integrity Partnership Pt 5 Ephes. 4: 7-13 Bud Wrenn 11/11/07

I. My unique calling is enabled by the gift set with which God has equipped me.

Ephes. 4:1 (NLT) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

II. The Nature of the Gift

Ephes. 4:7 (NLT) However, he has given each one of us a special gift according to the generosity of Christ.

Strength – An activity in which you have the *potential to consistently perform* at a level of near perfection; It affirms both

- a) what you are good at, and
- b) what <u>energizes</u> you.

A Logical Life Approach: Take the <u>best</u> of your week, & make it the <u>most</u> of your week.

III. Part of God's gift are equippers.

Ephes. 4:11 (NLT) He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

Apostles – Those with entrepreneurial spirits who perceive Kingdom needs and start initiatives to address those needs.

Prophets – Those gifted in *forthtelling* the Word of God.

Evangelists – Those who who uses the gift of speaking toward the <u>conversion</u> of non-believers.

Pastors – Responsible for leadership and training of Christ Followers to be equipped for service and to grow into maturity.

Teacher – An instructor, guide.

IV. The role of the 'equippers': to help Christ Followers....

a) <u>discover</u>,

b) <u>develop</u>, and

c) deploy their gifts.

Ephes. 4:12 (*NLT*) *Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ,*

V. God's desired result: Spiritual Maturity.

Ephes. 4:13 (NLT) until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.

VI. Think About This

What does a 'full grown' Christ-follower look like?

Challenge: What are you doing with your equipping?

What will You do with your equipping?