

Fortified

Ephesians 4:11-13

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A. Guarded (vs. 11):

1. He gave – Just as God began the earth in Genesis (on His own initiative with no input from anyone outside the godhead) and started the church through Jesus Christ, Christ in His own sovereign will, decided who He would select to be pastors.
2. He gave – God, in setting up “an administration suitable to the fullness of the times,” (1:11) once and for all decided who would lead His church.
3. He gave – When the Lord established His church, He made Jew and Gentile the same so that no one is an alien; so now we are all citizens (2:19). The Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4) put together a strong foundation. The foundation (Rock - Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 10:4) that the church is built upon was first established by the apostles (John 17:13-19) because they saw Christ and got the Word directly from Him “and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.” (2:20). This is how the church is built on the foundation “*being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*” (2:21-22)
 - a) Apostles – Christ uniquely commissioned messengers who were His ambassadors who sought Christ in order to carry out their sender’s mission with authority as eyewitnesses (Paul – 2 Corinthians 15:6-9; Acts 9; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 1:20-26).
 - b) Prophet - He also gave those who spoke openly the divine message that came directly from God as divine revelation proclaiming His will for the salvation of His people (1 Corinthians 14:37).
 - c) Evangelist - Christ also gave those who were well equipped to go from place to place preaching the gospel proclaim glad tidings.
 - d) Pastor and Teachers - And lastly, He gave those who would tend His sheep by tenderly caring for them and watching out for them so that they are safe from their enemies. These caring shepherds are anointed to shape the lives of true saints to become like Christ.
4. He gave – The apostles write the word of God as eyewitness. Prophets revealed the

mysteries of God by direct revelation from God. Evangelists take all of this, fully equipping themselves, so that they can win people to Christ. Those that have accepted Christ are now taught the Word by loving, caring leaders who work hard to shape the will of those who believe. These are pastor and teachers (1 Timothy 4:11-16). The leadership of the church has to be established or “savage wolves” will come in.

B. Equipped (vs. 12):

1. Equipping - Equipping is to fully provide believers with “everything they need for life and Godliness” (2 Peter 1:3-4; Colossians 1:28-29). It is like someone preparing a ship to cross the sea. They make sure the ship has everything it would take to make a safe journey so that no matter what it encounters it is fully prepared to manage the issue and overcome any obstacle that may arise.
2. Equipping - The purpose of building a strong foundation is for all those who become engaged in the church progressively grow into the nature of Christ upon which everything is built.
3. Equipping - When a believer is fully equipped, they are not carried away with every wind of doctrine (4:14), they do not lean to their own understanding (4:17-20) or live in the flesh (5:3-14); as a result, they become drunk with the Spirit (5:15-18).
4. Saint - The persons who are receptive to being equipped are those who have willfully decided to consecrate themselves to developing the character of God. Paul told Timothy to focus on those who believe (1 Timothy 4:12). If there is no binding and loosing (willingness to deal with sin) heaven does not engage (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20).
5. Work of service - These saints being energized by their faith in the Lord, seek with compassionate love to minister to the needs of those in the Christian community which includes and empowers the movement of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22). Work signifies a cumulative effort, meaning the work is directed by the Word and it is purposeful and well organized to accomplish God's purposes while at the same time displaying His love. "The absence of the article suggests the noun here is to be understood as equivalent to a verb (Haupt), i.e., as referring to the activity of ministering."
6. Building up - The purpose of all the above is for Christ to accomplish what He stated which is “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). He establishes the foundation, selects His leaders (Acts 20:28), determines the content of the message and who the messenger will be, the spiritual gifts (4:1-10) and the work to be done by those who are saved and committed to spiritual growth (1 Corinthians 12:4-8), and then, as the cornerstone shapes (2:20) how it is all organized since it is His body.

7. The body of Christ - The building up process is based on Christ, who is the foundation and chief cornerstone and the head of the church. It is an "administration suitable to the fullness of times." It is structured and empowered by Him (4:4-9).

C. Empowered (vs. 13):

1. Until – Expresses not merely duration but also purpose (NIV Bible Notes).
2. All attain - There is a goal for everything being done. It is not a place. The goal is the church having the nature of Christ.
3. Unity of the faith - When saints, (godly people) are equipped, and the body is built up through service establishing the body of Christ, the church is unified because of the work of the Word shared and the work of the Holy Spirit in each saint's life. We are fitted together fitly (4:16).
4. Unity of the faith - Unity is established because each saint is deeply committed to the Word of God and is fully surrendered to Him. Their deep conviction in the Lord shapes them to be steadfast in their trust in God.
5. The knowledge of the son of God - The knowledge that godly believers possess, because of their faith in Christ, is a full divine knowledge of God. This is described in chapter 3:16-18. The Spirit of God causes them to experience the dwelling of Christ in their hearts and matures them *"to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."* This can take place because they are blessed with "all spiritual blessing." (1:3)
6. Knowledge - This faith is steep in the mental grasp of truth so that it controls and guides the believer each day and allows the believer to come to a full knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10).
7. Mature/Perfect - When we have benefited from all the above, in the sense that all of it has spiritually impacted our lives, we become drunk with the Spirit (5:15-18), blameless in the manner in which we live with moral excellence. These godly believers' lives are now driven by the Spirit of God, steadfast in faith, so that they no longer live it is Christ that lives in them (Galatians 2:20).
8. Measure - The measure is a gift from Christ; Chapter 4 verse 7 explains that the gift of grace is the measure. So, attaining the "unity of the faith," the knowledge of the Son of God, and experiencing the character of Christ reigning in my life (mature man), is totally dependent on the grace of God. The only way we can keep growing since we are

transitioning from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity is because of Christ grace.

9. Statue which belongs to the fullness of Christ - When we come to age, meaning experiencing spiritual maturity, we would have the nature of Christ (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Peter 1:3-4).
10. Statue which belongs to the fullness of Christ - The building up process that takes place when the church allows us to become so fully equipped, that our character, attributes become the sum total of all that God is.
11. Fullness - This statue is God filling the believer so that they are the sum total of all that God is (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:12; Col. 3:1-4 - Christ has filled it with all kinds of gifts and dwells in it and walks in it.) so that they are totally controlled by Christ.