

*Eph 4:11-16*

# LAKE GENEVA BIBLE CONFERENCE

July, 2003

Tom V. Taylor

## GETTING THE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WE HAVE

### I. An Introductory Note:

Yes, it is a strange title for a series of studies at a Bible Conference but in some ways the subject is one that should be considered carefully. What is in the mind of the speaker is the situation in which there are many more observers, in a lot of fellowships, than there are participants. This is a delicate issue in many cases for we are not able to determine the participatory level of everyone in the company and can only make approximations. Caution is the word. But I often hear statements about the need for added help--the hope that someone would come forth and do something--and these expressions are frequently seen in larger meetings. It seems that in a New Testament sense that, if everyone gave the strength available to the life of the fellowship the body would be healthy and the testimony would be vigorous.

Ephesians 4 is a great help in this matter and it is apparent that Paul thinks every member of the association is equipped and should be giving help to the whole. My point in this study is to work from this foundational truth and suggest that we prayerfully seek to have the totality of the fellowship engaged in the witness of the fellowship. It is a goal which we are seeking and not often an accomplished fact although there are times when situations are better and/or worse. This is not a judgmental series of talks but one that is in the suggestive aspect. Of course we will not cover everything and what we do cover will be rather superficial but the hope is that it will help in directing our thinking on the line that we encourage all to be the vigorous part of the testimony that they should be.

My particular thinking is on these six lines:

- The Composition of the Fellowship
- The Making of Elders, Deacon, etc.
- The Development of Gift
- Helping our Youth
- Reaching our to the World Beyond Us