

ministry, the edifying of the body of Christ. But we continue here -- Paul did not say: He gave all these ~~fi~~ gifts for the work of the ministry until all the people, all the members of your congregation, all the other Christians come in the unity of the faith. He said, "Till we all come." You notice the first person there? "Till we all come in the unity of the faith. . . unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. That we be henceforth no more children." He didn't say: "~~Till~~ ^{that} you be no more." He said "that we be . . . tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" and so on. He stresses ~~he+he+~~ here the fact that for every one of us, of supreme importance in our lives is the question whether we are growing in the knowledge of the Lord. Why does God put us here? Why do we stay here on this ~~earth~~ ^{earth}?

I heard a man say once, I wonder why doesn't God take us to heaven as soon as we are saved? As soon as we believe in Christ, why doesn't He take us right to heaven? Well, he said, the answer is we stay here in order to spread the knowledge of Christ to others, to tell them how they can be saved. Well, of course that is true, but that is not the whole truth by any means. God has placed His people on this earth in order to develop them and fit them ~~f~~ the way He wants them to be. Now we have all sorts of different gifts. We ~~have~~ some of us have great athletic ~~fit~~ gifts and some have very little. Some just love to study, to think, to read. Others have little interest in this line. We have all kinds of diversified gifts of diversified interests, diversified features of our body and of our minds. We vary tremendously. Some of us have great good fortune in our lives. Some of us have much ill fortune in our lives. Some of us get most everything we feel we'd like to have, and some of us seem to get nothing of the things we feel we'd like to have. God has ordained it all. He puts us wherever we are. He gives us what qualities we have. He causes circumstances around us to be the way they are. He controls it all, and He does it for a definite