

A cyclist wearing a red and black jersey, black tights, a white helmet with red accents, and red sunglasses is riding a road bike on a dirt path. The background is a dry, open landscape under a cloudy sky. The text 'MOVING TOWARD MATURITY' is overlaid on the left side of the image. The word 'MOVING' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, 'T O W A R D' is written in smaller, spaced-out white letters. Below that, 'MATURITY' is in large, bold, white letters. To the left of the text is a solid red vertical bar and two thin white vertical lines. In the top right corner, there is a grid of small white squares.

MOVING T O W A R D MATURITY

HEBREWS 6:1A NIV

¹Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity.



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

3

THREE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS THAT WE NEED TO
UNDERSTAND ABOUT PARTS



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY



God ASSIGNS the parts.



EPHESIANS 4:11-16 NIV

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



EPHESIANS 4:11-16 NIV

¹⁴Then 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 people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.



EPHESIANS 4:11-16 NIV

¹⁶From 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.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11 NLT

⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. ⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11 NLT

⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11 NLT

He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.



The goal is not to try and get you to do **SOMETHING**, the goal is to get you to **MOVE** towards Christ and position you for **GROWTH**.



God **ARRANGES**
the parts.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-18 NLT

¹²The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. ¹⁴Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-18 NLT

¹⁵If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-18 NLT

¹⁸But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.



There is a great comfort in knowing that God is the great ARRANGER.

MOVING TOWARD MATURITY



WHEN WE REALIZE THAT GOD GIVES AND ARRANGES OUR PARTS:



WHEN WE REALIZE THAT GOD GIVES AND ARRANGES OUR PARTS:



It should help us remove the
pressure to **CONFORM.**

WHEN WE REALIZE THAT GOD GIVES AND ARRANGES OUR PARTS:



It should help us understand that
there is no point in **COMPARISON**.



If you compare yourself to someone else and the part they play it can IMMOBILIZE us.

WHEN WE REALIZE THAT GOD GIVES AND ARRANGES OUR PARTS:



It should help us to
stop **CRITICIZING.**

When we are not playing our part, it is very easy to CRITICIZE someone that IS.



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY



We have to **ACCEPT** our part.

The VALUE of an individual part is realized in its ability to work in RELATIONSHIP with other parts.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:19-22 NLT

¹⁹How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²²In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.



I NEED you and you NEED me.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 AMP

²⁷Now you [collectively] are Christ's body, and individually [you are] members of it [each with his own special purpose and function].





One of the most valuable things you can do to GROW in the faith is also one of the most VALUABLE things you can do for the people around you, it's to play your PART.



PSALM 16:11 ESV

- 11 You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY



God created you
on **PURPOSE**
for a **PURPOSE.**