


A close-up photograph of a gift wrapped in brown kraft paper. A dried lavender sprig with small purple flowers is placed diagonally across the top of the gift. The gift is tied with a piece of light-colored, fibrous twine in a star-like pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

Equipping Grace

Ephesians 4:7-16

A close-up photograph of a gift wrapped in brown kraft paper. A sprig of dried lavender is placed diagonally across the gift, and a piece of light-colored twine is wrapped around it in a star-like pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

Big Idea:

Embrace your spiritual gifts as a vital part of the body of Christ, and engage in service that fosters unity and maturity within the church community.

Ephesians 4:7-16, ESV

1. Gifts from grace

⁷ But **grace was given to each one** of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.



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⁸ **Therefore** it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

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⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and **he gave gifts to men.**”

Ps68:18 “You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and **receiving gifts among men**, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.”

1. Gifts from grace

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ **He who descended is the one who also ascended** far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)



A close-up photograph of a gift wrapped in brown, textured paper. A dried lavender sprig with small purple flowers is tied to the gift with a piece of light-colored, fibrous twine. The twine is wrapped around the gift in a crisscross pattern, forming a star-like shape on the surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

1. Gifts from grace

2. Gifts of grace

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift...

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

1. Gifts from grace

2. Gifts of grace

¹¹ And he gave **the apostles, the prophets**, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

A gift wrapped in brown paper, tied with a dried lavender sprig and twine. The background is a warm, brownish-gold color.

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New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts				
Romans 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor 12:28-30	Eph. 4:11	1 Peter 4:9-11
Prophecy Serving Teaching Exhortation Giving Leading Showing Mercy	Word of Wisdom Word of Knowledge Faith Healings Miracles Prophecy Discerning of Spirits Tongues Interpretation of Tongues	Apostleship Prophecy Teaching Miracles Healing Helping Administrating Tongues Interpretation of Tongues	Apostleship Prophecy Evangelism Pastor/ Teacher	Speaking Serving



“Spiritual gifts are at the heart of Christ’s strategy for building his church.”

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2. Gifts of grace

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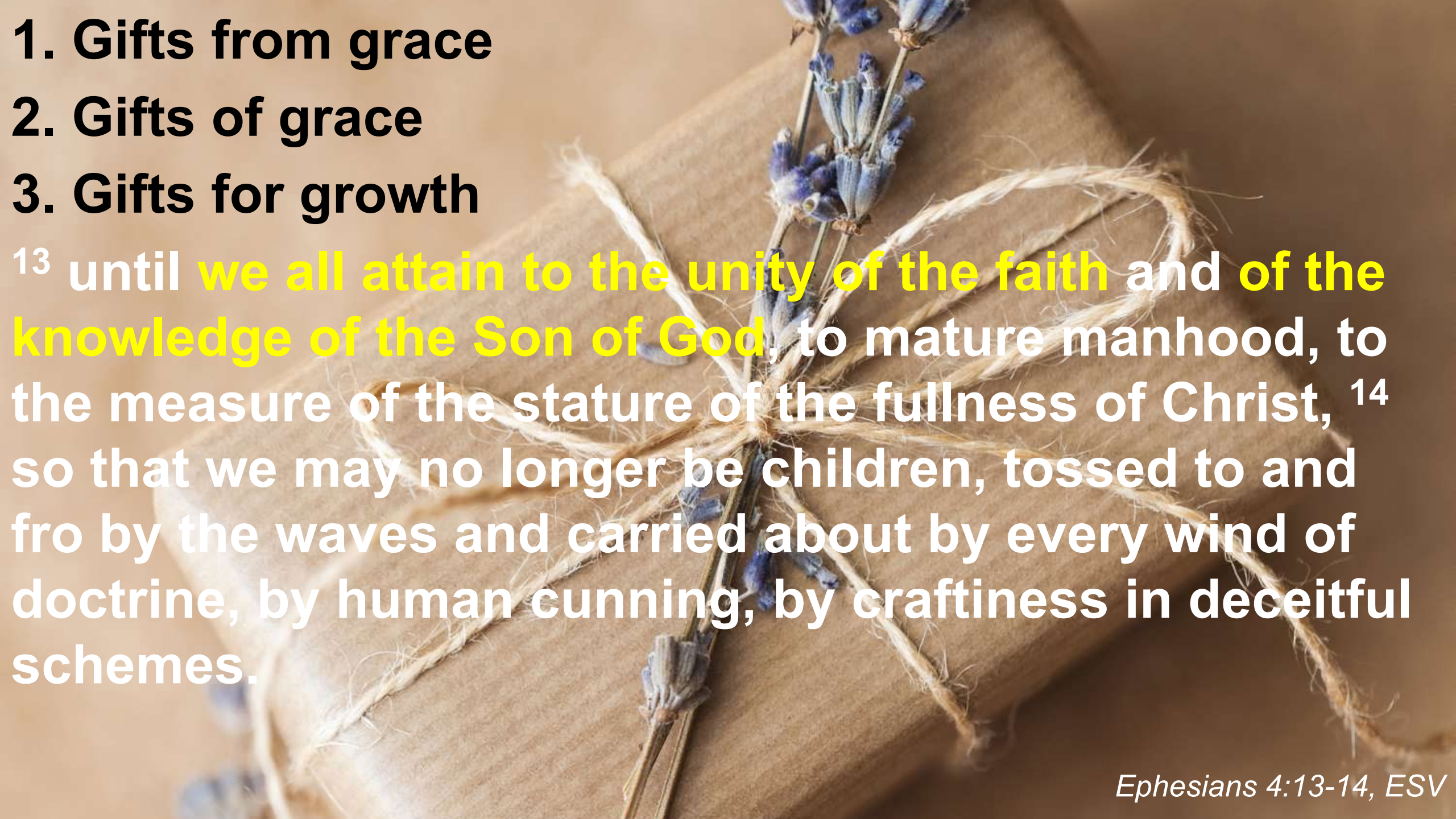
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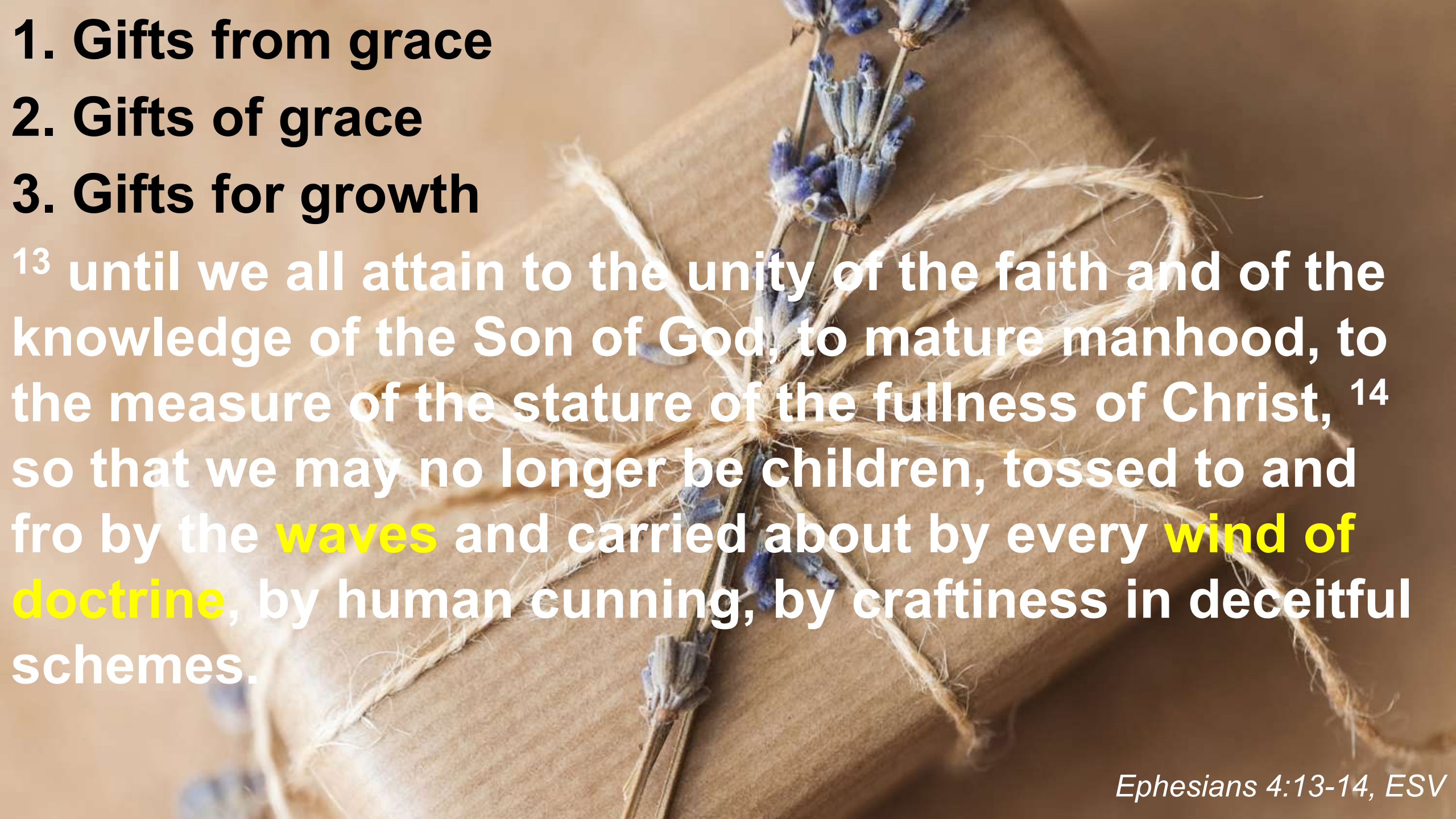


Building is:

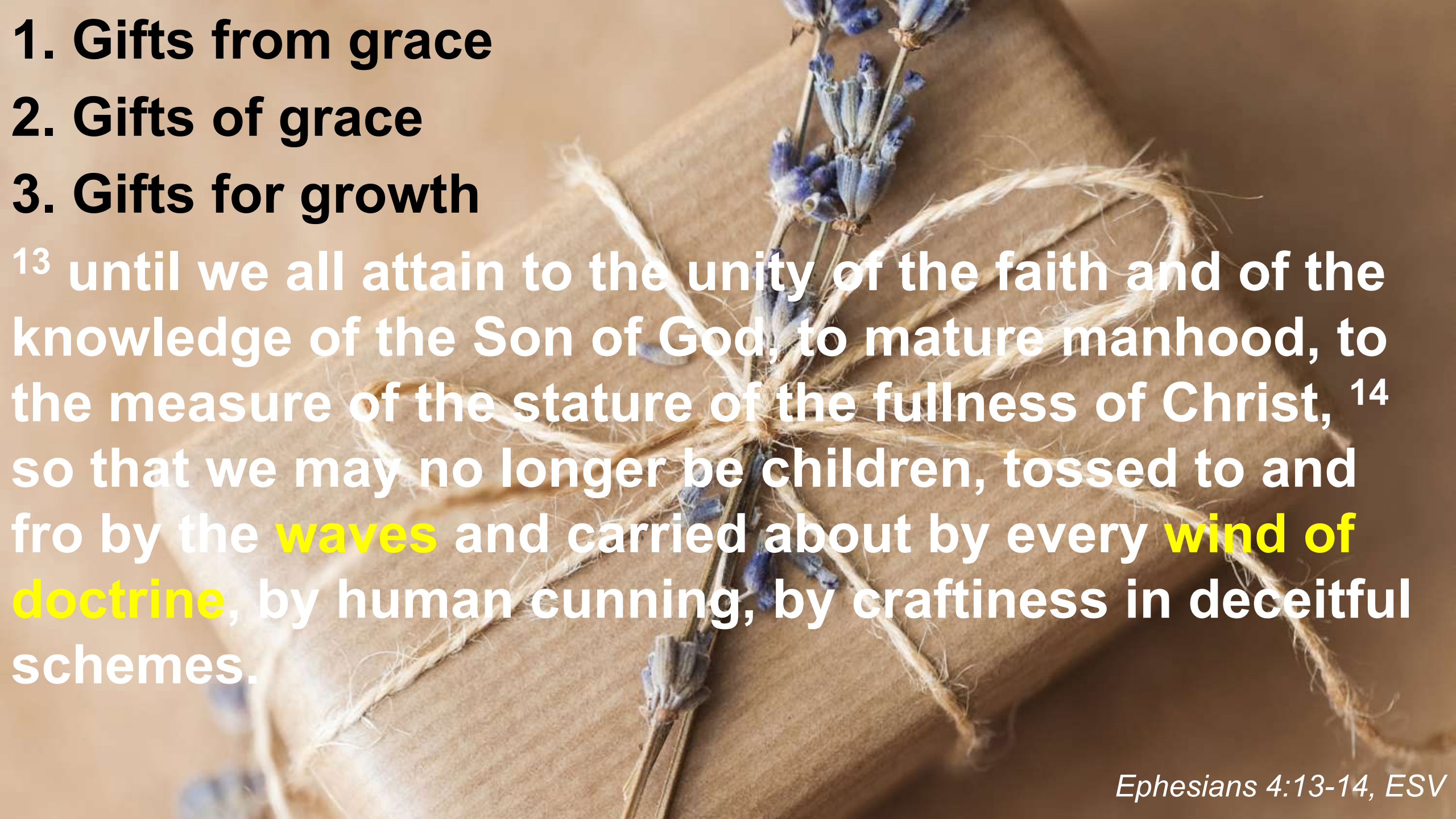
- **Solid (built on the firm foundation)**
- **Functional (built with a purpose)**
- **Beautiful (built by the Designer)**

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1. Gifts from grace
 2. Gifts of grace
 3. Gifts for growth

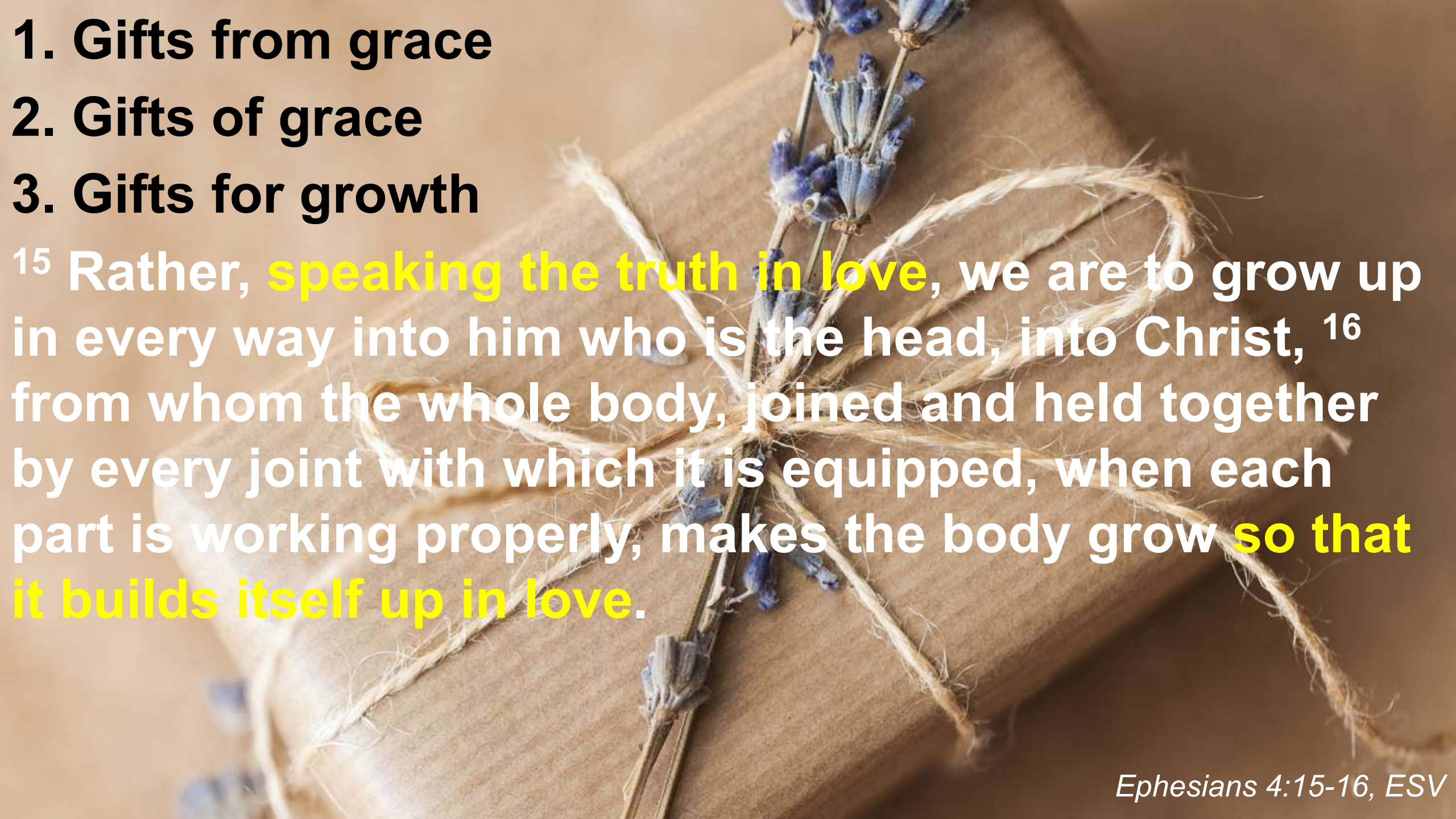
¹³ until **we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

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 2. Gifts of grace
 3. Gifts for growth

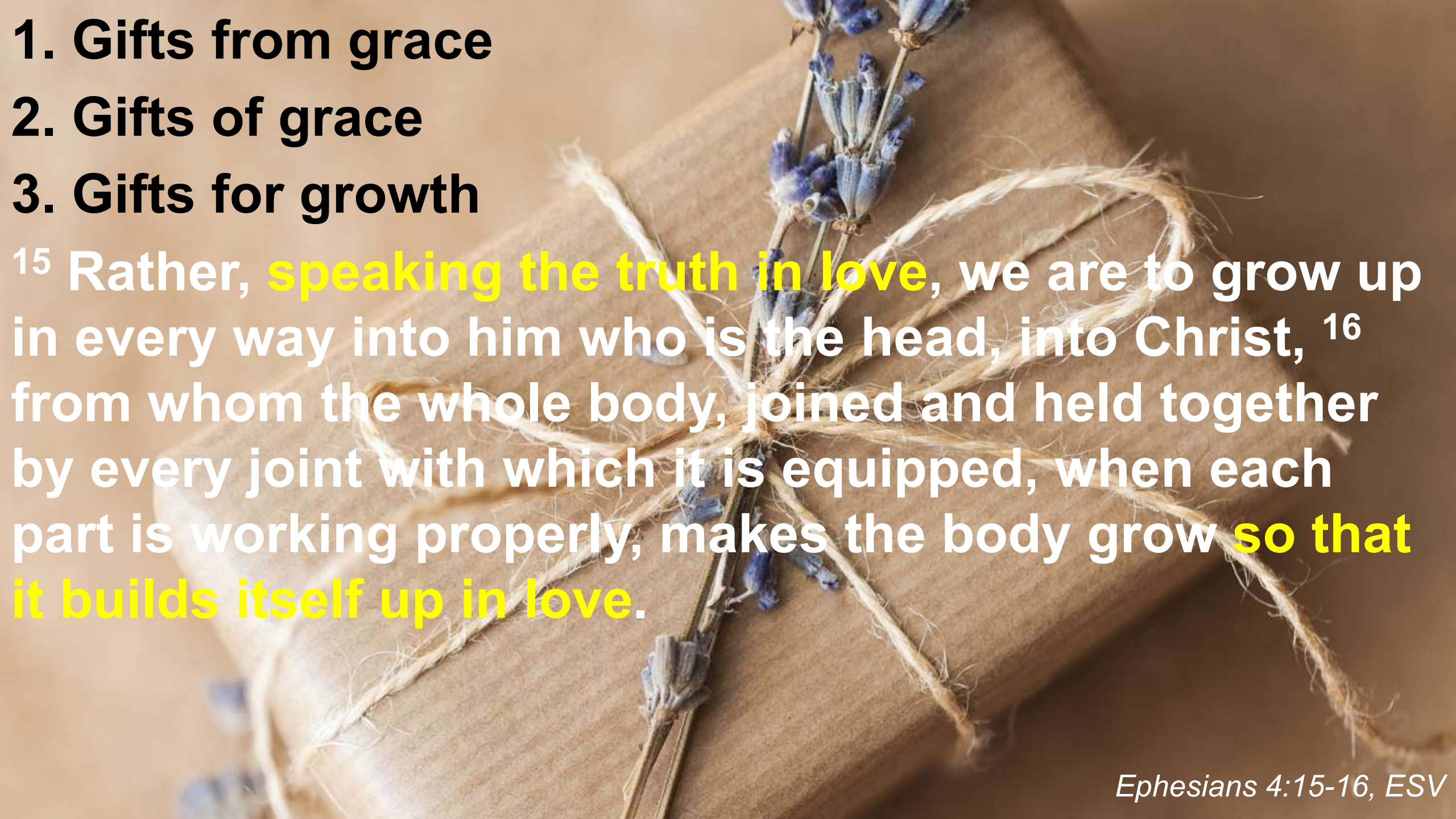
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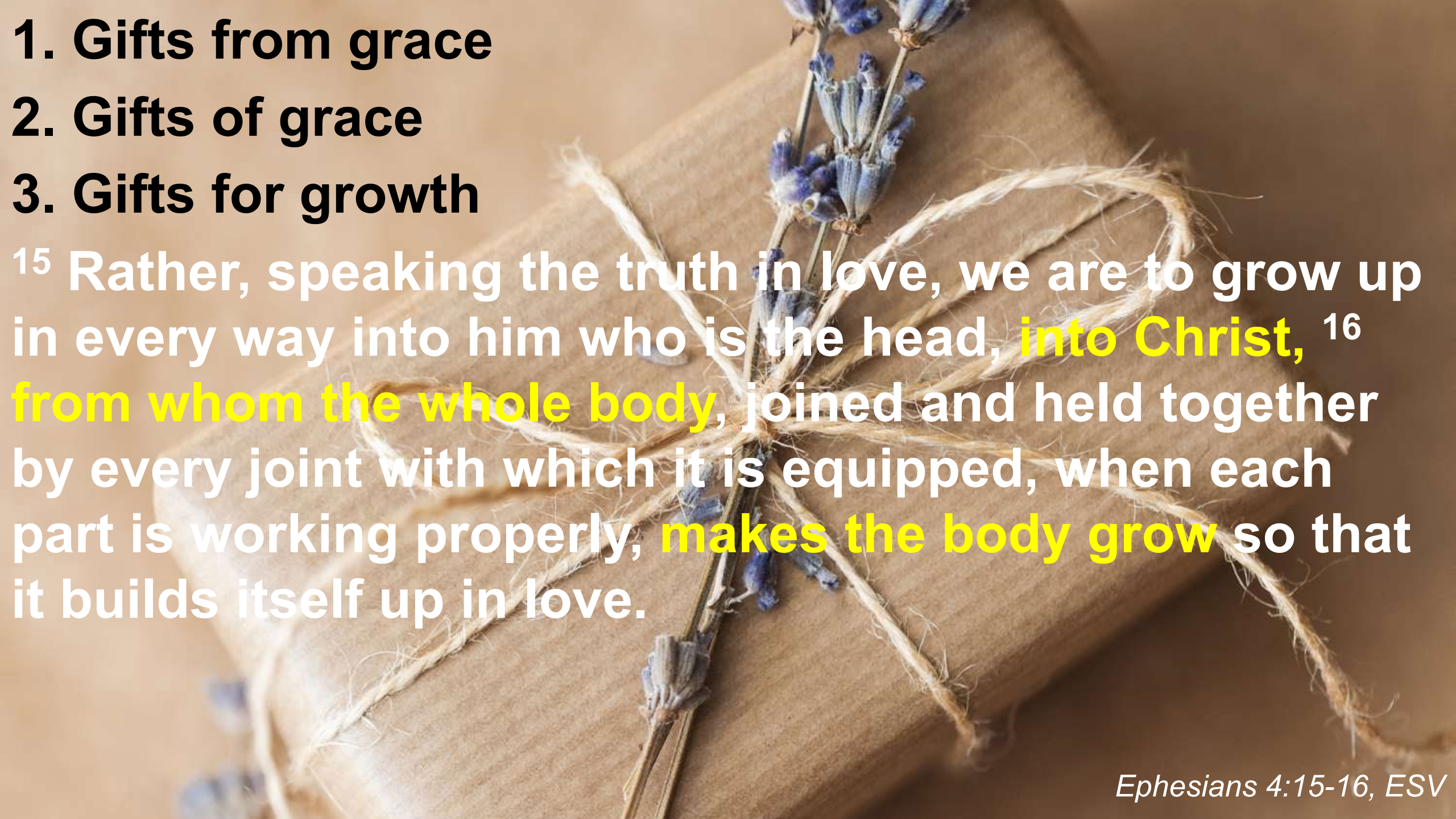
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¹⁵ Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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 3. Gifts for growth

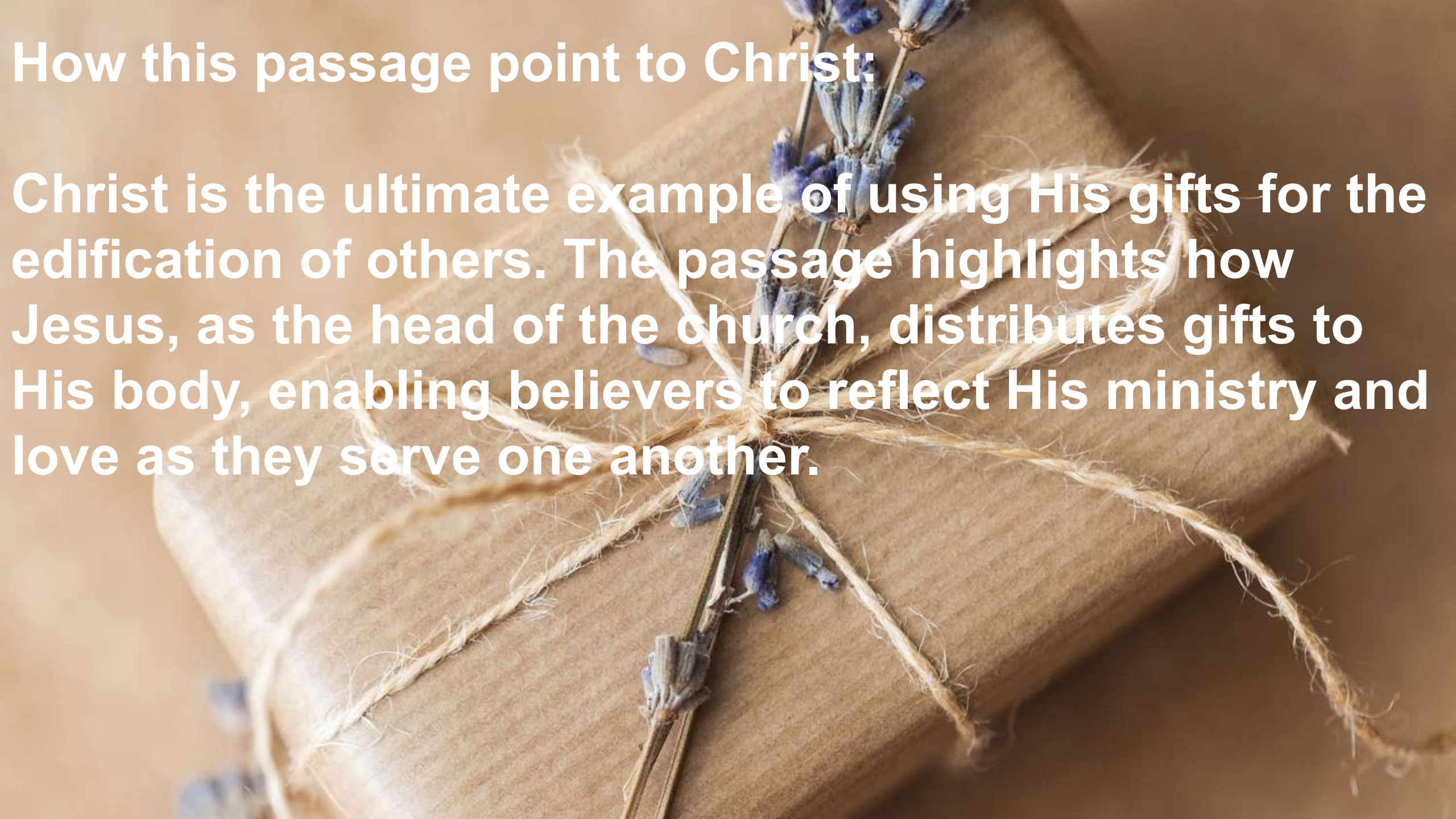
¹⁵ Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow **so that it builds itself up in love**.

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1. Gifts from grace
 2. Gifts of grace
 3. Gifts for growth

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, **into Christ,** ¹⁶ **from whom the whole body,** joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow** so that it builds itself up in love.

How this passage point to Christ:

Christ is the ultimate example of using His gifts for the edification of others. The passage highlights how Jesus, as the head of the church, distributes gifts to His body, enabling believers to reflect His ministry and love as they serve one another.

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