

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"
Ephesians 4:11-15

The recent 236kg, (520lb+) world record setting, gold medal "clean and jerk" of Andrei Aramnau of Belarus required a perfect orchestration of training, coordination, and strength. He didn't just "get lucky." Years of hard training and practice stood behind that one shining moment in history. He probably had a coach (s) to instruct him as he trained. Success is the end result of a well executed plan. God has a plan for the success of His Church. He has set in place



apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to facilitate that plan. The pinnacle of success for the Church of Jesus Christ is "*the unity of the faith*" When there is total unanimity of faith in the local body of believers and all concur on points of doctrine, then there will be great achievements for the Gospel. I'm afraid Satan has learned the secret required to defeat believers. It's called discord. It doesn't mean we all trot blindly along after the doctrine of some man. It requires that we each diligently search out the Truth of God's Word under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit. If one muscle had been neglected in training or under performed, Andrei would not have lifted the weight. If one member of The Body of Christ is lacking, we all suffer. Meditating on God's Word "*day and night*" must consume us. We must be literally obsessed about the Word of God if the "Body" is to be successful. "Obsess for Success" should be the motto of every believer. There is hardly any real fellowship around the Word of God anymore. Oh, we fellowship, but not about The Word. It's usually sports, work, family, or a current event that commands the thread of conversation. Why do we not love God's Word? Why is it not the uppermost thought in the mind of every believer? We have been waylaid by a cacophony of worldly distractions. We have elevated earning a wage and leisure pleasure to the status of #1 priority in our lives instead of mastering the fundamentals of our faith and walk with God. Our faith is not our life, but simply an accessory to our life. It has become like the "good china" in the glass cabinet, proudly displayed, but seldom used. Faith merchants have so muddied the water that many believers consider watching a TV preacher as "going to Church." Money and support are given to greedy evil men who market high sounding words and

empty promises to the weak among us. They are weak from lack of fellowship. The real Church of Jesus Christ is struggling to survive, let alone achieve success.

God the Mighty Three in One,
Has given us His only Son,
That we together might be one,
And have the Vict'ry that He's won. -CGP

We are each equally responsible for the success of God's Assembly. He has given us a structure and an outline to follow: Perfect the Saints; Work the Ministry; and Edify the Church. The order is important. You can't work until you are properly trained. Spreading the Gospel to new believers is the work of the ministry. New believers can't be edified unless there are veteran saints to lead and teach. One follows the next. Don't rush new believers headlong into ministry until they've trained and grown up strong in the faith. Fellowship around the Word of God is vital to the training of new born babes in Christ and the sustenance of the saints. We each have a different function in the Body. The "thumb" should not disdain the "toe." Some of us are cabinet makers or brick layers or framing carpenters, but without total cooperation, the house is unfinished. Jesus is the "architect" and the Holy Spirit is the "general contractor" of our faith. His blueprints are the accurate ones. Let's follow them.

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5

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