

**Bible Study: Ephesians 4:7-32**  
**April 29, 2020**

Let us continue with: **Ephesians 4:7-12** –

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

<sup>8</sup> Therefore He says:

*"When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."*

<sup>9</sup> (Now this, "**He ascended**"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

Christ has given "to each one of us" a function or ministry within His body, and these functions vary from person to person. **If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? (1 Cor. 12:17).**

The quote in **V. 8** is from **Psalm 68:18**, and shows Christ's qualifications for granting the varied "**gifts**" or **MINISTRIES** among us.

Yet, the words here are somewhat **CONFUSING**, "*When He ascended on High He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*"

"**Leading captivity captive**" is most likely *one or two things*, perhaps simultaneously –

- Christ led captivity captive would be true in that He defeated sin, death, hell and the grave. **Colossians 2:13-15** -

<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup> **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. **And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.** <sup>15</sup> **Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

\* **So, like a returning victorious general**, He drags along behind Him as captive... that which used to be the captor/captivity, for **He has won the victory!**

All Enemies  
Defeated

\* **The other option, which I believe is true, does not contradict the first:**

**When He won the victory for those who would believe...**

**Then WE who once were in bondage to sin (captives of sin), can now follow after Christ (in His ascension), AND we are – as Paul has said – now (out of love) in servitude to Christ.**

Now in **v. 11-12**, we are provided with a list of spiritual gifts provided by Christ through Holy Spirit TO the CHURCH.

Notice that these gifts are not for the APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS & TEACHERS... BUT, the body, the church as a whole.

All spiritual gifts are in this sense the same:

- **The gifts are FOR** the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints, **the body of Christ.**
- Ultimately, **the gifts are NOT FOR** the one **through whom** they are being manifest...

**Holy Spirit is the One doing the work** through person, **NOT** the individual himself...

THUS, **HOLY SPIRIT IS MANIFEST.**

This is **WHAT** the apostle **PAUL was talking about** when he wrote to the church at Corinth saying (**1 Cor 12:7**) - **the MANIFESTATION of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of ALL.**

*Put another way*, He is telling those familiar with the manifestation...

of a spirit (FOUL SPIRIT), that THIS is what the body of Christ SHOULD LOOK LIKE as the HOLY Spirit is at work among His people.

Now, let us continue from **v. 11-15**: <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> **for the equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ**, <sup>13</sup> **till we all come to the UNITY of the FAITH and of the KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God, to a PERFECT man, to THE MEASURE of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; <sup>14</sup> *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of DECEITFUL PLOTTING, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working *by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.* **Notes:***

Paul continues in this 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ephesians to give **practical insight** for living -  
**V. 17-24** - <sup>17</sup> **This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> **who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**  
<sup>20</sup> **But you have not so learned Christ,** <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that **you put off**, concerning *your former conduct*, **the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind,** <sup>24</sup> and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Notes:**

Paul's warning here, is that we do not live like we used to before we accepted Jesus Christ. Paul elaborates on this in **Romans 12:1-2** - I beseech you **therefore, brethren**, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the RENEWING of your mind**, that you may **PROVE** what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**Notes:**

**Ephesians 4:25-32** – <sup>25</sup> Therefore, **putting away lying**, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> “**Be angry, and do not sin**”: **do not let the sun go down on your wrath,** <sup>27</sup> **nor give place to the devil.** <sup>28</sup> Let him who stole **steal no longer**, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, THAT he may have something to give him who has need. <sup>29</sup> **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification**, that it may impart grace to the hearers. <sup>30</sup> And **DO NOT GRIEVE the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> **Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.** <sup>32</sup> And **be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**