

I) V7-10 INTRO: But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's

II) Paul had just begged the believers in Ephesus to walk worthy of their calling
God's grace had been poured out on them and had brought them into His family

III) As Gentiles, at one time they were without Christ in the world (2:12)
But now, they have been adopted as God's children through Jesus (1:5)
They have become citizens with the saints and members of the household of God (2:19)
They are fellow heirs of the same body, and partakers of God's promise in Jesus (3:6)

IV) This has all come about because they have received and believed the gospel (3:6)
It is this gospel that broke down the barriers and made one new man (2:15)

V) The gospel is a message that centers on the love and holiness of God, and His grace
It is the message that is to be not only proclaimed, but also modelled by believers

VI) It reveals a loving and holy God, and those who serve Him are also to be loving and holy
This specifically would be seen as Jewish and Gentile believers lived out the message

VII) They were to walk worthy of the calling with which they had been called
This would be revealed by their Lowliness (humility), gentleness, longsuffering, bearing with one another and by their *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit*

VIII) Endeavoring to keep unity spoke of the unity of the inner person
It speaks of the love believers should have for one another that keeps us together

IX) Jews for centuries had distanced themselves from Gentiles
Now, because of Jesus, they had been made one and needed to live in this reality

1 Co 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you,

but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

X) When believers are one in Jesus we can accomplish great things in His name

XI) The enemy knows that unity produces great fruit and works overtime to divide us

He works overtime to encourage schisms and divisions in order to frustrate God's plans

Mk 3:25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

This is why Jesus prayed that we would be united in Him

XII) At this point Paul begins to teach concerning the gifts that Jesus gave to the Church

These gifts that Jesus gave to the church are intended to work together

I) This is because the church is a body, and each member of the body has its own function

1 Co 12:18-20 God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

II) In V7-11 Paul shows us three basic things concerning these gifts

FIRST: That each believer has a spiritual gift

SECOND: That Christ obtained the right to give gifts, and

THIRD: That God uses gifted men to bless the church

III) V7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift

Paul begins by saying *But to each one of us* grace was given

IV) Not only do we have unity with others, but we also retain our own *uniqueness*

Though we are all one in Jesus, there is still a place for individual gifts

Ro 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

V) Paul makes it clear that each believer has, *through grace*, received a gift

The distribution of both the grace and the gifts has been measured out by Jesus

The word gift is a word that speaks of a free gift, referring to how Jesus *freely* giving it

VI) God gives us grace that enables us to minister His free gift that He has given us

VII) V7 According to the measure of Christ's gift

He gives His gifts according to our *capacity of faith* to receive such gifts
Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one *a measure of faith*.

VIII) Various scriptures refer to and describe what are called Spiritual gifts

Ro 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry (administration) let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy *with cheerfulness*

1 Co 12:8-10 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

I) 1 Pe 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers (administrates), let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

II) These gifts are measured out to us in proportion to what is necessary for their operation

The result will be that God will be glorified as these gifts are exercised

III) He also is the One determining which gift or gifts He will bestow on us

You may desire one gift but He will determine which gift or gifts you receive

1 Co 12:11 One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually *as He wills*

IV) Spiritual gifts are not given to us for only our own use, or for our own profit

They are not given to simply profit the one exercising them

V) In Acts 8, an evangelist named Philip went to a city in Samaria and preached the gospel

While there, he performed signs and cast out demons, and the people began to listen

VI) In the same city was a sorcerer named Simon who was greatly honored by the

people

They called him the Great Power of God, and followed after him

VII) When the people began to listen to Philip, Simon began losing his audience
This caused him to begin following after Philip, amazed at the miracles
that he saw

VIII) Peter and John were in Jerusalem, and they heard news of what was
happening

When they heard of this revival, they left and went to Samaria

IX) Simon watched as they laid hands on people, and saw the people receive the
Spirit

Ac 8:18-22 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying
on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this
ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you
could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this
ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this
wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for
having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness
and captive to sin."

X) God's free gifts are not intended to be used for self promotion

They are given for the purpose of serving God and man, resulting
in God's glory

1 Co 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given *for the
common good.*

I) Spiritual gifts are not intended to draw attention to the vessels exercising the
gifts

The gifts are intended to bring glory to God through Jesus Christ

II) We see this with Peter and John at the Gate called Beautiful and the reaction of
the crowd

Peter and John went to the temple to pray and encountered a crippled
man at the gate

III) This man would be put there daily so he could beg from those entering the
temple courts

As Peter and John were about to enter, he asked them for money, and
Peter spoke

Look at us! The man paid attention expecting to receive something

IV) It was at this time that Peter said these famous words

Ac 3:6-8 Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God

V) Ac 3:10-11 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

VI) Through the exercise of the gifts of faith and miraculous healing, Peter preached

This got Peter and John arrested, but God got the glory

Ac 4:4 Many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand

VII) The gifts of the Spirit are intended to draw people to Jesus and give glory to God

Because these are gifts that He has given us, we are to exercise them, in faith

VIII) We have received gifts, individually, but we exercise them for the benefit of all

This recognizes our personal individuality while benefitting the entire body of Christ

IX) V8 Therefore He says When He ascended on high He led captivity captive and gave gifts

Paul quotes Ps 68:18 which is a victory hymn celebrating a war victory

PICTURE: A Jewish king, setting free soldiers who were once prisoners of the enemy

X) Jesus has defeated Satan and has set those who were his captives free

We were once captives of Satan, being prone to sin and open to Satan's enticements

XI) Jesus set the captives free when they received His forgiveness and were born

again

Jesus conquered Satan, sin, and death, through His own death and resurrection

I) This is a picture of a triumphal march

In Rome, the conqueror rode along the Via Sacra in his chariot, followed by his troops and prisoners, captive kings and princes, and trophies of victory; fragrant clouds of incense accompanied his march, rising from fixed altars or wafted from censers; how, at the foot of the Capitoline hill, some of the prisoners, condemned as treacherous or rebellious, were led off to execution, or thrown into the dungeons of the Mamertine prison, while others were pardoned and set free.

II) We are the ones who have been set free and are no longer Satan's captives

2 Co 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us triumphantly as captives in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.

III) He did this at the cross

Col 2:15 Having disarmed (stripped) the powers (chiefs) and authorities (delegated influence), he made a public spectacle (exposed; made show) of them, triumphing (led around; a spectacle) over them by the cross.

IV) V8 (After His ascension) He gave gifts to men

When Jesus was exalted, He sent the Spirit, and with the Spirit came the gifts

Jn 16:7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.

V) V9 Now this He ascended—what does it mean but that He also first descended

There are different ways of viewing this passage

VI) FIRST: To proclaim victory to those who rejected their opportunity of salvation

This would be speaking of those who rejected Noah's message and perished

1 Pe 3:19-20 After being made alive, He went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water

VII) SECOND: This could speak of His descent from heaven to earth and His return to Heaven

Ascended refers to the Lord's ascension after His resurrection

Descended means His coming to earth in His incarnation

VIII) Into the lower parts could be referring to His death and burial

This would illustrate just how far Jesus was willing to go for us

2 Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

I) THIRD: That Jesus descended into Hades

To release the godly awaiting His victory in order to accompany Him to Heaven

This is what Paul would be referring to when referring to His Victory Parade

II) V10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He

This is the One who has the right to be exalted above all things in heaven and earth

Rev 5:11-12 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

III) The Jesus who has ascended into Heaven is the same One who ministered on earth

The One who loved the outcasts and ministered to all now reigns in Heaven

IV) He still seeks the lost, forgives, comforts the hurting, heals the sick and loves his sheep

He has not left the world, but by His Spirit is everywhere and available to all who call

Jn 14:15-18 If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.