

COUNTING EVERY BLESSING...A STUDY OF EPHESIANS
Preserving Unity Through Diversity and Variety
Ephesians 4:7-16

Christ's Distribution of Gifts to the Church (Vs.7- 11)

The grace given to every believer defines the gospel; the good news of God's grace to sinful mankind.
Vs. 7

Paul references Psalm 68: God, the military victor sets captives free then gives gifts to help them rebuild their lives. (Vs. 7-8)

In particular, Paul uses two verbs from Psalm 68 to explain the method and implications of Christ's victory:

1. Jesus' victory was accomplished through ascending, which required descending first. (Vs. 9-10)

3 possible interpretations

1. Christ's incarnation and resurrection
2. Christ descended into Hades after death/before resurrection
3. Christ descended to the grave and was resurrected

2. Jesus gave gifted people to the church as leaders. (Vs. 11)

Evangelists and Pastors-Teachers continued to lead the churches after the first generation apostles and prophets.

I Corinthians 12:28 "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of . . ."

Apostles and Prophets

1. Laid the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20)
2. Received and declared the revelation of God's Word (Acts 11:28; 21:10-11; Ephesians 3:5)
3. Gave confirmation of that Word through "signs and wonders and miracles" (II Corinthians 12:12; Acts 8:6-7; Hebrews 2:3-4)

Christ's Purpose in Giving Gifted Believers (Vs. 12-16)

Christ's gift and empowering (by grace) of believers to the local church is progressive.

- Immediately – equipping and work (Vs. 12)
- Long-term – building up (spiritual health and strength in the church)

The interdependence of believers in church develops a unity in the faith (Experiencing God Together/E3) and in the knowledge of God's Son (Encountering God/E3).

Christ's gifts to His church allows every believer an opportunity to grow in a maturity that can be measured by the fullness of Christ (Experience Faith!). (Vs. 13)

A unified and mature church in Jesus Christ is evidenced through three distinguishing marks:

1. It adheres solely to the Scriptures. (Vs. 14)
2. It speaks truth in love. (Vs. 15)
3. It shows the love of Christ in action (Empty Self/E3). (Vs. 16)