

Stop Being a Baby!

The Gifts from the King — First to Each Believer

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” ⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)” - Ephesians 4:7-10

- Each one of us has received grace as Christ has distributed.

Your gift is unique.

Grace means “you didn’t earn it!”

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —not by works, so that no one can boast.” - Ephesians 2:8,9

The Picture of a Conquering King (Psalm 68)

Ascending —

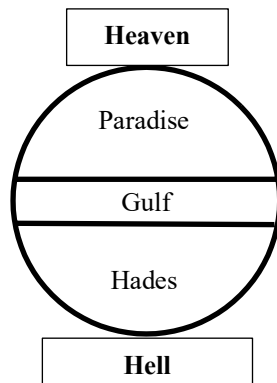
The Captives and the Gifts —

The Work of Jesus at the Cross —

The Descending —

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison.” - 1 Peter 3:18

The Ascending —



The Gift of Spiritual Leaders

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers...” - Ephesians 4:11

Leader	Focus	Message
Apostles	Church Planters, Missionaries	Let’s get started
Prophets	Preach to Christian Backsliders	Repent
Evangelists	Preach to Unbelievers	Simple Gospel
Pastors	Care spiritually for the flock	Encourage, Nurture
Teachers	Teach the Word	Teach, Encourage

The Purpose of these Spiritual Leaders

“...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” - Ephesians 4:12

- The job of all spiritual leaders is to prepare people for ministry and outreach.

The Responsibility of Every Believer

“...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” - Ephesians 4:12-15

Paul tells us to grow up!

- Be prepared for works of service.
- So that the Body of Christ may be built up.
- Until we all reach unity in faith and knowledge.
- And become mature.
- Attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
- No longer be infants.
- We will in all things grow up into Him!
- *Seven times Paul tells us to Grow Up!*
- Growing up spiritually is an intentional effort.
- This is a critical concept that seems absent in many churches!

The Plan

“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” - Ephesians 4:16

- Jesus Christ is the source and the head.
- The church grows and builds in love.
- Every believer does his/her part.

The Application

1. What is your unique gift (or gift mix)?
2. Because of this unique gift, what can be your specific contribution to the Kingdom?
3. Are you mature in your faith? What must you do to continue to grow up in your walk with Jesus Christ?

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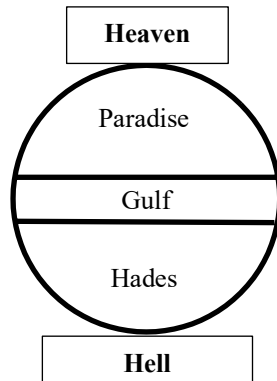
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