

# **“THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS”**

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

**THEME:** *“The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* Verse 13

### **MAIN DIVISIONS:**

- |                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. The Unity Of The Spirit     | 1-6   |
| 2. The Purpose Of The Gifts    | 7-16  |
| 3. The old man vs. the New Man | 17-32 |

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Having made known to the saints at Ephesus that the grand plan of God for the unification of all men was the church, and that therefore all should thank God for this plan, and show better appreciation for the church for which He shed His blood to purchase, **Acts 20:28** Paul now continues to identify more about this wonderful institution of God.

There would definitely be some form of operation that would take place in the church to maintain its uniqueness and functionality, but what part would the individual members play in this design of God or would God have to do all that would be required to maintain it?

How would the individual member benefit from all this?

### **BODY:**

#### **1. “THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT”**

- a. The apostle Paul admonishes them to walk worthy of the vocation meaning that they have to stand firm in one spirit and one mind. **Philippians 1:27**
- b. In order to accomplish this, they had to accept that there would be differences between them and that they would have to forbear and forgive one another. **Colossians 3:12**
- c. In telling them to keep the unity of the Spirit Paul was getting them reading for what he would tell them this would be since he had just described how the bond of peace was to be achieved and maintained.
- d. The unity of the Spirit can be easily seen if brethren understand that there is only one body and that they are all members of one another. **Romans 12:5**
- e. The One who controls all of this according to His design is God the Father. **I Corinthians 8:6**

#### **2. “THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS”**

- a. God is the One who dealt the gifts to every man and the determining factor was according to a person’s faith. **Romans 12:3**
- b. The reason God enabled them was so that He could dwell among His people. **Psalms 68:18**
- c. The basis for this generosity of God was Christ’s descend (burial) and ascension (resurrection) **I Corinthians 15:4** when He was made higher placed higher than the heavens. **Hebrews 7:26**

- d. God determined that the gifts should be for the building up of the church hence He set gave those abilities to them **I Corinthians 12:28** so that all in the church could profit be it. **I Corinthians 12:7**
- e. There were two factors for the duration and the reason for the gifts:
  - i. Until certain things were accomplished – the unity of the faith; the knowledge of the Son of God; the perfection of the body of Christ.
  - ii. The purpose: that they would no longer be children at the mercy of unscrupulous men. **I Corinthians 14:20, Hebrews 13:9**
- g. There had to be growth in the maturity of the church at a certain rate acceptable to God. **II Peter 3:18, Colossians 2:19**

### 3. “THE OLD MAN VERSUS THE NEW MAN”

- d. The will of the Gentiles was shown in the behaviour of the people who were separated from God. **I Peter 4:3**
- e. Even though God at one time gave them up to perform the things which were not convenient, His plan called for them to be given a chance to turn from their evil ways **Acts 26:18** and in this way be taught of God and come to Christ for salvation. **John 6:45**
- f. Once that happened, they then had to be actively involved in the renewing of themselves. **Colossians 3:9-10**
- g. Their main enemy Satan would still be on the prowl for them **I Peter 5:8** they had to therefore take care of certain things such as the work of their hands **I Thessalonians 4:11** – the control of their tongues **Colossians 4:6** lest Satan get an advantage over them. **II Corinthians 2:11**
- h. The sealing of the Holy Spirit was important to be aware of since they could easily grieve and quench Him by not following His directions. **I Thessalonians 5:19**
- i. Their best watchword to avoid the traps of their former lifestyles would be to be kind, forbearing and forgiving to one another, thus forming a close and unbreakable bond. **Colossians 3:12-13**

### **CONCLUSION:**

- ❖ The bond of peace that the Spirit revealed was very important to the early Christians because they all stood or fell together.
- ❖ God therefore gave the church gifts through individual members so that they could be of help to one another in the building up process of the church.
- ❖ At the end of the day each member’s growth would see its reflection in the growth of the body and the glory would abound to God.

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

### Introduction:

In Numbers 21:4-9 Moses gives us the story and reason why God instructed him to create the brazen serpent - it was to save those who were bitten by snakes and in faith obeyed God by looking to it by faith for a cure.

2 Kings 18:4 recorded the story of why king Hezekiah destroyed it - and the reason: the Jews had changed its God-ordained purpose from an object of God's grace to an object to grace God.

The text in our our study topic is Ephesians 4:13 *"Till we all come to the unity of the faith"*

When we consider it in detail:

Till	Duration and end point (Cf. Mark 13:30)
We all	The beneficiaries of the gifts
Come	Arrive at a predetermined point
In the unity	Being one in judgment and purpose (Cf. Ephesians 4:3-6)
Of the faith	The collection of that which us to be believed (the will of God)

### Discussion:

Text: Ephesians 4:8 *"...and gave gifts unto men"* (Cf. Joshua 22:8; 1 Samuel 30:26)

GIFT CATEGORIES	PURPOSES	END RESULTS
APOSTLES	ONE SENT FORTH	ALL MIRACULOUS GIFTS ALL TEACHING POSTS ALL FOR EDIFICATION 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 "TO PROFIT WITH-ALL"
PROPHETS	PUBLIC EXPOUNDER	
EVANGELISTS	GOSPEL PREACHER	
PASTORS	SHEPHERDS	
TEACHERS	INSTRUCTORS	

REASONS FOR THE GIFTS	FOR
PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS	EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS
WORK OF MINISTRY	ATTEND TO ONE ANOTHER'S NEEDS
EDIFYING OF THE BODY	BUILDING UP OR BRINGING TO MATURITY

DURATION: "TILL"

• "We all come in the unity of the faith...":

John 17:20-21	"...that they all may be one..."
Romans 15:5-6	"...with one mind and with one mouth..."
Philippians 1:27	"...stand fast in one spirit, with one mind..."
Jude 1:3	"...the faith once for all delivered to the saints"

• "...of the knowledge of the Son of God":

2 Peter 1:2-3	"Grace and peace be multiplied..."
	"...all things that pertain to life and godliness..."
Ephesians 1:17	"...the spirit of wisdom and revelation..."

• "...unto a perfect man...":

2 Timothy 3:16-17	"...perfect, thoroughly furnished..."
Colossians 1:28	"...present every man perfect..."
1 Corinthians 2:6	"...them that are perfect..."

"...unto the measure..."

(Maximum capacity)

"...of the stature..."

(Size, greatness or length)

"...of the fullness of Christ"

(Complete size)

CONSEQUENCES: "HENCEFORTH"

"No more children tossed to and fro..."

Galatians 4:1-3

"Carried about with every wind of doctrine..."

Romans 15:14

## Conclusion:

Jesus gave gifts to those he had taken captive and the purpose and duration of those gifts were clearly set forth by the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. We can be assured that the church of Christ attained the level of maturity to where the gifts are no longer required.

Colossians 4:12 "...struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God"

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of  
the Spirit**

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**The Old Man  
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