

Triumphant Lord Gives Gifts Ephesians 4:7-16

I. The Spoils of Victory – 4:7-10

1. Redemptive work of Christ gives us new life – Eph. 2
We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ
2. Believing Jews & Gentiles are one body in Christ – 3
As one body we are reconciled to God
3. O.T. saints are included in redemption – 4:7-10
Jesus descended into Sheol (Paradise side) – 4:9
Where spirits of O.T. saints waited in comfort with Abraham
Jesus took those O.T. saints with Him in His ascension – 4:8
After His blood provided for those under Old Covenant – Heb. 9:15
4. In His triumph He also gave gifts to men – 4:8

II. Gifts of Grace – 4:7-11

1. Christ's work also provides gifts of grace – 7
Jesus promised ministry of Holy Spirit after His redemptive work was finished and He was glorified (In His ascension) – John 7:37-39
These gifts are provided for all believers
Those who are living as a part of the body of Christ - 8
They are measured by His "measure" an ample supply
2. Paul lists 4 gifts vital to the body – 11
Paul lists other gifts in Rom. 12:4-8 & 1 Cor. 12:7-11
These four are foundational as they regard God's truth
 - (1) Apostles – authorized by Jesus for His church
Spoke with authority backed by miracles
Received truth from the Lord to build upon
 - (2) Prophets – Others who received truth from God
Revealed truth is the "rock" upon which Christ will build
This is what Jesus said to Peter in Matt. 16:17-19
 - (3) Evangelists – Those gifted in presenting the gospel
Vital to expansion and growth of the church
 - (4) Shepherds (Pastors) and Teachers
Those gifted by God to care for and teach body members
Having ability to help believers to understand & apply the Word

III. Body Building – 4:12-16

1. The Purpose of these 4 gifts – 12-13
 - (1) Equip saints for work of ministry – 12
Equip them in knowledge of God's truth
Guide them in applying God's truth to daily life
Train them in work of ministry

This is where other spiritual gifts fit – 1 Pet 4:10-11
We need to seek to serve one another in the body
We need to use gifts to serve others

- (2) Building up the body of Christ – 12
Not just in numerical growth
But also in spiritual development
Develop body strength in unity
- (3) Developing maturity in the body – 13
That means growing in unity of faith
Growing in our knowledge of the Son of God
So we learn how to function as His body
Come to mature manhood – fullness of Christ
That we truly function as one in response to Christ
That His body is the fullness of Him (as head)
2. Dangers to be avoided – 14
Lack of steady growth makes us vulnerable
 - (1) Instability – Like children
Tossed to and fro in the waves
 - (2) Open to deception
Carried about by every wind of doctrine
Human cunning, craftiness in deceitful schemes
3. Path to solid body development – 15-16
Speaking the truth in love – 15
Coming alongside to help those who waver
Helping one another to learn to respond to our Head
He is the One who can hold us together
Use the gifts that He has given us – 16
Christ has provide enablement to function as His body
Every joint is equipped to function in unity with His body
When we do the body will grow and build itself up in love