

## Gifts Given & Utilized

Ephesians 4:11-13 Sunday AM, October 1, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-13** (NASB95) Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." <sup>9</sup> (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Our chapter began with a charge. Walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called. Those saved from sin by faith in the work of Christ are not merely saved, but are called to complete the purposes of the One who saved them. It will NOT be attainable on your own. The means to accomplish God's calling come from God. That's why Paul prayed God would strengthen them with power through His Spirit in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; This would give believers not only power to accomplish God's will, but also a reminder of the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of God toward ALL saints, reminding us that our task will be completed as we take our place among the fellow recipients of God's power and love. Individual saints are called to live and serve together <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Are you striving toward these attitudes, seeking this unity with the other believers in here as you look to God for growth and service? You must, because this is not merely unity, but the 7 One's of Unity Pastor preached a few weeks ago. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. Sing of our source of unity. Focusing on THIS unity is the only lens through which you can know God's individual grace to you to fulfill His calling. Sing this focus.

**\*Hymn #33: God the Omnipotent**

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Last week, pastor Jahn look at how Christ brought this grace to you if you are His. I missed Pastor Jahn working through this passage and would love for you to tell me one thought you got from his message, but the focus is on Christ and His power to accomplish that giving of grace—He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things! Sing of the powerful grace of God given us through Christ!

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Grace Unmeasured \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: For All the Saints**

**Scripture: Luke 8:4-21** (NASB95) When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: <sup>5</sup> "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. <sup>6</sup> "Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. <sup>8</sup> "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." <sup>9</sup> His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND. <sup>11</sup> "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. <sup>14</sup> "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. <sup>15</sup> "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance. <sup>16</sup> "Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. <sup>17</sup> "For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. <sup>18</sup> "So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him." <sup>19</sup> And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup> And it was reported to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You." <sup>21</sup> But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

**You may be seated.** Christ is the source of the gifts, and Christ is the goal of the gifts. They are NOT FOR YOU apart from His calling! <sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, positions we equate with leadership, but they also speak of a message—God's goals require listening to His words and submitting to the process of adherence to these words. Hence, God's grace gives these authoritative roles NOT to focus merely on you growing or so you would appreciate them, but to focus on God's goal of equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. This is not unrealistic or impossible. Did you hear the choir praising God for ALL the saints faithful before us, urging us on toward the fullness of Christ? Did you hear the Scripture reading speaking of the seed of God's Word falling on good soil? <sup>15</sup> "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance. You can look at the rocks, the thorns, and all those who don't obey the word of God, OR you can trust God's words and continue in them because of the trustworthiness of the God who gives them and be called Jesus' mother, sister, and brother. As pastor Jahn preaches, ask God to sharpen your hunger for His goals—Lord, help me want what you want, help me listen to your word and do it! Sing of the praise to God resulting from daily looking to God for provision to keep His word.

**\*Hymn #87: May Jesus Christ Be Praised**

**Message: Gifts Given & Utilized Ephesians 4:11-13**

**\*Hymn #:**

**The Lord's Table**

THIS communion with God is what matters. Nothing else compares. Sing it over and over to eliminate other treasures and propel you forward with God's calling to live as a light on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. Praise God for communion with God right now!

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): There is a Redeemer**

**\*Prayer**