

THE STUDY OF EPHESIANS
LESSON 12 QUESTIONS
EPHESIANS 4:7-11
THE GIFTS OF CHRIST

Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

Read Ephesians 4:7-11

1. VERSE 7- *“To each one of us was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”*

- Who is the gift given to? See also 1 Cor. 12:11.

- What does it mean when Paul says “according to the measure?” For an amazing picture, look up the Greek word for measure- metron. Read 1 Peter 4:10 and look up the Greek word for manifold-poikilos.

- What is given to us that necessary for the operation of Christ’s gift? (v.7)

2. What is our responsibility with the gifts Christ has given us? Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:6-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11.

3. How can the existence of different spiritual gifts help bring about unity and growth in the body of Christ? How do differing gifts sometimes spark controversy?

Verses 8-10 can be challenging, take time to study them and read Psalm 68.

Eph. 4:8-10 (NASB): Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.” (Now this *expression*, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

Paul's use of Psalm 68, is a victory hymn composed by David to celebrate God's conquest of the Jebusite city and the triumphant ascent of God (represented by the Ark of the Covenant) up Mount Zion. After a king won such a victory he would bring home the spoils and enemy prisoners to parade before his people. An Israelite king would take his retinue through the holy city of Jerusalem and up Mount Zion. Another feature of the victory parade, however, would be the display of the king's own soldiers who had been freed after being held prisoner by the enemy. These were often referred to as recaptured captives—prisoners who had been taken prisoner again, so to speak, by their own king and given freedom. (John MacArthur)

4. Who was battling and who was the victor? See Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 2:15.

5. We know by Acts 1:9-11, what?

6. In His crucifixion and resurrection, Christ conquered satan, sin and death, and by that victory “*He led captive a host of captives.*” Referring to the explanation of Psalm 68 and these verses John 11:51-52; John 10:16; Acts 18:9-10; Eph. 1:4; who are the captives?

7. Paul explains that the expression, “*He ascended*” means that He also had to have “*descended into the lower parts of the earth.*” Using these verses explain what this means Matt. 12:40; Is. 44:23; 1 Pet. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:22.

8. In verse 10 we see a statement about the fullness of God's blessings to those who belong to Him through Christ Jesus. Paul has repeatedly brought up the "fullness of God" or "being filled." He does not want us to miss the significance and implication of this. Fill in the blanks. (NASB)

Eph. 1:23- which is His body, _____

Eph. 3:19- and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,

Eph. 4:10- He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so

Eph. 4:13- 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 _____

Eph. 5:18- And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation,

9. Like a victorious conqueror bestowing the spoils to his subjects, so Christ takes the trophies He has won and distributes them in His kingdom. Not only does He give gifts to the individual (v.7), but to His church (v.11). What gift had to come first? John 14:16-17; Acts 2:33; Acts 1:8.

10. Think of the magnitude of this! The Lord Jesus came down, was crucified and died; He conquered sin, death and many other things. He ascends back to the heavens. He has His captives with Him. Then and only then can He give gifts unto men. Think about what He went through to be able to give gifts to men. Describe what this means to you and write a prayer of praise. See also, 2 Cor. 8-9.
