

SAME PURPOSE, DIFFERENT FUNCTION

"Gifted for Glorifying God" series (2)

February 14, 2010

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4:1-12

REVIEW: 4 NT passages re: **Spiritual Gifts**-- Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4; and Ephesians 4.
Last week: Romans 12:1- 8
-Gifts reflect God's transforming work in us and display our gratitude for His grace.
-Also, don't overestimate OR underestimate that grace at work in you.

TODAY'S TEACHING:

Ephesians 1- 3: THE BIG PICTURE: GOD HAS A PLAN!

1: 4 God the Father plans to **REDEEM** people.

1: 7 God the Son executes the Father's plan and purpose.

1: 13 God the Spirit verifies and makes it happen.

1: 9- 10 **What is the plan?**

To redeem, restore, reconcile and re-create this broken universe and bring it **BACK** to God!

Ephesians 4: 7- 10: WHO'S DOING THIS? THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

"Jesus came down to earth, ascended back to heaven..."

1. The church is called to the instrument of God's plan to unite all things **IN CHRIST**.
2. There's some gifting in your life to participate in accomplishing God's **BIG PLAN**
Eph. 4: 11- 13: **WHAT'S HE DOING?** Pouring out these **GIFTS**
4-fold ministry of Jesus:
3. Jesus is reproducing His gifts in His people. (United, but different!)

TODAY'S APPLICATIONS:

1. These are **GENUINE ABILITIES** that the Risen Jesus gives, NOT offices to hold.
2. Gifts are given to be **GIVEN**. Not FOR you, but **THROUGH** you.
3. God's purpose is to equip us for serving others—all of us get to **PLAY!**
 - o Regardless of **AGE**,
 - o Open to test/try/discover where you are **FRUITFUL** and **FULFILLED**.
 - o Not do it all, BUT not do **NOTHING**.

- 1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
- 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
- 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—
- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- 7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.
- 8 This 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 ?
- 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)
- 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,
- 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.