

Walking the Walk
Part 3: Gifts for the Walk
Ephesians 4:7-10

I. The Gift of Serving Grace

⁷ *But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.*

Ephesians 4:7 (NIV)

- A spiritual gift is a supernatural gift given to us by the Holy Spirit to use as we **serve** the **Lord**. Every Christian has a spiritual gift, but we have different gifts given to us in different proportions.
- Our gifts cannot be measured by the number of people impacted by it, the amount of money generated by it, or the attention and acclaim we receive from using it. Our gifts are measured by whether or not we return them **well used**.

II. The Gift of Saving Grace

⁸ *This is why it says [in Psalm 68:18], ‘When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.’* 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.)*

Ephesians 4:8-10

- In the NKJV, verse 8 says, “He led captivity captive.” When a conquering king returned home from war, he would have a great parade showing-off the spoils of victory. One section of the parade showed the “captured captives;” these were the king’s people who had been captured by the enemy, but were now “recaptured” and **set free**.
- To say that Jesus “descended to the lower, earthly regions” means He came down from heaven to earth (Isa. 44:23); was knit together in Mary’s womb (Psalm 139:15); experienced death (Psalm 63:9); was 3 days/nights in the grave (Matt. 12:40); and possibly even descended into hell where He preached freedom to the captives (1 Peter 3:18-19). In all these ways, Jesus descended and then ascended in order to set us free to become a **whole, new me!**

