

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

HOSTING THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH UNITY: EPHESIANS 4:1-16 STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

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March 26, 2023

TEXT: Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 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 was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."*

9 (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 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 belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

INTRO: What does revival look like? How do we practically walk out revival? Remember, the church in Ephesus was birthed out of the greatest revival in Apostle Paul's ministry (Acts 19).

We come to the halfway point in Paul's letter to the Ephesian church. Typical of his letters, he begins with the "wealth of the Gospel," our riches in Christ. But now he emphasizes the practical walk with God. Now that we have received the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit gives us grace to *walk out*



righteousness and love. The word “walk” appears in Ephesians 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15. He encourages us to walk in unity (Ephesians 4:1-16), to walk in purity (Ephesians 4:17-5:17), to walk in love in the home (Ephesians 5:18-6:4), and to walk in victory over the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-24). Let’s talk about how to walk in unity with one another.

D.L. Moody said, “God has never visited a divided church.” I received an impartation of unity in Argentina in 1991 that I will close this message with.

I. THE GRACE OF UNITY

A. Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. — Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

1. **He has given us His humility: Ephesians 4:2a — “Learn from Me, for I am... humble in heart”: Matthew 11:29b**
2. **He has given us His gentleness: Ephesians 4:2b — “I am gentle and humble in heart”: Matthew 11:29a**
3. **He has given us His patience: Ephesians 4:2c — Galatians 5:22**
4. **He has given us His tolerance: Ephesians 4:2d — Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?**
5. **He has given us His love: Ephesians 4:2e —** The word tolerance is the Greek word *anochē*, which means truce, a holiday, forbear. Don’t get in a fight with those who disagree.

B. HE EXPECTS US TO WORK DELIGENTLY TO PRESERVE UNITY

1. **Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**
2. Share the dream that I had about Mike Bickle and me in 2008.

II. THE GIFTS FOR UNITY: THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES

A. Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8 Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.” 9 (Now this *expression*, “He ascended,” what



does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 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 belongs to the fullness of Christ.

B. Why We Need Fivefold Ministries to be Functioning Today, Especially Apostles and Prophets (Ephesians 2:20)

1. **Apostles and prophets help us to be aligned for service.**
2. **Apostles and prophets help us to build up the Body of Christ.**
3. **Apostles and prophets help us to come to the unity of faith.**
4. **Apostles and prophets help us to grow in the knowledge of Jesus the Son of God.**
5. **Apostles and prophets help us to become a mature man.**
6. **Apostles and prophets help us to come into the fullness of Christ.**

III. DEFINING MODERN-DAY APOSTLES

A. APOSTLES: Apostles are men and women of God who have been called and sent by God with an unusual authority to bring about revival and reformation to society by Kingdom initiatives and by proclaiming the whole counsel of God with signs and wonders following.

1. **Church Apostles:** Paul, Bill Johnson, myself, and many others on the church mountain.
2. **Marketplace Apostles:** Only one percent of the church is in vocational ministry. Jesus did not give the gift of apostles to only the “one percenter.” He gave it to the whole Body. Therefore, there are apostles in the marketplace. Luke, Barnabas, Pricilla and Aquila, Sam Caster, Senator Shannon Grove, Phil Liberatore: apostles on the other mountains of society. I believe that Marketplace Apostles must be aligned with church apostles and be committed to a local church.

B. PROPHETS: Prophets have an unusual ability to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church or to a given nation and will prophesy the word of the Lord to the intended recipient. Modern-day prophets are aligned and work with modern-day apostles.



IV. THE GROWTH OF UNITY

A. THREE SIGNS THAT WE ARE GROWING

- 1. STABILITY: Ephesians 4:14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming
- 2. WE SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE TO ONE ANOTHER: Ephesians 4:15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ
- 3. E.M.I. – “EVERY MEMBER INVOLVEMENT”:** Ephesians 4:16a from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part...

CONCLUSION: WE WILL GROW QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY. Ephesians 4:16b ...causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

My testimony of receiving God’s heart for unity in 1991, which laid the foundation in my life for the revival that broke out in 1994, for Harvest Rock Church to be birthed in 1994, Harvest International Ministry in 1996, and TheCall in 2000.

Mando Matthews—a member of our church but also the catalyst of Hope California, which will be holding a 10-city stadium evangelistic event on April 2—has experienced wonderful unity displayed by the Church, as over 2,000 pastors have made a commitment to reach the harvest in California. We are also committed to Hope California. Let’s walk in unity by every member of HRC supporting this massive evangelistic initiative with our prayers, finances, and most importantly, by bringing our unbelieving friends and family members to the event.

