

## Believer's Boot Camp – Part 4

***In part 4 we discuss how: God often calls you to do things YOU cannot do!***

***The Lord Jesus Christ has already defeated our Enemy hands down.***

**However, He has left it up to us to enforce every day in earth's trenches the victory He has won in the Heavens.**

**The book of Ephesians serves as a Believers Boot Camp, *teaching us that the church is equipped with vast spiritual weaponry* to accomplish this very task.**

- **Victory** is ours ***if we fight*** for it!
- **Ephesians** is serious training for serious Christians.

***When people become Christians* one of the hardest things to do is to **RETRAIN** them **not to continue** to operate according to **the world's system**.**

**It took one night to get Israel out of Egypt, but forty years to get Egypt out of them.**

**There is always a battle between the NEW MAN and the OLD MAN. And that is why we need teaching like Paul gives to us in Ephesians.**

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### **Ephesians 4 - Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ**

**Eph. 4:1** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to **live a life worthy** of the calling you have received.

**God often calls you to do things YOU cannot do!**

**He called Peter to walk on the water.**

**Matthew 14:28-29** "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "**Come,**" ***he said.*** Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

**He called Lazarus to come out of the grave!**

**John 11:43-44** When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, **“Lazarus, come out!”** 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

**He imparts His ability to us as we walk with Him.**

**“Live a life worthy” – walk as though you were already at the place you are pursuing!**

- Don't walk according to where you are –
- Faith calls those things that are NOT as though they WERE! Rom4:17

**Eph. 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle**; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**“Be completely humble and gentle” – the higher the call, the lower you must be the more gifted you are, the humbler you must be...**

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** - But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Eph. 4:3** Make every effort to keep the **unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace.

**Fulfilling our calling is inseparably tied to our allegiance to one another; unity costs something, and unity WILL be a struggle.**

**“Spirit of unity”** – unity is impossible apart from the Holy Spirit.

- **How the SPIRIT leads My Church is more important than MY preferences!**

**Eph. 4:4** There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

**“One Body and one Spirit”** – coming into **GOD'S presence means that we**

must come into each other's presence – whether you understand and like me or not, **He's my God too!**

**Eph. 4:6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Our “**oneness**” is a dynamic oneness – it takes **God to hold it together**.

**Eph. 4:7** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it

**“grace” = “graciousness” (the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in life)** – we need this to get along with each other!

**Eph. 4:8** This is why it (**our God**) says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

The OT saints were **held CAPTIVE** by the grave but **not the NT church!**

**Eph. 4:9-10** 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.

- **Jesus went into Hell itself** – so we would never have to go there!

**Eph. 4:11** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

- **Five-fold LEADERSHIP ministries in the church.**

Thumb Finger Index Finger Middle Finger Ring Finger Little Finger

**Apostle** touches all other ministries, **Prophet** gives direction, **Evangelist** reaches furthest, **Pastor** in covenant with local church, and **Teacher** brings balance.

**Eph. 4:12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

This is **NOT** the “threefold job description of the fivefold ministry” –

- **Church leadership has ONE job,**

- To perfect (“**mature**”) the saints – So, THEY can do the work of **the MINISTRY** - And edify (“**grow, build up**”) the Body.

**Eph. 4:13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**Mature** saints are **UNIFIED** – with *each other*, their *pastor*, the *church*.

**Eph. 4:14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people **in their deceitful scheming**.

*“Lie in wait to deceive”* - Paul is again "wolf-proofing" them!

**Eph. 4:15** Instead, **speaking the truth in love**, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

*“Speaking the truth in love”* - ***speaking the truth takes BOLDNESS***, and ***speaking in love takes KINDNESS*** - you need **BOTH**.

**Eph. 4:16** From him the whole body, **joined and held together** by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

To be *“joined and held together”* is **NOT** just being *“loosely joined”* – we are *not independent*, but **interdependent**.

*“Every joint ... every part”* - when one part of the Body doesn't work properly, we all suffer for it.

*“edifying” “renovating”* - the human body is so smart that any time you introduce a foreign element, it will **automatically resist it** (sickness, diet) and compensate for it.

**To be loyal to that which you have been called TO, you may have to be disloyal to that which you have been called FROM.**

**Instructions for Christian Living - Eph. 4:17** So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in **the futility of their thinking**.

**“Vanity of their mind” – the human ego can’t function in God’s kingdom unless it has been tempered by the Holy Spirit!**

**Eph. 4:18** They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

**“Ignorance” - they may be very intelligent, but they are ignorant in this area because **they are in the DARK** (they are **not walking in LIGHT**)**

**Eph. 4:19** Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to **sensuality** so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

**“Sensuality” means unrestrained action (with no boundaries) - if we are not going to be like the world, we need to have **“restrained action.”****

**Eph. 4:22&24** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is **being corrupted by its deceitful desires**; 24 and to **put on the new self**, created to **be like God in true righteousness and holiness**.

- **“Put off” and “put on.”**

**Eph. 4:23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds.

- **What is between “put off” and “put on”?**
- **RENEW YOUR MIND (CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE)**

Your **“new clothes”** may not immediately be as comfortable as your **“old clothes”** –

- But keep putting them on, **by PRACTICING**
- Until your new actions **become a HABIT**
- **“This is not being a hypocrite; it is **RETRAINING** yourself to **walk with God** and **RESTRAINING** your **old self from walking in sin**.”**

**CLOSE: FOUR THINGS TO PUT OFF: Eph. 4:25** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

- **LYING** – be honest in word and spirit (the impressions you give)

**Eph. 4:26-27** “In your **anger** do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give **the devil a foothold**. -

- “place” = “territory”
- **ANGER** – deal with your feelings immediately and biblically

**Eph. 4:28** Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

- **STEALING** – get a job! And **be generous** with what you have.

**Eph. 4:29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building others up** according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

- **CORRUPT TALK** – not just filthy talk, but negative talk as well

**“Edifying ... minister in grace”** – if your communication destroys unity or **damages a brother or sister**, it may be “right” but it is **still WRONG!**

**Eph. 4:30** And **do not grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**“Grieve”** – ***to outrage and humiliate*** – Jesus’ throne is your heart!

**Eph. 4:31** Get rid of all **bitterness**, **rage** and **anger**, **brawling**, and **slander**, along with every form of **malice**.

#### **SIX THINGS THAT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

- **BITTERNESS** – motivated by unforgiveness!
- **RAGE** – motivated by a desire for revenge!
- **ANGER** – motivated by a loss of power
- **BRAWLING** – motivated by discontent
- **SLANDER** – motivated by jealousy
- **MALICE** – motivated by hatred

**Eph. 4:32 Be kind** and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just **as in Christ God** forgave you.

**“BE kind”** (not “FEEL” kind)

**“As God”** – when we **begin to see others as God sees them**, we will be **“Compassionate”** toward them and **forgive them even when they are undeserving.**

**Matthew 6:14-15** For **if you forgive** other people when they sin against you, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you.** 15 But **if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

**He called Peter to walk on the water, and Lazarus to come out of the grave.**

**He imparts His ability to us as we walk with Him.**

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- Don't walk according to where you are!
- Faith calls **those things that are NOT** as though **they WERE.**
- The **higher the call, the lower you must be; the more gifted you are,**  
**THE MORE HUMBLE YOU MUST BE!!!!**