

Sermon Notes for October 23, 2005 A.M.

Morning: “The Unity of the Spirit” Ephesians 4:1-6 (Pew Bible page 1039)
(The Worthy Walk)

The Holy Spirit now calls us to walk worthy, to match our position and relation to Jesus Christ. The practical application chapters begin here where God calls us to a “worthy walk.” We see that **behavior** follows **belief**, **duty** follows **doctrine**, **practice** follows **principle**, and **works** follows **faith**. The “worthy walk” means:

Unity— “Endeavoring to keep the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-6

Victory— “When **He ascended** on high, He led captivity **captive**.” Ephesians 4:7-10

Ministry— “**For the equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry.” Ephesians 4:11-13

Maturity— “That we should **no longer be children**.” Ephesians 4:14-16

Purity— “You should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk **in the vanity of their mind**.” Ephesians 4:17

Charity— “And be kind to one another, **tender hearted**, forgiving one another.” Ephesians 4:32

Spirituality— “Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children . . . Walk as children of light . . . **The fruit of the Spirit** . . . **Be filled with the Spirit**.” Ephesians 5:1, 8-9, 18

I. A Unity Having Sincere **Tenderness**— “Walk . . . With all lowliness, and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2

- A Tender **Holiness**— “Walk worthy of the calling” Ephesians 4:1

- A Tender **Humility**— “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

II. A Unity Honoring the Sacred **Trinity**— “One Spirit . . . One Lord . . . One God and Father of all.” Ephesians 4:4-6

- Unity of **Worship**— “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts” Isaiah 6:3

- Unity of **Identification**— “The Spirit descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him . . . This is my beloved Son.” Matthew 3:16-17 (851)

- Unity of **Fellowship**— “The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you.” II Corinthians 13:14 (1033)

III. A Unity Holding Spiritual **Truths**— “The unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:4-6

- ❖ The Truth of our **Calling**— “One Spirit”
 - Called to one **Family**— “One body”

 - Called to one **Fullness**— “One Spirit”

- Called to one **Future**— “Just as you were called to one **hope** of your calling.”
 - ❖ The Truth about the **Cross**— “One Lord”
 - The Cross was His **Mission**— “He Who descended” Ephesians 4:10
 - The Cross is our **Mercy**— “One faith”
 - The Cross is our **Message**— “One baptism”
 - ❖ The Truth about the **Consummation**— “One God and Father of all”
- “Together”** - I Thessalonians 4:16-17 (1050)
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Sermon Notes for October 23, 2005 P.M.

Evening: “The Victory of the Spirit-Filled Church”

Ephesians 4:7-11 (Pew Bible page 1039)
(The Worthy Walk)

The Church on earth today and life in Christ in the believer are the result of the magnificent victory of Jesus Christ. At the Cross, Empty Tomb, and the Ascension, Christ conquered sin, death, and Hell. Plus, He established the ministry of the Spirit-filled Church with spiritual gifts. Our passage speaks of the Ascension of Jesus to God’s Throne where spiritual gifts are sovereignly bestowed to the Church for ministry on earth. **Christ's great, universal victory is the foundation of the Church's ministry.**

I. The Gifts from His Victory— “He gave **gifts** to men.” Ephesians 4:7, 4:11; Romans 12:6-8

- Spiritual gifts are **Testimony** Gifts— “**One . . . each one . . .** Grace was given.” Ephesians 4:4-7
- Spiritual gifts are **Triumph** Gifts— “He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.” Ephesians 4:7
- Spiritual gifts are **Throne** Gifts— “According to the measure of Christ’s gifts” Ephesians 4:7; Hebrews 1:4; Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8 “As Christ apportioned it.” (NIV)

“Apostles and prophets” are foundational, First Century gifts which established the Bible, the Word of God. Ephesians 2:20, 3:5, 4:11 “Evangelists, pastors, teachers” carry on the work today begun by the “apostles and prophets.”

II. The Gloom that brought His Victory— “He also descended into the lower parts of the earth.” Ephesians 4:9

- He descended in the **Incarnation** at Bethlehem—Psalm 139:15

- He descended in the **Atonement** at Calvary— Matthew 27:46
- He descended into the **Grave** to face death itself— I Peter 3:18-19
Today the Old Testament saints are at the Throne of God in Heaven as Christ “led captivity captive” in the Resurrection and Ascension.

III. The Glory coming after His Victory— “That He might fill all things” Ephesians 4:10-11, Ephesians 1:10, 3:20-21

- He ascended **visibly**—Acts 1:9-10
- He ascended **vocally**— Psalm 24:7-10
- He ascended **victoriously**— Hebrews 1:13; Ephesians 1:10

IV. The Growth today in His Victory— “For the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry.”

The work of the local Church today is directly connected to the Throne of God in Heaven by the Holy Spirit’s spiritual gifts dispersed and displayed in ministry.

What a motivation for ministry today! Every minister, teachers, worker in God’s Church is a direct gift of God from the heart of God and throne of God to do ministry.

- ❖ Thank God right now for the Victor Jesus Christ and all He accomplished in His life and ministry.
- ❖ Thank God for every laborer in our Church, and receive them as gifts directly from the throne of God!
- ❖ the Holy Spirit so that you will understand the Word, apply the Word, and share the Word.
- ❖ Be involved in being an encourager to every member of the body of Christ to fulfill the call of God on their lives.