

WITHSTAND THE CHAOS.

Ephesians 4:7-16

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up 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 mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

To withstand the chaos, Jesus Christ has given...

- The gift of grace for salvation and service in the church – 4:7 *But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*
 - Gifts aren't free for the giver – 4:8-10 *Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

Colossians 2:15

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- Solid leadership to equip the church – 4:11-13 *And **he gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² **to equip** the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up** 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 mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

Requirements of a Spiritual Leader

- 1) Has an absolute sense of urgency.
 - 2) Has an absolute priority and commitment to prayer.
 - 3) Is unconditionally related to Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - 4) Is Kingdom oriented.
 - 5) Dwells with and under Christ's absolute spiritual authority and demonstrates this in his or her life.
 - 6) Must be a person of absolute faith and trust.¹
- A way out of deception – 4:14 ***so that** we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*
 - No longer uninformed – 4:14 *so that we may no longer be children,*
 - Arrogance, ignorance, and immaturity are often partners.
 - You can't withstand the chaos if you misdiagnose the root cause of the chaos. #HumanDepravity
 - No longer unstable – 4:14 *tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine*
 - Feel good! (Prosperity preachers & secular philosophies)

- “You’re so good, you have no need to be saved!”
 - Feel guilty! (World religion teachers)
 - “You’re so messed up you could never be saved!”
 - No longer gullible – 4:14 *“by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”*
- The ability to speak Truth with the right Tone – 4:15-16 *Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to **grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.***

¹ Henry Blackaby.