



# CHRIST'S GIFTS FOR MATURITY

A Study of  
Ephesians 4:7-16

The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the  
**presence of God:**  
even Sinai itself was moved at the  
presence of God, the God of Israel.

Psalm 68:8

**(v18)** You have ascended on high,  
You have led captive *Your* captives;  
You have received gifts among men,  
Even *among* the rebellious also,  
that the LORD God may dwell *there*.



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## The New Humanity, A Divine Creation Ch 1-3

v1-6 Focus On Maintaining Unity

v7-16 Christ's Triumphant Gifts Hold Us Together

Doctrinal

## The New Man's Life On Earth Ch 4-6

Ch 4 Maintaining A New Unity By A New Life

Ch 5 Out Of The Darkness & Into The Light!

Ch 6 Strength In The Lord For the Daily Fight

Practical

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## How To Read The Psalms [v7-10]

Paul believed Christ fulfills them all. **Lk24:44; 2Cor3:14-16**

Here he quotes The Targum, not the Hebrew or Septuagint.

So, we don't have to be overly afraid of paraphrases.

## What does it mean *He descended into...*

Ephesians maintains a heaven & earth approach.

The focus here is on His ascension. (**Eph 1:10,23 & v20**)

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## How To Read The Psalms [v7-10]

Christ's ascension means He has given us His gifts.

## His Gifts Enable Our Maturity/Unity [v11-16]

His gifts are people intended to build up His church!

Note: These leaders *equip the saints* to serve.

## Paul's Goals Are Expressed In Both Directions:

Positively: Measuring up to Christ. (Mt 5:48)

Negatively: Not tossed about like an anchorless ship.

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## **How To Read The Psalms [v7-10]**

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## **Keep The 2<sup>nd</sup> Greatest Command In Context: Lev 19:17**

*Rebuke your neighbor, don't share in their guilt.*

Be thankful for honest people in your life.

We avoid truth because of pride & laziness.

**Thankfully, Grace Enables Us To Face The Truth!**

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## How To Read The Psalms [v7-10]

“We have strayed from the gospel as surely as if

From the cowardice that shrinks from new truths,  
From the laziness that is content with half-truths,  
And from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,  
O God of Truth, deliver us!

—Snodgrass 227

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