

Ephesians 4:8-16

8-10. Therefore He says, '**When He ascended on high**, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.' (Now this, 'He ascended' - what does it mean but that He also first **DESCENDED** into **the lower parts of the Earth**? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

- **John 20:17** "Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet _____ to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am _____ to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

Definition: "LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH" - This refers to the place of the dead, located in the center of the Earth, and called **Hades** (Greek) or **Sheol** (Hebrew). Hades was divided into two parts:

1. a place of **torment for the unbelievers**; and
 2. a place called "Abraham's bosom" in Luke 16, which was a place of **comfort for Believers**. Jesus went into Hades (for the three days between His death and His resurrection) and took out all the spirits (souls) of those who had **died believing God and trusting in Him**, and took them up to heaven. The only ones left in Hades NOW are the unbelievers, those who died reflecting Christ, and for them it is a place of torment. Their spirits are waiting for the resurrection and Judgment Day. Before Jesus' death and resurrection, Believers did not go directly and immediately to heaven, and there they wait for the resurrection of their BODIES.
- **Psalms 16:10** "For You will not _____ my _____ in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One (Christ) to see corruption."
 - **Psalms 28:1** "To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock; do not be silent to me, lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go _____ to the _____ ."
 - **Psalms 49:15-17** "But God will redeem my _____ from the power of the grave (Sheol), for He shall receive me."
 - **Psalms 55:15** "Let death seize them; let them go _____ into _____ (Sheol), for wickedness is in their dwellings and among them."
 - **Psalms 63:9** "But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the _____ of the Earth."
 - **Read Luke 16:19-31** (verse 22-23) "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the _____ into Abraham's bosom (place of safety & comfort). The rich man also died and was buried. And being in _____ in _____ , he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."
 - **Matthew 12:40** "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the _____ of the great fish, so will the Son of Man (Jesus) be **three days and three nights** in the _____ of the _____ ."

11-13. And He Himself gave some to be **prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect (mature) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

- **I Corinthians 12:27-30** "Now you are the _____ of _____ , and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first _____ , second _____ , third _____ , after that miracles, then gifts _____ ? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all _____ with _____ ? Do all interpret?"

- **Romans 12:4-8** "For as we have many members in one body, but all the _____ **DO NOT** have the **same** _____ , so we, being many, are _____ in Christ, and individually members of _____ . Having then _____ differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If _____ , let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry (serving), let us use it in our _____ ; he who _____ , in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality (generosity); he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."
- **Philippians 3:8-10** "But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the _____ of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish that I may gain _____ ." (Verse 10) "That I may _____ and the power of His _____ , and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death."

14-15. That we should **no longer be CHILDREN**, tossed to and fro and carried about with EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, by the **trickery of men**, in the **cunning CRAFTINESS** by which **they lie in wait to DECEIVE**, but speaking the truth in love, may **grow up** in all things into Him who is **the head... - Christ**.

- **I Corinthians 14:20** "Brethren, do not be _____ in understanding; however, in malice be _____ , but in understanding be _____ ."
- **Hebrews 5:12-14** "For though by this time you ought to be _____ , you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need _____ and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of _____ is unskilled in the _____ of righteousness, for he is a _____ . But _____ belongs to those who are of full age (mature, grown up), that is those who by reason of use have their exercised (trained) to **discern both good and evil.**"

Definition: "EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE" - Doctrine means "teaching" - we are NOT to be falling for every new kind of teaching or latest "spiritual fad." Cults and false teachers are EVERYWHERE!! Many of them SOUND Christian, or use the name of Jesus, but they are a mixture of truth and LIES! Satan is the FATHER OF LIES and a great counterfeiter. Many true Christians get tricked or sucked into false cults because the DO NOT know **what God's word really says!!**

- **John 8:44** "You are of your father, THE DEVIL, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is _____ in him. When he speaks a _____ , he speaks from his own nature, for he is a _____ , and the father of _____ ."
- **II Corinthians 11:3-4 & 13-15** "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent _____ Eve by his _____ , so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches _____ whom we have not preached, or if you receive _____ which you have not received, or a different _____ which you have not accepted, you may well put up with it." (Verses 13-15) "For such are _____ apostles, _____ workers, transforming themselves into the [appearance of] apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for _____ himself transforms himself into an "angel of _____ ." Therefore, it is no surprise if his ministers also are transformed [into the appearance of] ministers of _____ ; whose end (reward) shall be according to their _____ ."
- **Colossians 2:8-10** "**Beware** lest anyone **cheat you** through _____ and empty _____ , according to the tradition of _____ , according to the basic _____ of the _____ , and NOT according to Christ. For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead *in bodily form*; and you are _____ in _____ , who is the _____ of all principality and power."
- **II Timothy 3:13** "But _____ men and _____ will grow worse and worse, _____ and being deceived."

- **I Timothy 4:1** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times [*before Christ returns*], some will depart from the faith, giving heed to _____ spirits and doctrines of _____ ."

16. From whom the WHOLE BODY, joined and **knit together** by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share**, causes **growth** of the body

- **Colossians 2:19** "...and not holding fast to the _____ , from whom all the body [*of Christ*], _____ and _____ by joints and ligaments, _____ with the increase which is from God."
- **Colossians 2:2** "That their hearts may be encouraged, being _____ in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, but of the _____ and of _____ ."
- **I Timothy 4:6** "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, _____ in the _____ of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."
- **I Corinthians 12:11-20** (Verse 11) "But one and the same _____ works all these things, distributing to each one individually as _____ wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being _____ , are one body, so also is _____ . (Verse 14) "For in fact the body is _____ one member but many. If the _____ should say, 'Because I am not a _____ , I am not of the body.' Is it therefore not of the body? And if the _____ should say, 'Because I am not an _____ , I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body?" (Verse 18) "But now God has set the members, _____ of them, in the **BODY**, just as _____ pleased."