

What is wrong with him?

*Peter Pan*



## Ephesians 4:7-16

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says.. "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God`s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 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.

## Ephesians 4:7-16

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 men in their deceitful scheming.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 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.



There is only one Lord (Ephesians 4: 1-6)

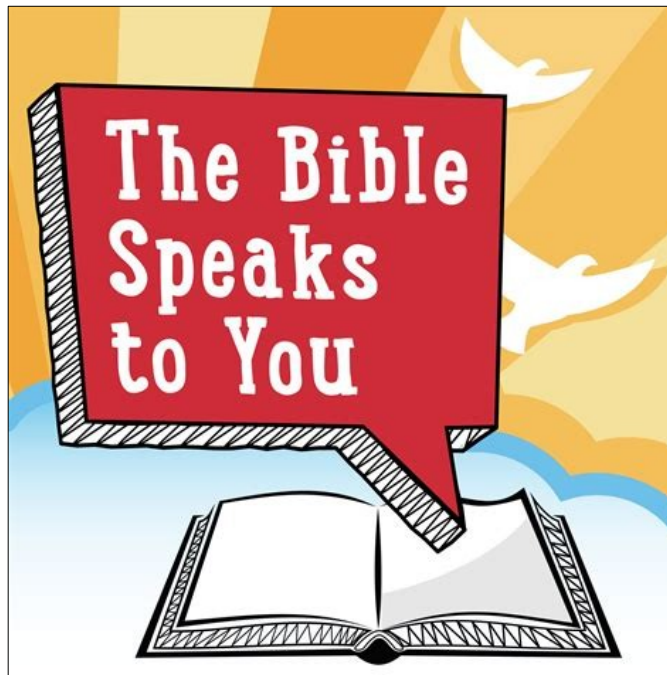
But to each one of us grace has been given  
as Christ apportioned it.

There is something for everyone of us here.  
He has grace to give – undeserved favour  
Jesus gets to choose how his grace is given out  
It will be the best and wisest way

Something for  
EVERYONE!

This is why it says..

Paul is going to quote a Bible verse to confirm what he has just said. Psalm 68:18 in the Greek translation. The phrase 'It says' tells us that the Bible 'speaks' to us

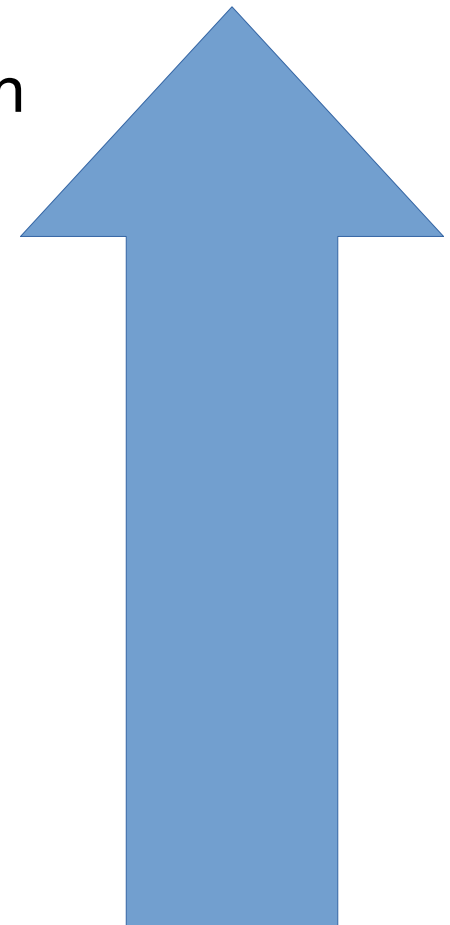


This is why it says.. "When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

He quotes from the Old Testament – his Bible  
He understands it as referring to Jesus, the Messiah

When did he ascend? After his resurrection  
It was like a Roman victory parade  
What did he take with him? Defeated captives  
This was his victory over sin, death and Satan.

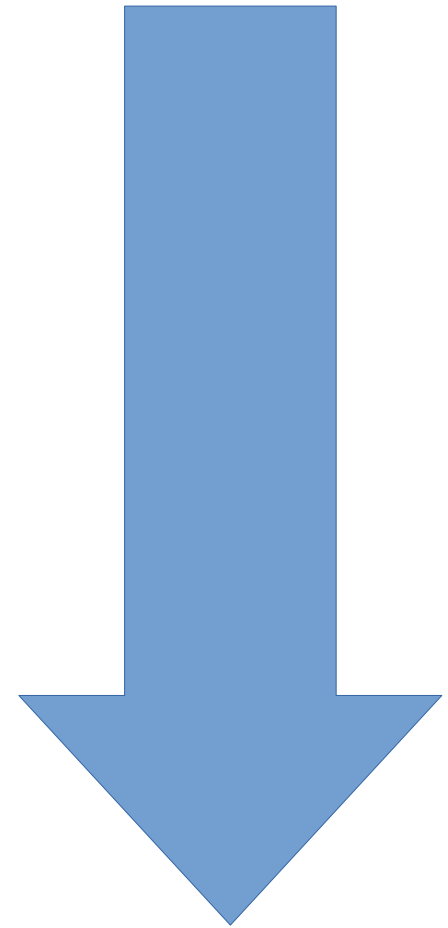
What did he give to us humans?  
cf. Pentecost and the working of the Holy Spirit.



(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?)

A piece of logic (use your mind)

If he (the Lord) ascended then he must have first come down to us – planet earth, to be among us



He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

This same Lord Jesus has returned to the throne in glory to heaven, beyond the creation.

And rules over all of creation. He is God's Son

By His Spirit he can be everywhere in his powerful presence.



**JESUS**  
*is King*



It was **he** who gave some to be ....

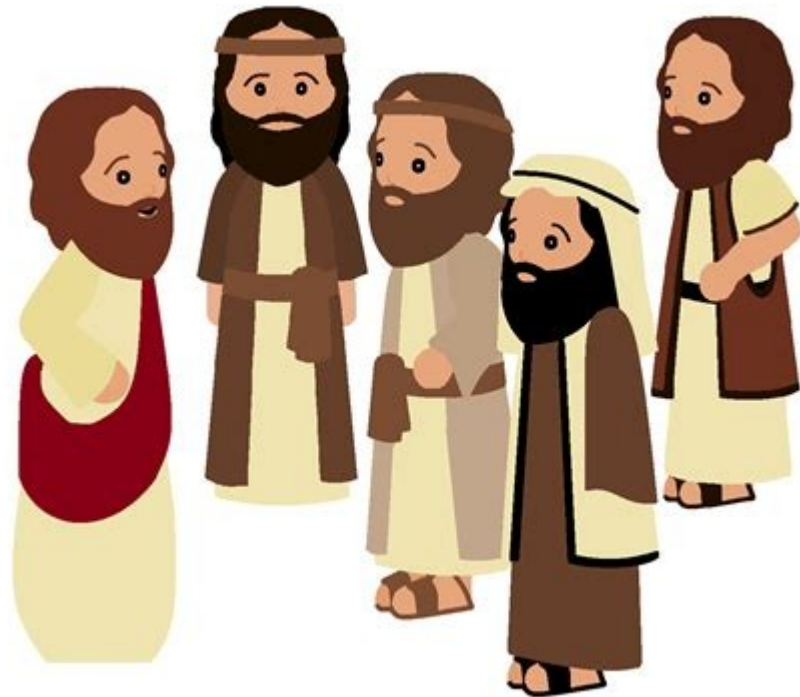
Jesus, working through the Holy Spirit, gets to choose how his grace is given out  
And Paul is going to give us examples of Jesus' giving in different ways and to different people.



It was he who gave some to be apostles,

We are first given the roles of various people who are given to bless and help the church

Apostles – firstly the 12 and later others  
To give direction by conveying Jesus' teaching to us. The name means 'sent out' ones



It was he who gave some to be apostles,  
some to be prophets,

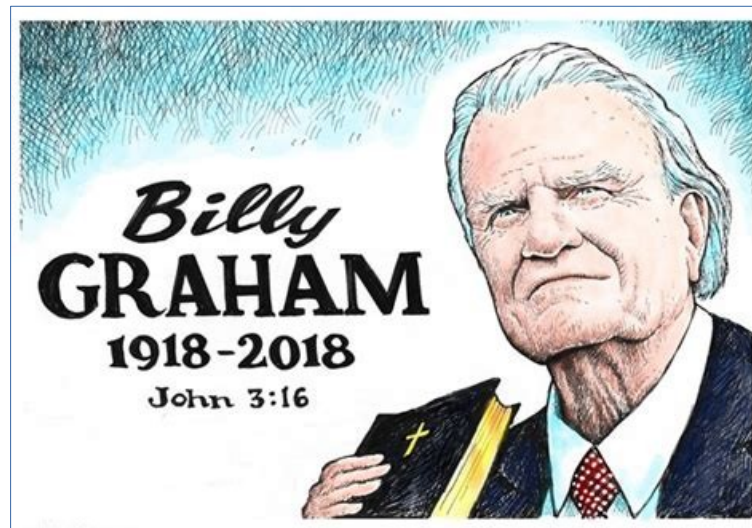
Different people equipped for different parts to play  
Prophets – NT – giving teaching at the beginning,  
sometimes speaking of future events as God reveals  
these things



It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists,

We are all called to share the Good News, but some people are especially gifted in communicating the Gospel in an effective and powerful way.(e.g. missionaries) God uses them to bring people into the place where they commit their lives to Jesus Christ and are 'born again'.

Some have described them as 'spiritual midwives'



It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

Are pastors and teachers different groups here?  
The roles are connected. Shepherding the local flock (God's people) requires both practical care and teaching.  
Just like children, we need care and instruction as we grow.



to prepare (*repair*) God's people for works of service,

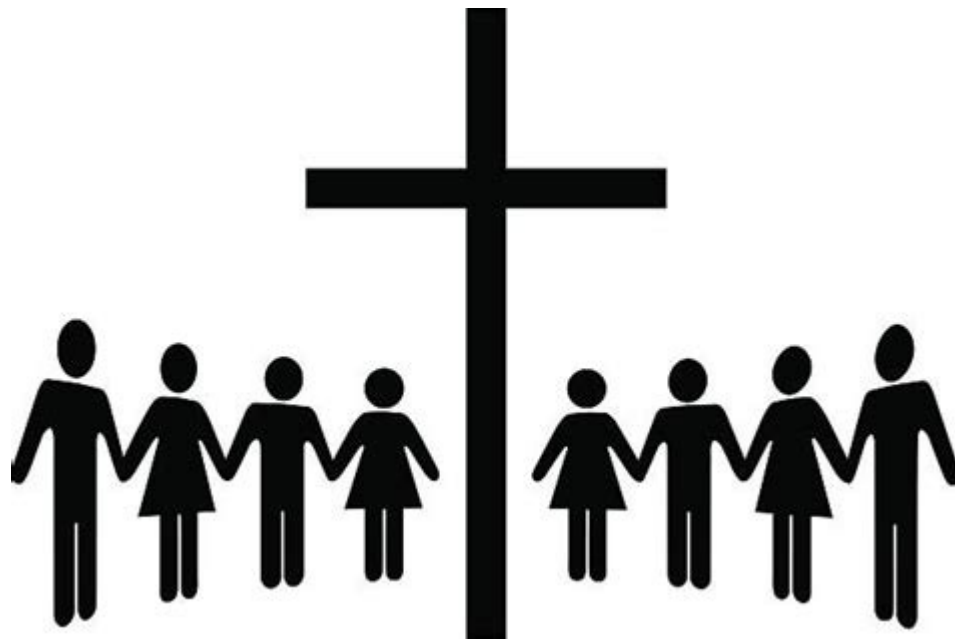
This explains the reason for naming these groups first. The objective is for us all to grow in order to be useful in God's kingdom.

Works of service – doing things to serve God and help others.



so that the body of Christ may be built up

The whole group of believers are called the body of Christ. We are meant to grow and be strong



until we all reach unity in the faith  
and in the knowledge of the Son of God

This is our goal that God wants us to achieve  
Unity in the faith – believing the truth and living it  
Experiencing a deep personal relationship with Jesus,  
God' Son – to know Him well. When will we arrive?





and become mature,  
attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The ultimate destiny of God's working in us

Having everything that Jesus has in store for us

We shall be like him (individually and corporately) when we see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). How 'tall' are you?

Jesus is truly wonderful, majestic and glorious.



Then we will no longer be infants,

There's nothing wrong with being an infant when you are first born! But it is meant to be just a part of our life process. We are meant to grow up. What Paul has just shared is the means that God will use to help us grow beyond infancy.



tossed back and forth by the waves,  
and blown here and there by every wind of teaching

This illustrates the danger of staying in the juvenile stage. We can be easily influenced in the wrong directions by being unable to discern what teaching to accept and what to reject as false.

Do you know what you are meant to believe?



and by the cunning and craftiness of men  
in their deceitful scheming.

This tells us that there is another strong reason to become mature in Christ. There are enemies out there intending to destroy your faith and witness. They can be very crafty and convincing. (And they are driven by the arch-deceiver Satan himself.)



We need the wisdom and insight that the Holy Spirit will give us through God's word and His servants in order to protect us against them.

Instead, speaking the truth in love,

This is the correct alternative to being infants.

Truth matters – God’s truth is absolute. What He has said is true -will always be true and what He declares to be wrong will always be wrong.

But also we are to share this truth – in an appropriate way – in love. Wanting the best for others.

As James says, “Watch what you say ...”



we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head,  
that is, Christ.

As we speak truth to our brothers and sisters we grow in the  
grace and knowledge of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are reminded He is the source of our spiritual life,  
our goal and our Supreme leader.



From him the whole body,  
joined and held together by every supporting ligament,

Paul uses the idea of a body to illustrate the growth of the Church – each part helping and holding the whole together  
Each is linked to the ‘Head’ for grace and power.

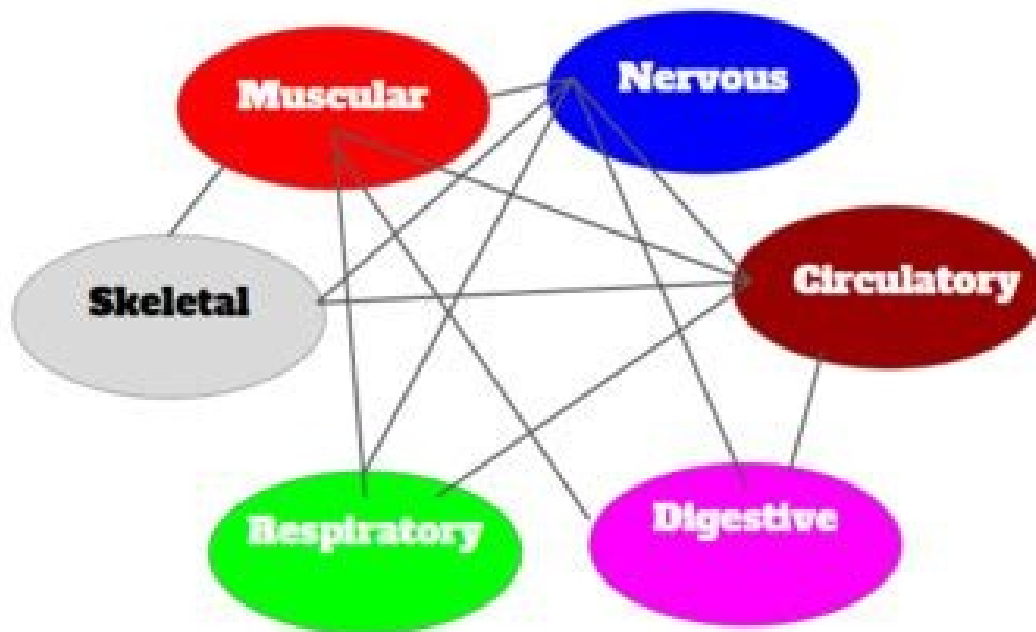




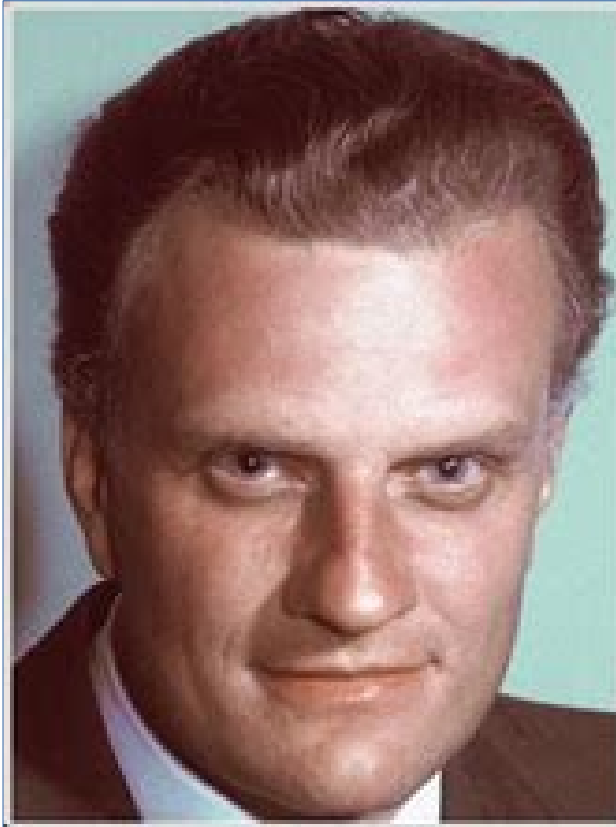
The whole body ... grows and builds itself up **in love**,  
as each part does its work.

The body is not meant for show but for active service  
Playing whatever role we are given to do.  
There's a work for Jesus none but you can do.

## **Body Systems Work Together**







The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless.

— *Billy Graham* —

**Keep on growing in the Lord.**