

## ***Our Walk in Christ***

### **Ephesians 4:1-6**

Ch 1-3 our riches in Christ **45 promises**—our spiritual wealth in heaven gives us a **new** life **new** way we walk, manner of living on earth. Here are a few; **blessed** w/ every spiritual blessings in heaven; **chosen** from foundation of world; **set apart** from world to God; **w/o blame** or guilt free in Christ; **adopted** as sons and daughters; **redemption** & **forgiveness** of sins; **mystery** of God revealed to us; **sealed** by Holy Spirit; **bold access** to God; God's **workmanship**-poem; **citizenship** in heaven; *Once w/o hope now hope in Christ.*

Ch 4 is our response to all God has done for us--tapping into God's promises **45 by my count**. God supplies all we need so that we no longer live as spiritual paupers, a defeated spiritual life.

By faith we access all that God has for us. The scripture exhorts us ***Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

If you have need of a **surfboard** & I offer my boards, saying ***all you have to do is by faith come over to my house & get the ones you need.*** But you don't show up. I'd say I guess you really didn't want to go surfing or you were too busy or you're afraid if you came I'd have you mow my lawn in order to get the surfboards. **We often make excuses for living in defeat;** God has said ***Eph 3:20 .....He...is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us***

It comes down to the fact we're not walking in the promises of God by faith. At the same time **zealous** believers are storming the gates of heaven & are rightfully getting what God says belongs to them. **Matt 11:12**

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The old life we glorified the devil now we live to glorify Christ—Judas stealth follower ‘...*Have I not chosen all of you & one is a devil*’ sad to find a devil in the midst of disciples even more disturbing in the pulpit.

*1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,*

Points back to Gods promises. Paul a prisoner, all are prisoners, serving something or someone. How we live our life tells who or what we serve.

Entreat *parakaleo* – alongside & plead ‘*I beg you please*’. Paul looks back then reaches forward, obligating us, exhorting us—*to walk worthy*-conduct ourselves in light of who we serve—order our behavior--our manner of life.

*Worthy*: to weigh out, weigh as much as another thing. *Don't be a light weight* when it comes to your walk in Christ. Consider what He has done for you & the kind of life we're to live for Him. Life here worthy riches there.

Calling *Klesis* vocation, life's work, occupation—called *kaleo* God's divine invitation, by name, to participate in the things of God. He recruited us for His purposes--a new vocation, to please Him. 4 attributes we're to have

*2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,*

1<sup>st</sup> *Humility* - lowliness of mind, esteeming ourselves small in light of the revelation of who God is. True estimation of ourselves—*lic HUMBL* then *HEAVNLY* what a contrast. Jesus brought to us a new concept, new virtue  
**Phil 2:5-11** It comes when we see ourselves next to Jesus Peter *depart I sinful man* Isaiah *Undone man unclean lips* Paul *wretched man*

True humility is not thinking low of yourself but thinking truthfully. *Sir James Simpson 1847 discovered chloroform as anesthetic in surgery. It claimed to be the most significant discovery of modern medicine. Years later lecturing at U of Edinburg and asked the most valuable discovery of his lifetime? Expecting him to say chloroform to their surprise he said 'to discover myself a sinner and Jesus Christ as my savior' Lic SINS79*

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2<sup>nd</sup> **Gentleness** or meekness—two ideas behind the word; **Aristotle** Greek philosopher & thinker defined every virtue as a means between two extremes—on one side was excess of a thing & the other side deficiency of the thing and in between was the right proportion.

He defined **gentleness** as the means between being too angry & the other extreme as too passive-never angry at all. So one who is **gentle** or **meek** is one who is angry at the right things & never angry at the wrong things.

**Jesus** drove out the money changers w/ scourge of cords, **made my Fathers house a den of thieves**, yet submitted Himself to the cross. **Moses** meekest man on earth--led Israel out of bondage **yet** drown Egyptian army in Red Sea. **Powerful Stallion** but unruly, unpredictable-new owner trains, domesticates until it's completely under control, **meek** Yet having same power. The one who is gentle or meek is strong but controlled by God.

3<sup>rd</sup> **Patient**, long suffering, a spirit that will never give in but endures to the end—***Susanna Wesley had two sons John & Charles. At one time her husband said 'I marvel at your patience! You have told that child the same thing twenty times!' Susanna looked fondly at the boy & said Had I spoken the matter only nineteen times, I would have lost all my labor.***

This is a person who has the power, opportunity & ability to take revenge but doesn't—but patiently endures. It's the spirit that refuses to retaliate.

**David & Shimea 2 Sam 16**

4<sup>th</sup> **Forbearance** - to bear up under in love **agape**-term unknown in Greek literature-Christian **agape** was so new & unusual it had to be coined a new word or used obscurely or barely used in Greek language.

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“If we regard a person w/ agape it means that nothing that they do will make us seek anything but their highest good. Tho they injure us & insult us, we will never feel anything but kindness toward them. It’s not emotion but an act of the will. *Jesus Father forgive them*

*3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*Unity* of the Spirit is born out of our walk in the Spirit the attributes just described. So we are diligent. Marriage like a garden needs constant weeding. *Diligent* to guard, on constant watch over—when life is at its best the enemy comes *rob, steal, destroy*—

Finally *bond of peace*—first w/ God then each other. When we war against one another it is evident that we are at war w/in & w/ God. Our relationship w/ God shows up in our relationships w/ each other. When peace rules w/in & w/ God unity w/ others naturally follows.

*4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

Not unity at all cost, forget doctrine, it divides we need to love each other and be one. Not according to scripture or Paul’s first three chapters but he laid out doctrinal foundation for unity and oneness. We can call them Building blocks of unity – *One body*-every believer in Christ is placed in church by God **1Cor 12:12-31**. --- *One Spirit*—same *person* of Holy Spirit indwelling each believer. --- *One hope* of our calling a reference to Christ return for the church **Titus 3:5** – *One Lord* -Jesus Christ every knee shall bow---who died, lives, is coming again. To say Jesus is my Lord & to be at odds w/ bro/sis--something is wrong

Ghandi spiritual leader of India was asked ‘*What is the greatest hindrance to Christianity in India?*’ He said ‘*Christ followers*’.

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*One faith* – Eph 2:20 *having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 2Tim 3:16,17* Settled body of truth, which was once for all delivered unto the saints' Jude 3, *One baptism* – Act of Holy Spirit placing believers into Body of Christ the church at salvation **1Cor 12:13**; *One God and Father* – Authority w/in a family in house of God, kids not at odds or else Father disciplines—Good news for stable & unstable homes—Some a disappointment to family but not to God.