

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
A STUDY OF EPHESIANS
#8: THE DIFFERENCE THE SPIRIT MAKES
EPHESIANS 4:17-32
JIM HINTON



I. A SIMPLE OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS

- I. My position—What God has done (Chapters 1-3)
- II. My practice—What I must do (Chapters 4-6)

II. WHAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT—EPHESIANS 4:1-16

1. Unity – We are all one in Christ (v.1-6)

- Unifying calling (v.1)
- Unifying characteristics (v.2-3)
 - ⇒ Humility
 - ⇒ Gentleness
 - ⇒ Patience
 - ⇒ Love
 - ⇒ Diligence
- Unifying Truth (v.4-6)

2. Diversity: We have all been given different gifts in order to serve and strength one another (v.7-12)

Diverse gifts:

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

How to Discover my Gifts:

1. Keep growing in Christ and the Word
2. Pray for Guidance
3. Look for needs to meet
4. Determine my passion
5. Ask other godly people
6. Utilize tools like Spiritual Gifts Inventories
7. Experiment by serving in a variety of ministries
8. Evaluate the results

3. Maturity: We fulfill our purpose is to become like Jesus (v.13-16)

III. THE DIFFERENCE THE SPIRIT MAKES IN MY LIFE—EPHESIANS 4:17-32

1. The necessity of the Holy Spirit in my life

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Ezekiel 36:26-28 (NLT)

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Romans 8:11-14 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!... Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Galatians 5:22-23,25 (NLT)

Ways to “keep in step” with the spirit

1. Live in the Word
2. Decide to submit to the Spirit
3. Examine the “Fruit” of my life
4. Pray for the Lord's help

2. The difference the Holy Spirit makes:

• The Spirit empowers new thinking (v.17-19)

- ⇒ Replacing the pointless with purpose (v.17)
- ⇒ Replacing dark ignorance with enlightened understanding (v.18)
- ⇒ Replacing indifference with compassion (v.18-19)
- ⇒ Replacing insatiable indulgence with lasting satisfaction (v.19)

• The Spirit empowers new identity (v.20-24)

You are all God's children by believing in Christ Jesus. Clearly, all of you who were baptized in Christ's name have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:26 (GWT)

• The Spirit empowers new behavior (v.25-32)

- ⇒ Replacing lies with truth (v.25)
- ⇒ Replacing sinful anger with righteous indignation (v.26-27)
- ⇒ Replacing theft with work and generosity (v.28)
- ⇒ Replacing destructive talk with encouraging words (v.29)
- ⇒ Replacing evil with good (v.30-32)