

Cultivating and Procreating a Sense of AWE – Pt.14

Ephesians 4 LB Part 1

Ephesians 4:1; LB

PRINCIPLE #1. Paul is saying that he has been **chosen** for the _____ of being a **prisoner** as a result of **serving the Lord**. He is **begging** others to live and act in a way worthy for those who have been **chosen** for such **wonderful _____ of suffering**.

This type of thinking is not compatible with our western culture worldview. We do not tend to associate **wonderful blessings** with **suffering**. There is nothing appealing about suffering. Yet Paul is saying that we need to act as those who are **WORTHY OF BEING CHOSEN TO ENDURE THE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS OF SUFFERING**.

Acts 5:40-41;

James 1:2;

PRINCIPLE #2. The abrasive _____ of **trials that irritate our flesh** is to be considered as an **opportunity for joy**. That makes no sense unless you put verse 2 in context with the entire thought process.

Verses 3-4;

Trials are associated with the testing of our faith, **which produces endurance**. Endurance is designed to bring us to a place of perfection and completeness where we are **lacking in nothing**. Endurance and trials are also connected to _____ **[Matthew 24:13;]**. We have to exercise faith that God is at work in us when we encounter trials and testing. If He is at work in us then we can be assured that He has determined that we are **worthy of suffering that leads to perfection**.

Ephesians 4:2;

PRINCIPLE #3. We are to make **allowances** for each other's faults because of our love in the same way that God makes allowances for our faults because of His love for us. **Our faults carried a penalty of death**. God has chosen to _____ our faults. That is how we are to love others.

1 Peter 2:21-24;

PRINCIPLE #4. Jesus chose to carry the weight of our sins. While suffering He did not utter threats. **He bore, carried, and endured our sin so that we could be healed**.

There are times when other people can only be healed through our willingness to bear, carry, and endure _____ rather than retaliating, which is what our flesh desires.

Romans 12:17-21;

When we patiently endure someone's offense against us as opposed to retaliating, that is not what they expect. When we respond with love rather than hate that is not what they expect. When we return **evil for evil**, we release satan to accomplish bad things in their life and in ours. When we return **good for evil**, we release the Holy Spirit to accomplish good things in their life and in ours.

Ephesians 4:3;

PRINCIPLE #5. We are on a journey **together** that is actually a marathon. If we are to make it to the finish line we are going to need each other. [Hebrews 10:23-25; Proverbs 27:17] **There are people who may not make it without _____. You may not make it without _____. The finish line is critically important – Matthew 24:13;**

Conflicts need to be resolved as soon as possible. Conflicts and anger should not be allowed to fester over a period of time. **We do not have the luxury of maintaining anger towards someone else and being in God's will simultaneously. [Jude 21 LB]** Being in the boundaries of God's love is critically important. Nothing should be allowed to take us outside of those boundaries for any reason. **When we leave the boundaries of God's love and protection it becomes open _____ for the enemy of our souls to attack us.**

We cannot be led along **TOGETHER** by the Holy Spirit and not be at **PEACE** with each other. **PEACE is the _____ of being led TOGETHER by the Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 4:4;

PRINCIPLE #6. As followers of Christ, we are FAMILY. We are _____ **RELATIVES THROUGH THE CROSS.** We are destined to live with each other for eternity. **If we can't live together here in peace, we are deceived in thinking we can live together in heaven.**

Ephesians 4:5-7;

PRINCIPLE #7. WE ARE ALL THE SAME AND YET WE ARE DIFFERENT. We are the same and yet we are unique. We are **complete** in Christ, but we are _____ without each other. **We need each other.** We are individuals and yet we must connect to complete the Body of Christ on earth. We need to be challenged, stimulated, and encouraged. Without that there is a tendency to become lethargic and complacent.

The most difficult part of a marathon is the last leg when fatigue and _____ begins to attack. **We need other people to challenge us to keep going.**

Ephesians 4:5-7; 8-10; [LB;] [NASV;]

PRINCIPLE #8. Jesus liberated the souls of Old Testament saints and led them out of paradise. Paradise is now closed. He led this huge parade of captives into the freedom of heaven **AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH.** It was like the first _____.

It is noteworthy that Jesus returned to heaven **TRIUMPHANTLY, AFTER** His resurrection and **VICTORY OVER satan.** He did not return to heaven until he had defeated satan and the last _____ people face.

Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1; 7; 11;

PRINCIPLE #9. Each of us have been given differing gifts for the common good of the Body. Gifts are not to make us look good, but to make God look good and to cause the church to _____ as a Body.

There are specific giftings that God wants you to have. Satan does not want you to possess those giftings because he knows the Body will be incomplete without them.

God has a gift for you that someone else needs the benefits of. Someone else has a gift that you need the benefits of. The gifts God distributes go beyond **natural abilities.** These gifts take you into the realm of _____ **abilities.**

We can become so self-centered that we fail to seek and exercise the giftings God has given to us. We can become so aware of our inadequacies that we fail to comprehend God's adequacy. We can become so focused on our issues that we fail to understand that God is bigger than our

issues. **If you are not exercising the giftings God has assigned you there is a _____**
in the Body of Christ surrounding you.