

## New Morning Magical

### Don't fall for this!

Today, we return to the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, finishing up Chapter 3, and then moving on. So, let's begin with Ephesians 3:16:

16 that He may be giving you, in accord with the riches of His glory, to be made staunch with power, through His spirit, in the man [or woman] within,

17 Christ to dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, having been rooted and grounded in love,

18 should be strong to grasp, together with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and depth and height –

Paul finished a request to the Father in verse 16 for you and me *“to be made staunch with power, through His spirit, in the man [or woman] within.”* I don't know about you, but I like the idea of being *“staunch with power, through [the Father's] spirit, in [my inner man].”* I can use all the help I can get while I'm alive in this wicked eon, can't you? And think about it: Do you suppose that Paul's request wouldn't be honored? Paul doesn't make it flippantly; he well knows what you and I are up against in this eon.

In verse 17, Paul reinforces the picture of Christ dwelling inside us; that is, in our hearts, *“through [the] faith.”* *THE* faith is more than simply believing; *THE* faith refers specifically to the same faith in the Father that Yeshua had Himself; that the Father would raise Christ out from among the dead, and extending to include our trust in the Father for the same outcome.

Paul also says that you and I have been *“rooted and grounded in love.”* We aren't just planted and we'll see what happens; NO! We're firmly established in the agape love that stops at nothing short of accomplishing the Father's purpose. Rooting and grounding enables you and me to stand up to severe weather when it comes, and we won't easily be yanked out of – or, better yet, be talked out of – fulfilling our purpose within the Father's eonian purpose.

Finally, in verse 18, the object of all this power, rooting and grounding, is to enable us to *“grasp... what is the breadth and length and depth and height”*; of what? We'll discover that in the next section; but the point here is for you and me to get a complete picture of Who Christ is and who we are in Him. Keep reading now . . .

19 to know the love of Christ as well which transcends knowledge -- that you may be completed for the entire complement of God.

Christ's love is way past human knowledge. Even though you and I think we have a handle on His love, we don't really; in fact, we can't in our current, limited human state. Let's face it, you and I can't possibly grasp what it is to die for the sins of all mankind for all time, can we, and in such a horrific manner? Christ alone has an experience and an awareness that is His alone and is, as Paul says, way beyond human knowledge.

20 Now to Him Who is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us,  
21 to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!

When Paul says in verse 20 that the Father "*is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending,*" He seems actually to do it frequently! Interestingly, this ability operates in us! Imagine what you might accomplish when you're aware of the Father's power in you!

The last point I'll make here is that "*the eon of the eons*" is a specific reference either to Christ's rapidly approaching millennial reign on the Earth, or to the eon that begins with the new creation. I don't claim to be certain as to the time frame that Paul is referring to, but it clearly occupies a special time in all of history, during which many will be born.

#### Chapter 4

1 I am entreating you, then, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

We've seen this exhortation before to "*walk worthily,*" but here Paul gives us a bit more of what that looks like:

2 with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,  
3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit with the tie of peace:  
4 one body and one spirit, according as you were called also with one expectation 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.

So now we see that walking worthily encompasses aspects of our character, such as humility, meekness, patience, "*bearing with [literally putting up with] one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit with the tie of peace.*" Paul also explains HOW to keep the tie of

peace, through common understanding of our single body, which is the body of Christ; one spirit, in the sense of a common disposition; and finally a single shared expectation. Walking worthily also includes an awareness of oneness with others of the faith, together with the awareness of how simple – and how critical – the relationships are between you and the other members of Christ’s body; the Lord and the baptism into Him; and of course, the Father of all Who is everywhere in everyone. It’s quite a lovely picture and one that Barbara and I have observed or participated in only seldomly.

Now move down to Chapter 4, verse 11:

11 And the same One **[the Father]** gives these, indeed, as apostles, yet these as prophets, yet these as evangelists, yet these as pastors and teachers,  
12 toward the adjusting **[or, attuning]** of the saints for the work of dispensing, for the upbuilding of the body of Christ,  
13 unto the end that we should all attain to the unity of the faith and of the realization of the son of God, to a mature man **[or woman]**, to the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ,

I think most people miss the import of verse 13: Beyond *“the unity of the faith and of the realization of the Son of God,”* there is the resulting *“mature man [or woman],”* followed by *“the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ.”* When you have reached your maturity in Christ, you are among those who complete Him; this is what *“the complement of the Christ”* means. Without you, Christ is not complete, so you matter in this whole grand design far more than you imagine!

Now look at the caution that follows. This is why your maturity is so important, not just to Christ but to you too!

14 that we may by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of teaching, by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception.

“Systematizing” implies incorporating the deception into everyday routines that we don’t question, but take for granted, even though we may be aware at times of feeling trapped, having compromised our freedom or integrity. Here are a few examples:

- Unsatisfying relationships that we were once enthusiastic about, but now only tolerate.
- Jobs or careers that we once felt were exciting, but which have become uninspiring.

- Social, religious, political, or athletic obligations or pursuits that seem noble, pious, or important for a host of personal or professional reasons.

All of these examples appeal to our “flesh” – our senses and emotions – and may be easily overlooked or ignored, hidden in some of the most mundane and seemingly innocent details of life. Their effects may seem inconsequential by themselves, but they can drain your time, energy, and finances; they disturb our spiritual balance, and they distract us from hearing the Father’s voice. When *“the systematizing of the deception”* succeeds in throwing you off your correct course, recovery and restoration may take years, if it can be accomplished at all.

I don’t say this to instill fear, because you have all the tools you need already to not only spot *“the systematizing of the deception,”* but to avoid being suffocated in its grasp. The sooner we make course corrections when we spot the systematizing, the closer we will follow Yeshua’s example.

The words, *“THE deception”* refers to the original deception from Eve’s encounter with the serpent in the garden. Take a moment with me and let’s review what happened, because everything about human history that matters stems from that original conversation.

First, Eve was baited with what seemed like a reasonable question:

The serpent said to the woman, “Indeed, did Elohim say, ‘You shall not eat from every tree of the Garden?’” (Genesis 3:1)

Once Eve entertained the serpent’s question, the serpent flat-out LIED!

Not to die shall you be dying; for Elohim knows that on the day you eat of it your eyes will be unclosed, and you will be like Elohim, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:4-5)

The serpent didn’t refute Eve; it simply called God a liar to her face: *“No, No! It won’t kill you! Not to worry!”*

Next, the serpent added just enough truth to make the lie believable: *“It will make you like God; you’ll know what He knows. Won’t that be nice?”*

And there’s THE deception:

- Part 1, you won’t really die
- Part 2, you’ll be just like God.

Job done, just that fast, and we as a species continue to this day to labor under this highly systematized deception. Every mystical philosophy or religion, including Christianity, declares that death is anything but final; and there is no more arrogant species than humans, who are certain that “a loving God would never...” fill in the blank. We are at once so proud and yet so supremely stupid to believe that our thoughts are the same as God’s, never mind that the Scriptures shout otherwise! We remember or forget whatever is convenient for us at any given time.

Thankfully, the Father is unphased by our stupidity, or if you prefer, He is not limited by our inability to understand Him.

The systematizing of the deception is everywhere around you, not only in religion, but in almost every aspect of human endeavor. Look at politics for just a moment; have you ever seen such flagrant disregard for logic and even decency? Forgive me, but the obsession with professional, and even amateur sports is every bit as engaged in the systematizing of the deception as religion. Whether it’s sports, politics, or religion, all these, and countless other areas of life, are overseen by sovereignties and authorities, principalities, powers, and world-mights of this present wickedness that Paul names, which we’ll see again later in Ephesians.

Now let’s finish chapter 4 of Ephesians:

17 This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as those of the nations also are walking, in the vanity [the emptiness] of their mind,

18 their comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the callousness of their hearts,

19 who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation.

You’ll notice here that a calloused heart is what leads to an empty mind, a darkened comprehension, estrangement from the life of God, and ignorance. In this condition, Paul says, these people can’t feel anymore; instead, they “*give themselves up*” – they surrender – in greed and wantonness “*to all uncleanness as a vocation.*” In other words, these people are unable any longer to do anything but become entirely depraved and actually take it on like it’s their job!

20 Now you did not thus learn Christ, [**Praise the Lord!**]

21 since, surely, Him you hear, and by Him were taught (according as the truth is in Jesus),

22 to **put off from you**, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,

Notice the instruction here is to *“put off...the old humanity”* – this is the humanity we just saw that leads to total wickedness; and don’t bother asking the Father to put off the old; You Do It! Notice too that the old humanity is *“corrupted in accord with its seductive desires.”* You can’t blame anyone or anything, human or spirit, and certainly not a mythical devil, for our corruption; it’s our own *“seductive desires.”*

23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind,

24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.

Again, *“be rejuvenated”* indicates that this is ours to accomplish, *“in the spirit of your mind.”* If you’ll forgive me, I’m going to remind you again that we are looking again at the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within us that kick-starts our own spirit and it’s this spirit that Paul is addressing here. So, again, being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues virtually guarantees your success in *“[putting] on the new humanity”* that Paul introduces here.

25 Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, for we are members of one another.

Here we go again: *“Putting off the false.”* You do it. Don’t think that the Father will do it for you when, clearly, it’s your assignment.

All these putting on’s and taking off’s make me think of butterflies constructing and then months later coming out of these elaborate cocoons. If you help them as they exit the cocoons, they won’t develop the strength in their wings to fly, let alone survive, much less migrate and breed. So, if you wonder why the Father orders things in ways you don’t understand, you have to know that His purpose, however difficult it may seem at times, is entirely for your greatest good. In the end, maturity does come and you *know* Him in ways you never could otherwise.

26 Are you indignant, and not sinning? Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation,  
27 nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.

The end of verse 26 is one of my favorite principles: *“Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation.”* Other versions say, *“Don’t let the sun set on your anger.”* If Barbara and I butt

heads over anything, we do not sleep until we are at peace with one another, no matter how long it takes and no matter how miffed we are. We will not go to sleep at odds with one another.

Of course, verse 27 is every bit as important: *“nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.”* Now that you know more about what the adversary – small “a” – is: “the sa-tan” in Hebrew; you can reframe this verse to read, *“nor yet be giving place to the adversarial, oppositional force within your own human nature to the word and will of God.”*

28 Let him who steals by no means still be stealing: yet rather let him be toiling, working with his hands at what is good, that he may have to share with one who has need.

29 Let no tainted word at all be issuing out of your mouth, but if any is good toward needful edification, that it may be giving grace to those hearing.

30 And **do not be causing sorrow to the holy spirit of God** by which you are sealed for the day of deliverance.

31 Let all bitterness and fury and anger and clamor and calumny be taken away from you with all malice,

32 yet become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among yourselves, according as God also, in Christ, deals graciously with you.

And we'll end here for today, so until next time,

May Yahweh light up His face toward you  
and be gracious to you;  
May Yahweh lift His face to you  
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN