

# The Ultimate Giver

Ephesians 4:7-10

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,  
and he gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup> (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:7-10

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- Christ gave grace to each of His followers.

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*<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us... v. 7*

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So we can say that we are more wicked than we ever dared believe, but more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope — at the very same time.

- Tim Keller

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Grace is not license to commit sin  
but  
power to defeat it.

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# It was God

*...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.*

2 Timothy 1:9

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- Christ gave Himself to each of His followers.

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*... according to the measure of Christ's gift. v. 7*

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- Christ gave spiritual gifts to the church.

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Notice what’s coming next after v. 10:

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

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It is His rightful position and His natural disposition.

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Live like God is a giver, not a taker.

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- Treat others graciously.

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*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

*Ephesians 4:29-32*

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*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

John 15:12

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- Forsake your idolatry.

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*Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*      1 John 5:21

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*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*      Colossians 3:5

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- Forsake your idolatry.

*God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them. - Augustine*

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*<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

Luke 9:23

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*<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

Luke 9:23

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Galatians 2:20

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