Decoding Ephesians 4

What Most Christians Get Wrong About the Church

https://youtu.be/tc-CGNcGGsw



Did you know that the fivefold ministry gifts in Ephesians 4 were all part of the local synagogue long before they were ever part of the church? Do you know what the number one goal of Christ is? If you can't answer that question, this is the broadcast for you. We're going verse by verse through Ephesians chapter 4.

We're going to uncover the real truth of what King Jesus Yeshua is looking for in your life right after this. Hello everyone, Jim Staley, Passion for Truth Ministries, and welcome back to our study on the book of Ephesians, where Paul is really lighting up the Word of God more than maybe any other book that I have ever studied. Holy Spirit has definitely been illuminating some things. If you have not gone through the previous four videos that we have so far, the introduction and the first three chapters, I encourage you to go back through that.

Last week was definitely emotional for me, and I'm looking forward to going through this week as well, verse by verse. This is what we do at Passion for Truth. We do Bible things in Bible ways, or at least we attempt it. And it starts with learning the scriptures from the original Hebraic Jewish perspective that they were written in.

That's what we're all about. So, if you're not subscribed to this channel, please do so right now. Just take a minute, hit subscribe. It's not a big deal. It certainly helps us in the algorithms. YouTube then sees, oh, this is interesting. And they start pushing our content in other places. So please do that. We appreciate all the help that we can get to try to get the beautiful message of the word of God out to as many people as we can. Ephesians chapter four, verse one, here we go. I therefore the prisoner of the Lord. Now he says this almost in every chapter, definitely in almost every book, it seems like he says this.

He's trying to let us see a connection between anointing and being a prisoner in chains. It doesn't matter what you are a prisoner of. You can definitely be a prisoner of the Lord. I've personally been in prison. I've been shackled from hands to feet and around the waist. I have been on con air. I've

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been halfway across the country away from my family. I have experienced pain and suffering like most will never experience. But there is nothing more powerful when you are shackled and you are separated from the rest of the world, to use that as a symbol of being a prisoner for the Lord, being totally separated unto Him. You see, sometimes God takes things from you for the purpose of setting you apart for him. Just like a good parent, sometimes has to take things away from their children so they can actually see what's in front of them that they can't see.

And quite frankly, with kids being so addicted to phones and iPads and all parents do to placate them is put video in front of them. They don't know that they're really in some ways paralyzing, not allowing them to see or develop in a natural way the gifts that God has put inside of them. Sometimes God has to do the same thing with us. We need to be prisoners of the Lord.

Look at that, we're not even into chapter verse 2, we're already preaching. I beseech you to walk worthy of the calling which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, which is patience. It's the number one fruit of the Spirit we all are missing. Some people have great patience. Most of us don't. But it says, bear with one another in love. Do you know why it says bear with one another in love? Because people are going to aggravate you. They're going to push up against your buttons. If you're married, you have no idea what I'm talking about. I'm joking. You absolutely know what I'm talking about.

We have to bear with one another, not just put up with each other. We put up with each other in love, knowing that we aggravate too. We are just as much as pain in the backside as we think that they are to us. The problem is, is that that's just one category that we are aggravated in, but we don't see that we are the pain in a different category. Love is what we're burying each other in. That's what long suffering is all about. It's not just putting up with something. It's literally just loving someone through their mats.

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. Listen, if you are out there and you're struggling in your marriage, and I have struggled deeply in my marriage in my past, I can tell you right now, the answer is simply understanding that your spouse is on your team and your goal should be unity. Your goal is not to win an argument. How many wives just yelled amen at the top of their lungs, right? For sure, this is going to be the most shared video probably of the year. Every wife is going to make their husband watch this, right? It is not about winning the argument. It's about restoring unity.

It's about winning the heart. It's about glorifying God through your putting up with each other in love. It's about holding each other in each other's messes because every day we wake up, we're just a mess, right? We're dust with eyeballs, as I like to say. We don't know what we're doing. All of us are a mess. We're all sinners falling short of God's glory. What we're trying to do is just find the glory of God, get closer to the Son of the living God.

And we do that through love. Verse 3, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. You see what this is all about? The whole point, the sovereignty of God, the solving of the mystery, as we learned in Ephesians 2. And Colossians do as well. The coming together of the North and the South, the one hand of God, the Menorah, all the incredible things that we've talked about thus far, it all is for one purpose. The temple on the hill, one purpose. The love in your heart, one purpose.

The temple inside here, one purpose. The tongues of fire, the pillar of fire representing the temple, the Holy of Holies right here, is for one purpose. To spread the love of God. to bring restoration of brokenness into unity. And the bridge from one side of the canyon to the other is Christ. That's why it says there's one body and one spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in you all. Yet we are to believe, and we have been told to believe, that there is more than one law, more than one people.

You've got the chosen people on this side, you've got the old covenant, the law on this side, and then you've got the law for Christians on this side. God is not a liar. He is not dividing his kingdom into two. It never was supposed to be two sticks. It was supposed to be one in the hand of the Messiah. Not two men, but one new man. One. One hope.

One calling. One Lord. One faith. One baptism.

One God and Father of us all, who is above all. That's why in every day of our life, the people that we're in community with, we're to be one. That's all he wants. So, stop arguing and recognize it's just not worth it.

If someone disagrees with you and you feel like they got the facts wrong, okay. So what? What are you trying to do? Win the argument? Prove them wrong? Or be right with them, be in unity with them, let them win the argument, be what Jesus did. He didn't care. Slander, gossip. He never said a word. He just got up on the cross and died. He just crucified himself. He allowed himself to be crucified.

How many of us actually are like Jesus? Can I just be real for a second before we get into the spiritual gifts? Because we can't even get past verse four of this scripture. of this chapter, how many of us truly crawl up on the cross and act like Jesus? Oh, we would say we love God. I love God. What Christian would say that he doesn't love God? Ask any Christian, do you love Christ? Yes. Are you in the image of God? Yes. But why won't you get up on the cross and die for the very people that you love the most?

For those of you that are married or in intimate relationships, I can tell you right now, you love that person more than anybody else in the world, but you're not willing to let down your armor and your guard and die for them in an argument, you have to be right. That's what satan does before the throne. He wants to be right pound in his fist point the chapter and verse Some of you like me in the past recording your conversation so you can prove your wife wrong If you've done that, by the way, will you encourage me and just put in the comments, I've done that, right. Lol I've made, I've done, I've tried to prove my wife wrong so many times.

And sometimes I go back and listen to the recording and go, I can't, I can't tell her I record this because I'm actually wrong. She was right. But I don't have the humility to even go back and say, you know what, honey, you're right. Instead of in the moment go, you know, it's not about right and wrong. The moment you start going into content, you lose and the enemy wins. What I should be looking for is how did I make you feel? What position did I put your emotional system in, even if it was on accident? I'm so sorry.

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You know, here's the deal. We actually like run over or step on our on our neighbor's toe. And we're like, oh, my gosh, I'm so sorry. We step on our wife's toe, and we're like, I didn't mean to do that. Why are you telling me I didn't mean to do that? Why are you accusing me of stepping on your toe? I didn't mean to do that. We completely act different when it's the people that we love. We just defend ourselves, take it all personal, act like little babies, especially men. We are just grown-up boys with our toys. I admit it. I am one.

I can say that. But I'm growing out of my boyhood and hoping to be a real man, which can be a man that can hold my wife in whatever feeling that she has. Because this is what Jesus did for us. He held us. He holds us. How do we know that? Because we're not dead in our sins. We are not being condemned by God, because we deserve it. We deserve death. But he gives us grace. He gives us time to repent. He loves us. The only thing He wants is to be like the relationship with the woman at the well, just go and sin no more. Go and send them. Yeshua loves us, but he's looking for those who will recognize the purpose of why he came and walk in the worthiness of your calling. ***Do you even know what your calling is?***

Let's get back to the text and maybe we can find out a few of the spiritual gifts that will help you in your calling. First of all, verse 7 says, But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, he says, when he ascended on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men. Now this, he ascended, what does it mean? But that he also first descended into the lower parts of the earth. He who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens that he might fulfill all things. Now, what's he talking about?

Ascended, descended, up the ladder, down the ladder, what's going on? Well, he's talking about charisma, is what it's called in Greek, what we call the charismatic. That's where the word charismatic comes from, right? It's the gifts, the grace gifts of God. It means they're unmerited favor. You don't deserve these gifts, but I'm giving you all these gifts. It's not even your birthday, says the Lord. On top of that, you've been a bad boy this year, and I'm still going to give you all these gifts in measure of my calling for you.

That's why you can never, ever be jealous of somebody else's gift. Just because they have a toy that you want, why don't you just use your toy exactly the way you're supposed to use it? Play your part in the kingdom of God because it's not about you. It's not about how you feel. It's not about what you think. It's not about you getting more subscribers than somebody else, or having a more eloquent gift of speech than someone else, or a better writer, or whatever, or a better sermon. It is not about more likes. It's not about your reputation.

It's about His. It's about his reputation. It's about growing the kingdom, and we all have to be a part of it, and we all have to play our part. And no matter what your part is, it's not small. Who says to the very bottom rock, at the very bottom of the foundation, that you're not important when all the rocks above it stand on its shoulders? All of the wood of the home, both stories, the roof itself, stands on top of the smallest pebble. Who's going to tell that pebble? You don't belong here.

Every one of us have an incredible part to play in the kingdom of God. Maybe you won't ever have a large ministry, but you've got a family. That's the ministry of God right there. Every one of us have a ministry. Every one of us are preachers. Every one of us are teachers, pastors, evangelists. We

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have all of the gifts. Let's go through them. He ascends on high, but what's he do first? He goes down into *Sheol*, into the place where the dead are. See, there's nobody in heaven right now, nobody in hell, outside of an exception of maybe Moses and Elijah, right? We know that.

They show up at the transfiguration. But the Bible says that everybody else is sleeping. Even Daniel is, hey, go sleep until the resurrection of the just. That's why when Christ comes, called the resurrection of the just, that the dead in Christ rise first. They're not there. No, they're waiting for the resurrection. And that's why he goes to tell them the good news. He's not going down there give the gospel for people to get saved. He's going out and tell all of his people, here's the good news guys.

I did it. It's over. I killed it. I dropped the mic, the enemy got shoved across, the enemy got hit in the mouth by my mic and you all are coming with me when I come back. That's the good news. Imagine the standing ovation. And imagine the weeping and the gnashing of teeth on the other side of the chasm, like the Lazarus story. For now they knew. Their judgment was in pending due. And it was coming. And that's why in verse 11 he says, and he gave some to be apostles. That word there was not invented, by the way. Every single one of these offices comes right out of the first century synagogue. The apostles were the shaliachs.

They were the messengers. They actually were the ones that started congregations. If a Jewish congregation of the first century wanted to start up a new synagogue in a different town, they sent a shaliach, an apostolos in the Greek, an apostle. That person was a missionary. Today, when you have a missionary that you send over to Africa, they're actually biblical apostles. They're the ones that are missionaries. They're sent. And their authority is coming from the one who sent them.

So, he gave some of the gift of apostle, they're sent, they're missionaries, some are prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, some teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Every single one of these was found inside the local synagogue. They didn't make these up. This is what God was saying, though, I am going to equip them with my Spirit.

So before, in the regular synagogue, the Jews that did not believe that Yeshua was Messiah, they had all of these operating in prophetic gifts, like a gift of prophecy, evangelists, pastors, teachers, but they were not infused with the Ruach, the Spirit of the living God that made everything come alive. Ladies and gentlemen, you can have a Ferrari, but you don't have gas and the engine ain't going anywhere. A bicycle will be faster than a Ferrari.

The Holy Spirit is the fuel, and that Holy Spirit comes in the blood of the Son of God, and that Ferrari turns on, and boy does it. Keep going for the equipping of the saints. What's the purpose? It's for the equipping of the saints. What is any gift that I might have for you? It's for you. It's not for me. It's to equip you. I pray each and every week before I go on the air and film and look into this camera, look into your eyes. And on my camera, you can't see it, but it literally has the earth. I'm looking from outer space onto a picture of the earth. And the reason why I have that there is to remind me that it is not about me.

It is about ministering to you globally, wherever you may be. That whatever gift that God has given me, it's to equip you for what to help you hit your full potential. So you can equip your spouse,

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your children, your friends, the people that you are in influence with that you could love better. Ultimately, if you take all of this information and it doesn't cause you to love better, then you're not growing at all. I'm just blowing up your head with a bunch of information. God forbid on Judgment Day I would be held accountable for that. I know in my past I probably did a lot of that. But today, after being given the grace of God and experiencing the love on a level I'm honestly not sure I've ever experienced, I can tell you right now.

Love is what he's after. The Word of God is just the guardrails to get you into that end zone. We need to submit to him. The whole mystery is designed to bring us together for one purpose. Unity. The very thing we have the most problem with. And Jesus knew it, because one of his last prayers was, Father, make them one, as me and you are one. In other words, me and you, God, we're tight. We're connected. We're on the same page. But these guys, oh, oy vey. I should have chosen more than 12. We have a problem on our hands, God. I already lost one. Imagine, the Son of the Living God chooses twelve, and one of them ends up trying to kill him. He gives him up, Judas.

The point of all of this is unity, coming together. That's why the Scriptures say there is nothing more beautiful than for brethren to dwell together in unity. That's what God is looking for. All right, here we go. Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. You realize that you can't measure the stature of the fullness of Christ. This is an oxymoron. You can't measure the fullness of Christ. The entire deity of the Godhead dwells inside of him. He is the direct image of the Creator. You cannot measure that. But what is he saying?

We want to know the knowledge of the Son of God. I want to know the depth. What is the depth and the breadth and the life of the Son of God? **It's love!**

This is why John Bevere wrote his famous book, **The Bait of Satan**, that if you get offended, you're not walking in the love of God. You don't fully understand the love of God because it's so difficult to get offended when you truly know your identity in God, in Christ. To be offended is just to say that I'm immature, I am not capable of dealing with someone else's mess. But if you know your identity in Christ and you are mature in Him, you can deal with it like He did. He just took no offense, and people tried. The only offense he ever took was righteous anger for choking out the Word of God with all the traditions and doctrines. Oh, look at this. I didn't even know this was coming. Verse 14, that we should no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness and deceitful plotting. And before we get to the comma, but, comma, I think it's important that we recognize that we are children of God for a reason. We are immature. We are young. We act like kids on a playground. We are either the bully or we're being bullied. We throw things. We throw tantrums. We scream. We yell. We've never even made it out of kindergarten and we're still drawing outside of the lines. We color everywhere, all over the walls. We are a mess. Paul says, let's not do that. Be tossed around with every wind of doctrine. That's why this ministry exists.

I want you guys to not be influenced by the tradition and doctrines of men that are literally almost 1,700, 1,800 years now. Doctrines that are pulling us away from the depth of the love of God. Because if you pull out of the book of Ephesians, that God's law is done away with, and you miss the mystery. You miss Christ. You miss the reason why he came. You miss the bridegroom in the

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depths of his despair before he came, and then you understand the depth of his joy. You understand the depths of his joy on the cross. Yes, I said that. There was joy in his eyes. Do you know why? Because you can't tell us to consider it pure joy to face trials of many kinds in James 1-2.

If the Son of the living God can't be on a cross and do the same, he's dying for his bride. It was an honor, and every good husband would stand in the gap for his family or his bride, too, and do it with honor. I'll take the bullet for my wife any day of the week. He did it. It was a joy. It was an honor. Why can't we look at taking an insult, taking the offense, absorbing it as honor, but we defend it. We push back against it.

That means we are children in the Lord. I don't want to be a babe in Christ. I want to be mature, not lacking anything. That means I have to consider it joy to be offended. I gotta consider it pure joy to face people in my life that hurt me. Verse 15, but speaking the truth in love. You hear that again? It's just over and over speaking the truth in love. You know, you can speak the truth and not speak it in love. I've done that way too many times in my past.

As a matter of fact, at 51 years old, I'm hoping that God gives me another 50 years in ministry because I need to make up for the first two decades of all the mistakes that I made I am going to look at it as a cosmic scale. I'm hoping that my good works in the latter part of my life will outperform and weigh all of my narcissistic mess, if you will, in the first set of my life. The first half of my life. But speaking the truth and love may grow up in all things into him. Do you want to grow up? ***I do.*** I don't want to be a child. I'd love to be considered an adult of God.

I'm hoping there's a whole another line on judgment day for adults and children, right? And hopefully my name will be in the adult section. Grow up in all things into him who is the head of Christ. We're growing up into God through Christ. He's the answer from whom the whole body, that's us, congregation, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Everybody has to do its share. Christianity has taught us in a beautiful way, I should say, that Christianity is a relationship.

I remember back in the 80s when this really became popular. Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship. I get that. But what that does is take out the covenant language of the corporate body of Christ, the corporate body of Israel, I should say, in biblical language. Covenant Israel is all about corporate body, and individual, but corporate. Everybody has to do their share or none of it works because one person can't do it all. We all are part of this body. And that's why he says in verse 17, this I say therefore and testify in the Lord that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk in the what? Futility of their mind. You know what's interesting about this word futility? The word futility here is vanity. It's devoid of truth. It's perverseness. It's depravity. It's frailty.

Walking not in the truth is futility. If you're not walking in the truth of God's Word, and if you're not interpreting the Scriptures the way that they're meant to be interpreted, you're walking in a percentage of futility. And we wonder why so many people are walking around with a form of godliness, James chapter 5, but they literally devoid it of its power. They deny it its power.

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Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that's in them, because of the blindness of their heart, who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness to work all uncleanness with greediness. Do you see that? They're blind in their heart, and they're operating past the feeling and they're acting on the feeling, which leads them to lewdness. And this is exactly what pornography does for men. It initiates a feeling that's fake. It's using real dopamine and real emotion, but it creates a fake feeling and a void and a desire that leads people past the feeling into doing something that's unholy. All of it is sin from the very beginning. That's what Gentiles do.

That's what children do. We just do what we want. We do what we feel. When one of my grandchildren, my grandsons, hits my other grandson with a frying pan, I feel like I felt like I was supposed to do it. Why did you do that? I felt like it. That's what children do, and adults do the same thing. Verse 20, almost finished. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Yeshua, that you put off concerning your former conduct the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lust." Put off the old man. You got to take it and crush it. You want to be the old man? I get it.

I want to sin too. Who doesn't want to sin? Sin has a value in a moment. It feels good. Period. People that do drugs don't do it for any other reason. It feels good in the moment. But it will burn you in the end. Everything has a cost. Pick up that toy and don't pay for it and walk out of the store and see what happens. The enemy is going to let you take it, but he's going to come at some point and he's going to require the price to be paid. And I'm telling you, its way more than what the toy ever cost in the store.

And be renewed, verse 23, in the spirit of your mind. And that you put on the new man, which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Do you see this, guys? He solves the mystery. He doesn't know how the house of Israel and the house of Judah and the whole mixed multitude of the Gentiles are going to come together in one, and Yeshua, Jesus, becomes the answer to that.

He becomes the bridge over many waters, if you will. He bridges the gap from one side of the canyon to the other. And then he says, now, put on the new man. Put on Christ. You're not the same guy that was over there. You have all of the gifts inside of you, all the power, all the authority, all of the blessing and the promise and the inheritance is in Christ. Put Christ on. You have to put him on every day because I want to sin too, but I'm not a child anymore. I can't do that. Temptation can be at my door. I really want to take it, man. I want to take it. That hot chocolate chip cookie looks so good, but I'm on a diet. This is a true story. Upstairs there's three chocolate chip cookies upstairs on the counter right now.

I literally touched it. I touched it with my fingers. It's just like a five-year-old: "Don't touch that." I'm just gonna put my finger right there and look at my dad, right? I did that. I touched it, but I didn't pick it up. And so God is, I'm growing, right? I'm developing willpower. I'm just like you. I'm weak in the knees sometimes, especially when it comes to chocolate chip cookies. But at the end of the day, we are supposed to grow, put on the new man, and don't grieve the Spirit.

Verse 25, we're almost done, ladies and gentlemen. Five more verses. Therefore, putting away. You've got to put it away. You can't pray it away. You put it away. It's a choice of your will. Your

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prayer time creates the strength. Because I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. It doesn't mean you're going to be able to dunk a basketball when you're five foot one. But you can put away sin through the Spirit. That's why he says, my flesh must decrease so the Spirit can increase. I put away the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit. What does that mean? In prayer, God gives you the strength to put away these things. The more time you spend in prayer, the less time the devil spends tempting you.

You know why? Because he's a businessman. He's not going to spend assets on you if he knows he has no access to you. The devil has never sent a spirit of alcoholism or drugs to my doorstep. Why? It's a waste of his money. It's a waste of his time and energy. I'm never going to bite on that. I never have. But he'll send other spirits because I've bitten on that in the past. But the more time you spend in prayer, the more time you spend in humility, and the more time you spend on your daddy's lap realizing that you're nobody and you can't make it through the day without him, the stronger you are. And temptation becomes easier to say no.

Some of you are struggling with sins of addiction right now or whatever your vice is. How much time do you spend in the dark? Because how much time you spend in the dark with him will directly affect how much time you spend in the dark with the enemy. The more time you spend in the dark with God, the less time that the darkness is even appealing. Put away lying. Let each of you speak truth to his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath." By the way, that doesn't literally mean that.

This is a Hebraic idiom. This does not mean that if you get in an argument with your spouse at 10 o'clock at night, that you have to work it out. I've made that mistake in my immaturity, my young walking. I've made that mistake with my wife many times in the past, and sometimes you just have to go, I'm too tired. Can we work this out in the morning and let's rest on this now? Because your emotions can be too tired and worn out, and your willpower to do the right thing sometimes can be low. No, he's trying to say, you've got to work it out. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath, giving place to the devil, meaning don't push it under the rug.

Make sure you work it out. You don't have to do it right away. Sometimes if me and Cheryl get in an argument, I might say, hey honey, this is really important to me, but right now I'm emotionally triggered. Can we put a pause on this and come back in 15 minutes or can we come back in an hour? I want to work this out. That's fine. There's nothing wrong with that. You're going to resolve that situation.

That's the heart of God in that matter. Verse 28, let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands. What is good? That he may have something to give him who is in need. We're supposed to work hard. In an age in America, especially when socialism and communism is growing and people don't want to work, they just want the government to give them everything, although they don't really want a government either. Not to get too political, but bottom line is we're supposed to work. Why?

So, we can have something else to give to someone that's in need. By the way, in verse 29, let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. I cannot tell you how many people and believers today think it's okay to curse. They just casually do it like it's no big deal. That's corrupt words coming out of your

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mouth. The world talks like that. We're not supposed to talk like that. Can you imagine Jesus dropping the F-bomb or the S-bomb? No, he's not going to do that. He's not like the world. He's not going to think like the world, act like the world, talk like the world, dress like the world, operate like the world, move and groove like the world. He's going to stick out like a sore thumb.

Then why do we have to, oh, it's just words, Jim. Really? The world was created by just words. Everything that comes out of your mouth is either salt or light, life or death. It's in the power of the tongue. There are frequencies and vibrations that come out for everything. So how are you going to minister to somebody but curse at the same time? And they're going to, wait a minute, Christians aren't even supposed to curse. That doesn't make sense. Oh, they're just words. Don't worry about it. Oh, well, by the way, don't worry about the gospel that I'm giving you either, because those are just words.

Let no corrupt word come out of our mouth. If you are out there on the other end of this broadcast right now and you believe it's okay to curse, I encourage you to watch this teaching. If you can get through this teaching and prove me wrong, then write me and I will shake your hand. But there is no excuse for a believer to act and talk like the world. In doing so, what are we doing? We are grieving the Holy Spirit. Verse 30, do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. *Love that*.

Sealed for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit seals us. By the way, the Sabbath seals God's people too. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted. I like that, you know what I mean? Because I've never really been like the tender-hearted guy. Like, even if you ask my family members, they're going to say, how is dad in the tender-hearted category?

Most of them would laugh, okay? He's like, tender-hearted is not exactly, you know, the top of my character list. I can be very, very tender-hearted. As a matter of fact, I was just telling my wife yesterday, I can't hardly even pray anymore in front of my kids because I just cry. I love my family so much. I love my wife and children to such a degree. I'm so blessed that I sometimes can't handle it. I feel like I'm turning into my grandfather that cries every time he prays around the family because all he sees is blessing.

Not that it's not hard sometimes, but I get it, right? But tender heartedness is where we need to—that's the goal—to be tender in our heart, not hard. Not snappy, not full of anger, clamor, bitterness, wrath. Like all of that is just demonic. If you find yourself bitter and angry and wrathful, it's demonic. You're walking with the devil. I'm just going to call it out right now. Some of you need to repent of walking with the devil and excusing it and justifying it because, oh, that person hurt me. Well, look, when Yeshua was on this earth, there were thousands of people that hurt Him. As a matter of fact, they kind of crucified Him with nails, and He didn't say a word. He never got angry, never got bitter. If anybody had the right to be bitter, it was Him. He just prayed and said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they did. Sometimes people will hurt you, and they don't know the depth of how they're hurting you.

I can tell you as a husband, as a father, as a man, I don't realize the power of my word. Sometimes I can hurt my wife in three seconds flat and not even know I did it. I don't even know. Tenderness. It's the goal. Because Yeshua is tender. His heart is tender. And I intentionally stopped before the

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last phrase, because I want you guys to understand the reason why we're supposed to have these fruits of the Spirit showing up at such a level in our lives. Because the goal is Christ, but here's why we have to be tempted. This is why we have no right. This is why we can't point the finger at somebody else, because this is the last part of chapter 4 verse 32. Forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

We have no right to be. We have sinned at such levels, ladies and gentlemen, that we are technically the ones who handed the Romans the nails. We were the ones that stood by and watched him walk with the cross on his back. We said not a word either. We never counted ourselves with Him. And nobody, not one of us, are righteous enough to walk up and grab the cross and go, no, this is my cross being. I did this. You're not carrying this. No, He did it. He did it all. And we put Him there. And that's why unity is the only thing that makes sense.

Division is just of the enemy. If you have division in your house, the enemy's in your house. We don't fight against flesh and blood. We fight against principalities and powers of this present darkness. And I've had presence of darkness in my house. I've had principalities in my house, and so have you. And the only way to get the devil out of your house is to first admit that he's there. And once you see that, then you can seek God and recognize, oh, I don't need to fight my children, spouse ever, even myself. I need to go to war against the enemy, and that happens on my knee. That happens recognizing that I'm the problem. My wife is not the problem. My children are not the problem. *I'm the problem*. And can you imagine a world, no, a single family where everyone in the family believed they were the problem and just went to their room, got on their knees, and repented of themselves and their part in the problem. Problem solved.

Love, unity, and tender-heartedness. Christ, hope of glory, the image of the invisible God lives in you. My friends, thank you so much for working with me through the book of Ephesians, and I'm so grateful to be able to be your guide and teacher in this. I hope this is blessing you. If it is, and you're not part of a local congregation, and you're not tithing anywhere, would you consider throwing a few shekels our way? Not for any other reason. It's that we have employees around the world who are trying to grow this message and get it out there, and we can't do it without you. We're 100% dependent on your support.

And if you can't, please *pray*. That means more to us than anything. No matter what, we're going to keep doing this and we're going to bless you and God continues to bless you. You are a blessing to us.

Thank you for partnering with us in every single way that you can. You can go to passionfortruth.com right now. There are hundreds of articles and other videos that you can watch. Please share this message with others.

If you believe it's going to be a blessing, you bless others with that. All right, my friends, in the meantime, do one thing for me. Hug somebody that you love and tell them you're sorry for being bitter, for being angry, for experiencing wrath. Tell them that you're going to work on yourself and that you're the problem, even whether you believe it or not.

Just say it. ***Work on your relationship and see what happens***. All right, my friends, like always, I'm Jim Staley with Passion for Truth Ministries. I'll see you in the next video.

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