

# JESUS CAME, JESUS WENT AND JESUS GAVE

*Ephesians 4:7-11 (esv) “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high He led a host of captives and He gave gifts to men.” In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the One who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,”*

**The work of Jesus summarised in 3 ways:**

## **1. Jesus DESCENDED**

*He came from heaven to earth.*

**Why did Jesus come? Identification.**

He came to identify Himself with mankind so that through Him mankind would come back into favour with God the Father.

**Jesus identifies with;**

- **Our Sin**

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (niv) God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- **Our Weakness**

*2 Corinthians 13:4 (amp) For though **He** was crucified in weakness, yet He goes on living by the power of God. And though we too are weak in Him [as He was humanly weak], yet in dealing with you [we shall show ourselves] alive and strong in [fellowship with] Him by the power of God.*

- **Our Sickness and Pain**

*Isaiah 53:10 (msg) Still, it's what GOD had in mind all along, to crush **Him with pain**. The plan was that He give Himself as an offering for sin so that He'd see life come from it - life, life, and more life. And GOD's plan will deeply prosper through Him.*

- **Our Poverty**

*2 Corinthians 8:9 (nlt) You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet **for your sakes He became poor**, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.*

Jesus descended from the highest heaven to the deepest hell, but death could not contain Him!

## **2. Jesus ASCENDED**

*He went from earth to heaven.*

*Acts 1:9-11 (gw) After He had said this, **He was taken to heaven**. A cloud hid Him so that they could no longer see*

*Him. <sup>10</sup> They were staring into the sky as He departed.*

*Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood near them.*

*<sup>11</sup> They asked, “Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking at the sky? **Jesus, who was taken from you to heaven**, will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven.”*

Why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead and returned back to the right hand of the Father in heaven?

Because Jesus completed His work of redemption when He re-entered heaven!

**Jesus’ resurrection from the dead sets Him apart from all other religious leaders.**

- Jesus’ resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith.
- All of what Jesus said and did fails if the resurrection is false.

**How can the ascension of Christ help us?**

Our enemy is firmly in the grip of the risen Christ. We who were once his prisoners have now been freed by Christ from Satan’s evil grip.

It was an end of an era and by ascending to heaven opened the way for a whole new era to begin on the day of Pentecost.

### **3. Jesus gave GIFTS - to His people**

- **His Name** where we have access to the limitless authority of Christ who bears that Name.
- **The Church** where the gates of hell cannot prevail against and where each Christ follower has an important function to fulfil.  
*(1 Corinthians 12:27-28; Romans 12:4-5)*
- **The Holy Spirit** where we receive power to be His witnesses and through which we have access to the other supernatural gifts.  
*(1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:6-8)*
- **The Ministries Gifts** which are necessary for Jesus to continue to minister in and to His Church. *(Ephesians 4:11)*

*Ephesians 4:11-12 (niv) Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,  
<sup>12</sup> to equip His people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up.*

The combination of the ascension gift ministries along with the ministering saints, is the secret that enables the Church (*Body of Christ*) to penetrate the world with His good news of salvation!

Jesus came (*descended*) to earth and identified Himself with our great need and poverty so in turn we can identify with heaven's riches and treasures – our inheritance.

Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven (*ascended*) and He completed His work of redemption only when He re-entered heaven.

Jesus has equipped and empowered us to be His physical representation on earth, to continue His mission of the redemption of mankind.

For all to know that Jesus died for them and rose again back to life and re-entered eternity, thus providing for those who receive Him forgiveness of sins, healing of diseases and deliverance from the evil one and his devices.