

Ephesians 4:14-16

4:14 - "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."

ινα μηκετι ωμεν νηπιοι κλυδωνιζομενοι και i
n order that no more we may be infants being blown and

περιφεπομενοι παντι ανεμω της διδασκαλιας εν τη
being carried round by every wind of teaching in the

κυβεια των ανθρωπων, εν πανουργια προς την
sleight of man in cleverness unto the
μεθοδειαν της πλανης
craftiness of error

"infants" - *nepios* means "baby, immature." Contrast with the mature man in 4:13 (andra)

"tossed back and forth by the waves" - *kludwnizomenoi* - "being blown" Refers to "being driven by waves, to be agitated by waves"

"being blown here and there" - *periphepomenoi* - means "to carry about, to carry around, to be borne to and fro"

"deceitful" - *kubeia* - means "dice playing, cunning." It refers to wicked dice playing and refers to intentional fraud"

- Notice the focus on IMATURITY and INSTABILITY.
- The earthly church is divisive, temperamental, individualistic.
- An example of worldly logic - Acts 19:26-35. Or false doctrine from men - Acts 20:30
Also, self promoting teachers in 2 Corinthians 11:4, 13, 20
- False doctrine promotes sectarianism and individualism and not unity. We must find, teach and unify around the truth.

4:15 - "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

αληθευοντες δε εν αγαπη αυξησωμεν εις αυτον τα
truthing in love we may grow into him in all □

παντα ος εστιν η κεφαλη χριστος
respects who is the head Christ

"speaking the truth" - *aletheuontes* - "to be truthful, to tell the truth, to deal truly."

Linguistic Key says: "Verbs ending in this suffix express the doing of an action signified by the corresponding noun. With this verb the relationship of quality passes to that of action." Thus, the translation "TRUTHING." Meaning the **truth has gone beyond doctrine and is now become a verb.**

- Notice the necessity of Truth and Love.
- Truth has a MORAL and an INTELLECTUAL side.
- Example in Philippians 2:2-4

4:16 - "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Reversionsim

The Eight Stages of Reversionism (or, backsliding)

Ephesians 4:17-19

"So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer **(1)**live as the Gentiles do, **(2)**in the futility of their thinking. They are **(3)**darkened in their understanding and **(6)**separated from the life of God <because of **(5)**the ignorance that is in them <due to **(4)**the hardening of their hearts. **(7)**Having lost all sensitivity, **(8)**they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more."

(1) Reaction/Distracton Stage (". . .live as the Gentiles do. . .") Gentiles unbelievers cannot focus on God during good or bad times.

The carnal believer faces impact in their life from circumstances that surface as a distraction (good or bad).

Impact- When something happens in life that causes you to spiritually flinch or look away from God. Like a bird hitting the windshield of a car, circumstances hit your view of God

Reaction- When you respond like a Gentile during circumstances and look away from the windshield.

Distracton- While you look away your focus is placed on something else. At this point you continue because you are either ignorant of doctrine or arrogant towards doctrine. **(2) Frantic Search for Happiness** (". . .in the futility of their thinking. . .")

"Futility" is the Greek word ματαιοτητι or "mataiotati" is the word for emptiness, futility, worthlessness.

New Testament uses it to refer to:

- Presumption of human thought
- Pagan Idolatry
- A deceitful way of life

The idea of emptiness in their thinking gives the impression of a vacuum in their soul that will implode and suck in the first thing they see after the impact of life in stage one.

This stage is very deceitful because everything seems peaceful and happy. All ideas and actions are quickly justified and engaged in.

It is a period of great freedom and unhindered burdens, similar to the experience of a person falling through the air after leaving the top of a ten story building. At least, a great sense of freedom and control for the first nine floors down. Hitting the ground is the beginning of stage three

(3) Boomerang Stage (". . .darkened in their understanding. . .") Frustration results from decisions made during stage two.

Adversity will increase forcing you to make a decision to return or continue into stage four.

This is the most common place for a believer to try to recover. But, they must have been taught how to recover and how to maintain or else they will never return to God's perfect plan.

Attitudes of people in Boomerang Stage:

1. They want to try one more attempt at happiness without returning to God

2. They want to solve the problem without God due to their guilt.
3. They become angry at God and enter a more conscious rebellion.

(Stages 4, 5, 6 overlap but connect like a chain.)

(4) Black Out of the Heart (“ . . .*the hardening of their hearts. . .*”)

The heart, or soul, is distorted, disengaged, or blacked out by the old sin nature. When the heart is dysfunctional the emotions are left unrestrained and in control. This leads quickly into stage five, Emotional Revolt

(5) Emotional Revolt of the Soul (“ . . .*the ignorance that is in them. . .*”)

Emotional revolt creates psychotic behavior
Emotions swing believer back and forth
Personality is fractured and the believer swings through a wide range of personalities during a daily routine: happy, cheerful, apathy, self pity, crabby, miserable. Romans 7:24, “wretched man” is a psychological term

(6) Divine Detachment (“ . . .*separated from the life of God. . .*”)

Failure to recover during stage five causes God to hand them over to themselves, their old sin nature.

Review:

- Believer in Fellowship. Controlled by Holy Spirit
- Believer in Stages 1 & 2. Controlled by Self
- Believer in Stages 3-5. Out of Control
- Believer in Stages 6-8. Controlled by a very distorted self

Example of Divine Detachment is Romans 1:24

Confession becomes a thing of the past
Life here is lived in Satan’s Domain
False doctrine replaces truth
Norms and standards fall
Light in soul becomes darkness; answers can not be seen
Result is scar tissue on the soul or a callused conscience.

(7) Scar Tissue on the Soul (“ . . .*Having lost all sensitivity. . .*”)

Just like scar tissue builds up on wounds and makes the skin ugly to the sight & insensitive to the touch, so the soul becomes ugly during human fellowship and insensitive to the Holy Spirit
The believer begins to hurt those around them and cannot fulfill Eph. 4:32, “Be kind & compassionate one to another.”
With no sensitivity for right and wrong a whole new world opens up to them. They can allow themselves to do things they could not do before.

(8) Self Detachment (“ . . .*they have given themselves over to sensuality. . .*”)

God detaches them at stage six. Here they detach themselves to their old sin nature
They live in greediness with no satisfaction
They become out cast

They rebel against everything listed below:

- Mankind-they use people
- Natural order
- Privacy

- Property
- Sexual boundaries
- Norms and standards
- The Lord Jesus Christ

This is the end of the line for them,

“They are brute beast, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught (put on exhibit as a source of testing to believers) and destroyed (die the sin unto death).”

2 Peter 2:12

One of two things happens with them:

1. They die the sin unto death (1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 John 5:16)
2. Live on earth as a source of testing for other believers, very similar to Satan’s purpose

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If a person still has a desire to return to God they have not reached stage eight. They are at an earlier stage that does have a way out. Please see “Spiritual Recovery” from James 4:6-10.*

Ephesians 4:17-19 -

"I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more."

(L&EK GNT = Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament)

live - περιπατειν (to walk)- L&EK GN - to walk about, to conduct one's life, points to a habitual action.

Gentiles - εθνη (nations)- L&EK GNT- people, Gentiles, heathen, those who were not Jews. The Jews considered Gentiles as basically immoral. Gentiles accepted premarital sex, homosexuality, idolatry. But these things were considered wrong and should be abstained from as a Jew.

futility ματαιοτητι (vanity)- L&EK GNT -vanity, emptiness. Contains the idea of aimlessness, leading to no object or end

thinking νοος (mind)- L&EK GNT - mind, thinking facility, reasoning capacity. Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:3

They are darkened εσκοτωμενοι (having been darkened)- L&EK GNT - to darken. The perfect participle is used in a periphrastic construction indicating the continuing darkened condition.

understanding διανοια (intellect)- L&EK GNT - thinking through, understanding, intelligence, the mind as the organ of thinking

separated απηλλοτριωμενοι (having been alienated)- L&EK GNT - to estrange, to alienate. The perfect tense emphasizes the continuing state of existence; being alienated from

the life of God. It does not imply that they had at one time enjoyed that life; it means simply being aliens from it.

ignorance αγνοιαν (ignorance)- *L&EK GNT* - ignorance, lack of knowledge. It refers to the inability to comprehend and see the light.

in them ουσαν εν αυτοις (*being in them*)-

hardening πωρωσιν (hardness)- When free will and a persons thinking become insensitive to God.

"Hardening" of the heart is a progressive state which hardens the conscience to respond to God. This person actually opposes God. Pharaoh's hardened his heart (Ex. 7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:35) then God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Ex.4:21; 7:3; 14:4). See Psalm 95:8 as in Exodus 15:22 and Hebrews 3:7

hearts καρδιας (*heart*)-

Having lost all sensitivity απηληγηκοτες (having ceased to care)- *L&EK GNT*- to cease to feel pain or grief, to become callous, insensible to pain. The translation 'past feeling' expresses the sense accurately. The lack of moral feeling and discernment means the inability to exercise any restraint. "This is a classical term which means primarily that one's skin has become callous and no longer feels pain" (F.F. Bruce) In classical usage it means "put away sorrow" and to "be despondent". Used around 200 BC to mean "ceasing to feel pain."

they have given themselves over εαυτους παρεδωκαν (themselves gave up)-

L&EK

GNT - to deliver over to, to hand over to.

These people are clearly blamed for their own condition.

Their impurity and debauchery first hardens them and then in Romans 1:24-28 it destroys them.

sensuality ασελγεια (to lewdness)- *L&EK GNT* - unrestrained living.

This means "debauchery" and is one of the "works of the flesh" in Gal. 5:19. The idea here is to throw off all restraint and flaunt itself fearless of judgment or shame, disregarding the rights or feelings of others or public decency. Colossians 3:5 says to put this off.

indulge εργασιαν (work)- *L&EK GNT* - working, producing, performance, practice

impurity ακαθαρσιας (uncleanness)- *L&EK GNT* - uncleanness, filthiness, impurity

continual lust for more πλεονεξια (greediness)- *L&EK GNT* - insatiable craving greed, consuming ambition, giving rein to appetites and desires which are against the laws of God and man.

This word is "covetousness". It is the climax of Ephesians 5:5 as well as the climax here.

This may be considered a third of three vices mentioned: Debauchery, Impurity and Covetousness, or in the NIV Sensuality, Impurity and Lust.

Lev. 18:3, 24-30; 20:23-24