

The GIFT of God - Part 3

Sunday, May 19, 2019
10:30 AM

We are in the middle of a series leading up to Pentecost Sunday that follows the life of Samson but focuses on the Gift of The Holy Spirit. Through his life we want to take a look at different responses to The GIFT of God - The Holy Spirit

Remember that Samson's life is an illustration, a shadow if you will, of the gift of the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testament. Even though the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out, he did move upon people's lives. The difference being that he would "come upon them" for specific purposes rather than being resident within them. Just as there are types and shadows of Jesus Christ and His work in the Old Testament, there are Old Testament types and shadows of The Holy Spirit and His work as well. In this New Covenant we have the privilege of receiving the fullness of this Gift of God

Our key texts concerning the gift of The Holy Spirit are...

Luke 11:11-13 New International Version (NIV)

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give **good gifts** to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"

Acts 1:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait for the gift my Father promised**, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So far, the story of Samson has taught us that...

WE MUST BELIEVE IN THE GIFT

- 1. Believe The Gift Is From God**
- 2. Believe The Gift Is For Us**
- 3. Believe The Gift Will Empower Us...** To be faithful and to break the power of the enemy

7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (From 16 Fundamental Truths)

*All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. **With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.***

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- ***an overflowing fullness of the Spirit***
- ***a deepened reverence for God***
- ***an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work***
- ***and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost***

On Mother's Day we learned that we must **NURTURE THE GIFT**

Like the Nazarite of the Old Testament , we are to live lives that are dedicated to God. We are called to honor and nurture the righteousness that has been given us in Christ Jesus, rather than continue to defile ourselves with the ways of the old life and the world. We have been told to keep in step with the spirit

Galatians 5:25 Amplified Bible (AMP)

25 If we [claim to] live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage—our conduct empowered by the Holy Spirit].

Galatians 5:25-26 The Message (MSG)

25-26 Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

Again the story of Samson, or rather the instructions given to his parents about raising him teaches us three things about nurturing the gift of The Holy Spirit...

1. Daily

The nurture of this gift was to be daily. The Angel of God didn't give them instructions that were to be followed only once or only for a short period of time. These rules were to govern the gift for the entire life of Samson.... "From the womb until the day of his death."

Take time each day to believe in the gift, thank Him for the gift, exercise the gift, and rely upon the gift for the power you need to live a life consecrated to God

2. Details

In a similar way, this passage teaches us that the Nurture of the gift occurs in the details of our lives.

The instructions don't just pertain to special times of worship of God but to the very details of everyday life. What he ate, drank and came into contact with was an important part of nurturing this gift. His obedience to the instructions of God (what to do and what not to do) was a vital part of the nurturing of this gift.

I pray that we too we be hungry to know the ways of God as they pertain to the details of our lives. I pray that we would seek him and ask him how to apply biblical truth and principles to our everyday lives

3. Doable

There is nothing in this passage that indicates that the instructions for nurturing the gift were impossible. No cry of foul by Samson's parents. No whining that what God asked of them was too hard. It was and is DOABLE

Nurturing the gift of The Holy Spirit is doable precisely because the Gift, himself, gives us the power to do what God is asking us to do.

Romans 8:11-14 New Living Translation (NLT)

11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. **13** For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

The third principle that Samson's handling of the gift teaches us is that we can **MISUSE THE GIFT**

1. We misuse the gift when we complacently take it for granted and fail to allow its development in our lives

Judges 13:24-14:7 New International Version (NIV)

24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, **25** and the Spirit of the Lord **began to stir him** while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Samson's Marriage

14 Samson **went down** to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. **2** When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "**I have seen** a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."

3 His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?"

But Samson said to his father, "**Get her for me.** She's the right one for me." **4** (His parents did not know that this was **from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.**)

5 Samson **went down** to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. **6** The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But **he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.** **7** Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

The spirit stirred him, but he didn't stir up the spirit. See Timothy

2 Timothy 1:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2. We misuse the gift when we foolishly pursue our own plans and pleasures rather than the purposes that God has for our lives

Judges 14:8-20 New International Version (NIV)

8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. **9** He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And there Samson held a feast, as was customary for young men. **11** When the people saw him, they chose thirty men to be his companions.

12 "Let me tell you a riddle," Samson said to them. "If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. **13** **If you can't tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes.**"

"Tell us your riddle," they said. "Let's hear it."

14 He replied,

"Out of the eater, something to eat;
out of the strong, something sweet."

For three days they could not give the answer.

15 On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife, "Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to steal our property?"

16 Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer."

"I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" **17** She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people.

18 Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him,

"What is sweeter than honey?
What is stronger than a lion?"

Samson said to them,

"If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle."

19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of everything and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he returned to his father's home. **20** And Samson's wife was given to one of his companions who had attended him at the feast.

Simon the sorcerer

Acts 8:18-23 New International Version (NIV)

18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money **19** and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! **21** You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. **22** Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. **23** For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

3. We misuse the gift when our focus is directed by bitterness, anger and revenge

Judges 15:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

15 Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, "I'm going to my wife's room." But her father would not let him go in.

2 "I was so sure you hated her," he said, "that I gave her to your companion. Isn't her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead."

3 Samson said to them, "This time **I have a right to get even** with the Philistines; **I will really harm them.**" **4** So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, **5** lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves.

6 When the Philistines asked, "Who did this?" they were told, "Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because his wife was given to his companion."

So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death. **7** Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, **I swear that I won't stop until I get my revenge on you.**" **8** He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam.

His attacks on the Philistines had little to do with God's purposes of deliverance and more to do with his need for revenge.

Unresolved, anger bitterness and unforgiveness causes us to lash out without purpose and eventually leads to more hurt and pain for ourselves rather than those we seek to take revenge upon. We end up isolating ourselves from the plans and purposes of God

4. We misuse the gift when we mix the Holy and the profane

Judges 16:1-6 New International Version (NIV)

16 One day **Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute.** He went in to spend the night with her. **2** The people of Gaza were told, “Samson is here!” So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, “At dawn we’ll kill him.”

3 But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. **5** The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.”

6 So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.”

God's desire for us is that we know how to distinguish that which is Holy from that which is profane or unclean and that we keep ourselves separate from sin

Leviticus 10:10 New International Version (NIV)

10 so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean,

Ezekiel 22:26 New International Version (NIV)

26 Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

There is an interesting passage in Ezekiel 42 where God give him a vision of the restored temple. One of the last things he shows him is the area outside the temple 500 cubits on each side of the Temple surrounded by a wall for the purpose of separating the Holy and the common.

2 Corinthians 6:17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷Therefore,

“Come out from them

and be separate,

says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,

and I will receive you.”

While, like Samson, we may not immediately loose our strength; continued sin in our lives separates us from God and weakens us spiritually.