

The GIFT of God - Part 2

Sunday, May 12, 2019
10:30 AM

Last week we began a series leading up to Pentecost Sunday that follows the life of Samson but focuses on the Gift of The Holy Spirit. Each week we want to take a look at a different response to The GIFT of God as evidenced in the story of Samson.

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[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit."

The first thing that Samson's life reveals to us about the gift of the Holy Spirit is 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 endowment 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***

Now let's return to Judges chapter 13 and continue to look at this gift of God

Judges 13 New International Version (NIV)

13 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. **3** The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.

4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. **5** You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because **the boy is to be a Nazirite**, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

6 Then the woman went to her husband and told him, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name. **7** But he said to me, 'You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, **drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean,**

because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.”

8 Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: “Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born.”

9 God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. **10** The woman hurried to tell her husband, “He’s here! The man who appeared to me the other day!”

11 Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, “Are you the man who talked to my wife?”

“I am,” he said.

12 So Manoah asked him, “When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule that governs the boy’s life and work?”

13 The angel of the Lord answered, “Your wife must do all that I have told her. **14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her.**”

The second thing God showed me about The Gift of The Holy Spirit through the life of Samson is that we must **NURTURE THE GIFT**

the process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something.

encouragement, promotion, fostering, development, cultivation, boosting, furtherance, advancement

I think it is fitting that we are talking about this aspect of the gift on Mother’s Day because that’s what mothers do... they nurture

In fact, I read a great little article in this week’s AG news

Alice Reynolds Flower (1890-1991), the wife of AG pioneer J. Roswell Flower, is a shining example of motherhood. Affectionately known as “Mother Flower,” she preached, taught Sunday School, led prayer meetings, wrote articles, penned poetry, authored books, and lived a godly example in front of her six children and everyone she came in contact with.

*As Mother's Day approaches, it is good to consider an article that Mother Flower wrote for the **Pentecostal Evangel in May 1952**. It was also made available in tract form through the Gospel Publishing House and was widely distributed.*

*In "**The Business of Coat-Making**," Mother Flower talked about Hannah, the mother of Samuel in the Old Testament. Samuel's mother prayed diligently to have a son, and when her first-born son arrived, she dedicated him to God's service. As a young boy, he went to live with Eli the high priest. The Bible record says, "Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice" (1 Samuel 2:19).*

This verse held deep significance for Mother Flower. She liked to ponder how Samuel's mother found a way to minister to her son, even though he was consecrated to service in the house of God. She imagined the joy Hannah had in every stitch of the garment she made each year. Mother Flower said, "To Hannah, making that coat was no ordinary bit of sewing; it was her one chance to express yearly in practical manner the love of her heart." She continued, "And she did it faithfully, delivering each tiny garment personally to her Samuel there in the house of God."

*Mother Flower suggested that God never intended the business of coat-making to end with Hannah. She gave an example of her own mother, who provided spiritual "coats" for each of her daughters. First, she gave each of them a "**coat of prayer**." Mother Flower shared her own testimony of her mother praying for her during her teen years, when she was struggling with a number of conflicts. Partly due to her mother's prayers she surrendered her life to Christ and later was baptized in the Holy Spirit on Easter Sunday of 1907 at the age of 16.*

*Her mother also fashioned "**coats of consistent living**" for each of her children. She testified, "Her every walk before us stirred our hearts to follow God similarly." Mother Flower said that fervor in the church is good, and laboring for others is commendable, but "**making the coat of consistent living**" is the most important task of a mother.*

***Another aspect of coat-making is the Word of God.** Mother Flower gave a testimony that after her mother was miraculously raised from a deathbed experience and filled with the Holy Spirit, she started the family altar. Each morning the family gathered together to read God's Word and pray, and her mother also helped the children to memorize Scripture. She compared her mother's influence through the Word of God to Timothy in the New Testament whose faith was molded by his mother and grandmother.*

The “coat of discipline” is also essential. She shared that, “No home is beautiful or happy without obedience, respect, honesty and cooperation.” “The standard of righteous living as taught by the Word of God must be faithfully, constantly, consistently raised as a part of the family existence,” said Flower, “not a passing suggestion, but an essential detail of the family living, as is the eating, drinking and sleeping.” Training up obedient, honest, respectful, and God-fearing children is vitally important.

***One more coat that is essential is “Understanding Love.”** She felt it imperative that a mother have occasional “heart-charts” and “seasons together before God” with each of her children. She said, a “mother must keep ever wisely stitching on this ‘coat of understanding’ if she would successfully fulfill her highest ministry in the home.”*

Mother Flower’s admonition is for more mothers to pray diligently for their children on a daily basis, live a consistent Christian life, study the Word of God, offer guidance and training, and hem all of this in love and understanding.

Likewise, there is a need for us to nurture the gift of The Holy Spirit in our lives and in this story the nurturing begins not with Samson but with his mother.

Again, we see a foreshadowing of the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament in that the nurturing of the gift in our lives does not begin with us but with the one who gives the Gift, Jesus. His righteousness is not only our example of how to nurture the Gift of The Holy Spirit, but it is his righteousness that is imparted unto us

So, with that righteousness how do we nurture the Gift of The Holy Spirit that has been given us

Galatians 5:16-25 New International Version (NIV)

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

Like the Nazarene 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 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

25 We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the 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. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

So how can we do that in a practical way? How can we NURTURE THE GIFT of The Holy Spirit?

To answer that question, I want to go back to our text in Judges 13. There are three things about the instructions given to Manoah and his wife about that teach us how to nurture the gift

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."

One of the mistakes we make in nurturing our relationship with Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit is that we don't do it daily. Jesus said that we are to take up our cross daily and follow him. Likewise, we should daily keep in step with the spirit. We should daily exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift is not for special occasions or one day a week, but for every day of our lives.

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.

According to the New Testament it is important for us as well. And here is where we miss it so many times. Like Samson, we fail to incorporate the life God wants us to live in every detail of our lives. We tend to see it in the big things of life but not in the everyday details. What we say, what we do, what we allow into our lives, our obedience to the commands of God

John 14:15-17 New International Version (NIV)

15 "If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Notice that in this passage, Jesus ties the gift of The Holy Spirit into the life of the believer who nurtures the gift in the details of their life by living in obedience

I also want to point out how hungry Samson's parents were to know the details of how they should live and raise Samson. 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

Which brings us to the third aspect of nurturing the gift found in Judges 13

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.

He Reminds...

John 14:26 New International Version (NIV)

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

He Convicts...

John 16:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

He Empowers...

Romans 8:5-6 New Living Translation (NLT)

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. **6** So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

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.