

The GIFT of God - Part 5

Sunday, June 9, 2019

10:30 AM

Today is PENTECOST SUNDAY. 7 weeks following Easter Sunday the church celebrates Pentecost Sunday. In the Old Testament, 50 days after Passover, God instituted the feast of Pentecost (or weeks) - it coincided with the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. In the New Testament, it coincided with the giving of the gift of The Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-21 New International Version (NIV)

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

In concluding his message, Peter says...

Acts 2:38-39 New International Version (NIV)

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

In our study of The gift of God as seen in the life of Samson we have thus far looked at 4 different responses to the Gift

1. We must **BELIEVE** in **THE GIFT**
2. We must **NURTURE** **THE GIFT**
3. We can **MISUSE** **THE GIFT**
4. We can **LOSE** **THE GIFT** (put out the Spirits fire)

Today we want to look at one more, and one that directly relates to the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the gift on all flesh

5. We can be **EMPOWERED** by **THE GIFT**

One more time, let’s turn to the life of Samson to see what it has to teach us about The Gift of God. There are two passages that I want to focus on today

Judges 15:9-19 New International Version (NIV)

9 The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. **10** The people of Judah asked, “Why have you come to fight us?”

“We have come to take Samson prisoner,” they answered, “to do to him as he did to us.”

11 Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, “Don’t you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?”

He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me."

12 They said to him, "We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines."

Samson said, "Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves."

13 "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. **14** As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. **15** Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

16 Then Samson said,

"With a donkey's jawbone

I have made donkeys of them.

With a donkey's jawbone

I have killed a thousand men."

17 When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi.

18 Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the Lord, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

19 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, (Caller's Spring) and it is still there in Lehi.

Judges 16:20-30 New International Version (NIV)

20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza.

Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. **22** But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

The Death of Samson

23 Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands."

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,

"Our god has delivered our enemy

into our hands,
the one who laid waste our land
and multiplied our slain.”

25 While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, **26** Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” **27** Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. **28** Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” **29** Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, **30** Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Like Samson's Gift from God, The Gift of The Holy Spirit Empowers us in several ways

1. Spiritual Power

Acts 1:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Fruit of the Spirit:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-control

25 gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Scripture

Most Christians are familiar with the nine gifts of the Spirit that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12:4-10. But did you know there are many more? Though the exact number is debatable, here are at least 25 spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit gave to the early church—and continues to give today.

1. **Word of wisdom** (1 Cor. 12:8; Luke 6:9)
2. **Word of knowledge** (1 Cor. 12:8; Luke 18:22)
3. **Faith** (1 Cor. 12:9; Acts 3:6)
4. **Gifts of healing** (1 Cor. 12:9, 28; Acts 28:1-10)
5. **Working of miracles** (1 Cor. 12:10; Acts 6:8)
6. **Prophecy** (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:20-21; Eph. 4:11)
7. **Discerning of spirits** (1 Cor. 12:10; Luke 8:29)
8. **Tongues** (1 Cor. 12:10; Acts 19:6)
9. **Interpretation of tongues** (1 Cor. 12:10; 14:13-33)
10. **Helping** (1 Cor. 12:28)
11. **Administration** (1 Cor. 12:28; Acts 6:2-3)
12. **Ministry/service** (Rom. 12:7; 2 Tim. 1:16-18)
13. **Teaching** (Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11-14)
14. **Encouragement** (Rom. 12:8; Heb. 10:24-25)
15. **Giving** (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 13:3; Acts 4:32-35)
16. **Leadership** (Rom. 12:8; Acts 13:12)
17. **Mercy** (Rom. 12:8; Luke 5:12-13)
18. **Apostleship** (Eph. 4:11)
19. **Evangelism** (Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5)
20. **Pastoral guidance** (Eph. 4:11)
21. **Grace** (Rom. 12:6; Eph. 3:7; 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
22. **Willingness to face martyrdom** (1 Cor. 13:3)
23. **Intercession** (Rom. 8:26-27)
24. **Hospitality** (1 Pet. 4:9)
25. **Celibacy** (1 Cor. 7:8)

2. Spiritual Refreshing

John 14:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

3. Spiritual Renewal and Restoration

Acts 3:19 New International Version (NIV)

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Joel 2:25-26 New International Version (NIV)

25 “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm—
my great army that I sent among you.

26 You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.

How can we have this gift in our lives?

1. Repent

Acts 2:38-39 New International Version (NIV)

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

2. Believe

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.”

3. Ask

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!**”