

## **THE GIFT AND THE GIFTS**

**Acts 2:38; 10:45; 11:17; 1 Corinthians 12:1; 12:4**

**Introduction:** There is no need to explain what a “gift” is for all of us have given and received a gift at one time or other. God is also in the “gift” business and of course His greatest “gift” is eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ. Before going any farther, let’s remember that a gift is something that is not deserved, nor even expected and is something given to another not expecting anything back in return. It’s freely given and freely received. After God has given the gift of eternal life, He then proceeds to give the gift of His Holy Spirit to those who have received His first gift, eternal life. God’s Holy Spirit then gives “gifts” to those whom He indwells, those who have received God’s gift of eternal life.

### **I. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS AGE OF GRACE**

1. The supreme spiritual characteristic of our age is **grace**, God's undeserved favor of eternal life and His other gift, the Holy Spirit.
2. John the Baptist, as great a man as he was, was never indwelt by the Holy Spirit, yet the humblest Christian today can have all of the Holy Spirit.
  - In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came and went among the prophets.
  - In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit came to stay and is still here to this day.
3. It has been said that a Czar presented a golden cup to a very brave soldier, wanting to reward him, but the soldier said "this is too much for me to take" to which the Czar replied, "but it is not too much for me to give." Thus it is with God and His gifts.
4. A pastor agonized for many years about the Holy Spirit and finally quit struggling and simply consented and was blessed with the flooding presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. When God gives you the Holy Spirit, simply yield with all your heart.

### **II. THE MEANING OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not more natural talents. Everyone has a talent of some sort that he/she has learned or was born with. What the believer receives from the Holy Spirit is a gift to be used in the service of the Lord and His Church.
2. God's undeserved favor given to each of His children to enable each child to do something special for God and his/her fellow Christians is what the Holy Spirit gives.

### **III. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE CHOSEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. Every believer receives what the Holy Spirit wills.
  - The decision of what or which gift is not our choice, the Holy Spirit decides.
  - Also there is no cause to boast or brag or to indicate one's gift is better than another.

- We are not to beg, plead, cry, or use any means to try to persuade the Holy Spirit for a particular gift. What is a "gift" anyhow? Yet some want to have a particular gift instead of what the Holy Spirit has given.
  - No one person has all the gifts but each believer has at least one.
2. We need to remember that what spiritual gift the Holy Spirit has chosen to bestow upon each of us is to be used for God's service. Not for our own glory.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Remember what a "gift" is.
2. Remember that if it were not for God's gift of GRACE, we would not have eternal life, and it is a gift - undeserved, unearned, unobtainable other than just what it is - a gift.
3. What the Holy Spirit gives you is what He knows is in the best interest of God's service and the Church. He knows you better than you will ever know yourself. Be humbled that He chose to give you anything at all.
4. Use what the Holy Spirit gives you to bring honor to God and Him alone. Never, never brag on your gift nor look down upon someone else's, thinking you are superior.
5. But for the GRACE of God we would still be damned, doomed, and condemned to Hell.