

## That Which is Freely Given To Us By God (3)

### Introduction

A. The Bible repeatedly reminds us of the abundance of the grace of God. Such words as "gift", "give", "grace", "freely given" and "receive" all point out this great theme. Occasionally this comforting message will be summarized in a verse.

Be that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32

B. The Biblical use of the word "receive" will often go beyond reminding us of the grace of God. Many times it is necessary for us to exercise faith and practice the grace of God to "receive" the fulness of the divine provision. We must recognize that even our response of faith to God is a result of the grace of God in salvation. However, once a believer, we now have the ability to respond to God and must assume the responsibility of obedience.

I. God has Provided Answers to Prayer to be "Received." Mt. 21:22; John 16:23,24

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. ...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full

Observation: It is the will of God that the Christian enjoy a successful prayer life. Too often our prayers are listless and mechanical statements that we have repeated in the presence of God. Genuine prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ will be answered and cause joy.

II. God has Provided Power for Witnessing to be "Received." Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Observation: This ability to witness for God was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. Today, when we become a Christian, we are joined to that Church and are the recipients of that power. The Christian has the ability to witness. When we do not practice the commandment of God there cannot be a manifestation of divine aid. Only in the act of obedience are we enabled to serve and the power of God flows into the lives of those to whom we minister.

III. God has Provided Forgiveness of Sins to be "Received." Acts 10:43; 26:18

To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me.

Observation: Forgiveness cannot be earned or bought. We can only receive this divine provision of love in repentance and faith. This forgiveness is a total remission or absolution. (See Col. 2:13; Heb. 10:17)

#### IV. God has Provided a Ministry to be "Received." Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Observation: In this verse the Apostle Paul speaks of the ministry which he sought to fulfill even though he risked his life in doing so. All believers have received a "ministry".

#### V. God has Provided a Ministry of the Holy Spirit to be "Received." Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Observation: It is the will of God that we understand and have the assurance of our relationship with Himself. All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. His work, or a part of it, is to bring the believer to full assurance and comfort in the knowledge of salvation\* For the believer to live in doubt, fear, depression and unbelief is a serious sin against God. (See I John 5:9-13)

#### VI. God has Provided Gifts and Abilities to be "Received." I Peter 4:10

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Observation: A steward is one who has been given the responsibility and the resources to care for the needs of others\* This is a good description of the Christian. The verse reminds us that we are the stewards of the "grace of God." We have the privilege and responsibility, the gift and ability, the exhortation and resources, the right and the office – to minister to the people about us. To the non-Christian we can bring him the grace of salvation. To the Christian we can minister to him in almost all of the areas of his need.

One reason why many believers are living without the sense of the blessing **of** God is that they are not doing what God has called them to do. As a steward we are to live for others. All fear, selfishness, embarrassment and thoughts of inferiority must be put aside. The grace **of** God has been given to us to share with others.

#### Conclusion.

- A. It is quite important for the believer to evaluate himself on the basis of what the Bible states about him and not how he feels about himself or how he has been living. What we have "received" by God's grace is of profound value. We are important to God and can serve Him with His gifts. This will cause many to be helped, it will glorify God, and bring joy and fulfillment into our lives.
- B. It is very possible to have "received" the provision of God and yet, through doubt, unbelief and disobedience, not to have the power and assurance of our blessings. Choose to believe God and ask Him to help you to use your gifts.

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