

The Gifts of God

Introduction

- A. The Christian is one who has been blessed with all spiritual blessings, Ephesians 1:3. The extent of this "blessing" by God goes beyond our wildest imagination. The rights, privileges, favors, responsibilities are without number. Included in this wonderful list are the gifts of God.
- B. Have you ever received a gift from a king or queen or some individuals of high governmental rank? Those few who do treasure the gift and display it with pride. All believers have received gifts from God. It is important that we recognize their value, thank God for them and use them for His glory.

I. The Source of These Gifts, James 1:17.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Observation: Here the emphasis is upon the bountiful kindness of God. All good things find their source immediately or ultimately in Him. He is described as the source of all "natural" light as well as the source of all knowledge, truth, love and holiness* His goodness never turns into malice, His love is never unkind and His holiness is never sadistic

II. The Explanation of These Gifts.

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ is the gift of God, John 1*:10. (H Cor* 9:15)

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.

Observation: What an amazing moment in history - God standing in the presence of one of His creatures - and not being recognized. He was God's gift to her and she didn't know it. What word would be adequate to describe the greatness of this gift? Paul used the term "unspeakable" in II Cor. 9:15•

- B. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God, Luke 11:13* (Acts 2:38? 8:20; 10:45)

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?

Observation: Here the Holy Spirit is described as God's gift. This giving of the Holy Spirit is never separated in Scripture from salvation and the living of the Christian life. Every facet of spirituality in the believer's experience testifies to the importance of this gift. The gifts of God are permanent, Romans 11:29*

- C. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Observation: What God has given us are permanently ours. We may lose, by sin and neglect, the ability to use His gifts and fulfill His calling but they are ours in privilege and responsibility until death.

D. The gifts of God are the spoils of Christ's victory, Ephesians 4:8.

Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Observation: The Lord Jesus is here described as the triumphant Captain of our Salvation – returning home. The bounty of His victory is displayed in the value and the abundance of His gifts to His people.

E. The gifts of God are given to all believers, Romans 12:5,6.

So we, being man, are one body in Christ and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace given to us

Observation: No believer has been left out. You have a gift to use for God.

III. Salvation is the Gift of God, Romans 6:23* (Romans 6:23* Ephesians 2:8)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Observation: Who could measure the value of this gift? All of the five descriptions given above are found in this bounty of divine grace.

IV. Ability to Serve God is the Gift of God, Ephesians 4:7 (Ephesians 3:7)

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Observation: This chapter, and particularly verse 16, indicates that all believers have received unusual gifts to teach the Bible, admonish believers, and win people to Jesus Christ. (Note Romans 15:14 II Cor. 3:6)

V. Divine Exhortations Related to the Gifts of God.

A. "Don't neglect your gift," I Timothy 4:14

Neglect not the gift that is in thee . . . *

Observation: While written to a pastor this exhortation applies to all of us. We neglect our gift by failing to recognize its importance and by lack of use. Such failure is a profound sin.

B. "Stir up your gift," II Timothy 1:6.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God

Observation: Paul continues to explain how this is done. "Reject all fear, all shame, believe the Bible, cooperate with the Holy Spirit, be strong, endure hardness, do the work God has called you to."

C. "Use your gift as a good steward," 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 a responsible position so that he may serve others. You are that steward, you have been given the ability to bring God's grace into the lives of others.