

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 22

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
His Work of Efficacious Grace
Part 1



Thursday, January 27, 2011

Col 1:13-14 "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Hi Holy Spirit experts! Just when you thought there couldn't possibly be more to study about Him, guess what? Yes there is! We are now going to proceed to look at the Work of God the Holy Spirit and in particular His ministries to the Church Age believer...that's you and me!!!! Now that we're filled with the Spirit let's get started on this new topic about Him.



You know we are studying the Person and work of God the Holy Spirit in our series on spiritual gifts. Oh boy, we haven't even gotten to the gifts yet but we will, I promise. We have however, noted the indwelling of the Spirit, one of 6 PERMANENT ministries of God the Holy Spirit that occur at the moment of salvation. Since we looked at the indwelling already and briefly in another lesson, we will focus on the other 5, which include: efficacious grace; regeneration or being born again spiritually; the baptism of the Spirit where He places us in union with Jesus Christ; the sealing with the Spirit; and the distribution of spiritual gifts to every believer.

Today we are going to learn about the Holy Spirit's work called "efficacious grace." In order to do this right, we have to also look at the ministry of God the Holy Spirit to the unbeliever.



Yes, we are studying the spiritual gifts, and spiritual gifts are given to believers in Christ. But efficacious grace is the first permanent ministry of God the Holy Spirit to the believer at the moment of salvation. God the Holy Spirit also did six PERMANENT things for each believer at the same moment of salvation, as well as one additional thing, the filling of the Spirit, which is not permanent and can be lost when we sin.

These ministries...these wonderful things that God the Holy Spirit does at salvation are for every believer, and these wonderful things are the reason for unity among believers. We all get along and love each other because of them. They make us a team and our Head Coach is Jesus and the Holy Spirit is the power behind the team!

We're beginning with the first of these ministries because it is logical that it comes first for us and that is efficacious grace. This subject answers a basic question: how does an unbeliever become a believer? How does a spiritually dead person turn into a spiritually alive person? How does a child of the devil become a child of God? [Col 1:13-14](#) "For He rescued us from the domain of



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darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”



BUT how does this happen? The simple answer is, the same way everything else happens in God’s plan for mankind – by GRACE! Remember grace is everything we receive from God that we do not deserve. Someone else paid for it...JESUS!

In this case, it is a special kind of grace, grace with a special name, and that name is efficacious grace. What is efficacious grace? It is that work of the Holy Spirit that takes the faith (belief) of a spiritually dead unbeliever and makes it effective for salvation. The Holy Spirit takes the non-meritorious faith of the unbeliever...his cry for help because he is helpless and very sick because of his sin nature...the faith that this unbeliever expresses in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit makes sure that faith reaches the throne of God the Father by setting in motion the magnificent chain of events that is salvation.

Look at Eph 2:1-3. “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (the devil). (3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh (old sin nature), indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of (God’s) wrath, even as the rest.” This is a bad scene. Things are not looking good for mankind. And this is why Eph 2:4-5 is one of the greatest if not the greatest “BUT”s in a verse ever! Look at it: “BUT God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by GRACE you have been saved)...” There is that word...that wonderful amazing word...GRACE.

Were it not for grace

*Time measured out my days
Life carried me along
In my soul I yearned to follow God
But knew I'd never be so strong
I looked hard at this world
To learn how heaven could be gained
Just to end where I began
Where human effort is all in vain*

Chorus

*Were it not for grace
I can tell you where I'd be
Wandering down some pointless road to nowhere
With my salvation up to me
I know how that would go
The battles I would face
Forever running but losing this race*



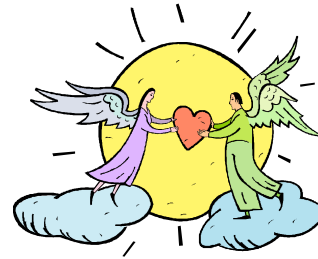
Were it not for grace

*So here is all my praise
Expressed with all my heart
Offered to the Friend who took my place
And ran a course I could not start
And when He saw in full
Just how much His would cost
He still went the final mile between me and heaven
So I would not be lost*



Chorus

*Were it not for grace
I can tell you where I'd be
Wandering down some pointless road to nowhere
With my salvation up to me
I know how that would go
The battles I would face
Forever running but losing this race
Were it not for grace*



Let's continue in [Eph 2:6-10](#) "...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (9) not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Grace is free, limitless, unmerited blessing to helpless, undeserving sinners from the loving God whose righteousness and justice are completely satisfied by the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look again at what God does for us through the Holy Spirit's efficacious grace in [Eph 2:5](#). "...even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..."

When you were totally helpless and without a hope in the world, God the Holy Spirit was there on the scene to do all that was needed to get you saved. [Eph 2:12-13](#) "...remember that you (Gentile unbelievers) were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel (the Jews), and strangers to the covenants of promise (to the Jews), having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Just like Christ died for you when you were His enemy in [Rom 5:5-11](#). "...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (6) For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. (8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of

God through Him. (10) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (11) And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

God the Father decided to save you in eternity past. God the Son decided to save you 2,000 years ago at Calvary. God the Holy Spirit decided to save you on the day you first believed in Christ. All three persons in the Godhead are involved in helping us have a relationship with God forever and ever.

- a) God the Father, the Planner, is the author of the fantastic salvation plan for the human race. The plan called for Him to impute (assign) and judge all our sins in Christ on the cross.
- b) God the Son, the Executer, received that imputation of all our sins and was judged for our sins. His spiritual death as our substitute paid the price for the sins of the world. His shout of “TETELESTAI” (IT IS FINISHED) on the cross provided that salvation was completed on the cross.
- c) God the Holy Spirit, the Revealer/Applier, performs two grace ministries in evangelism for the spiritually dead unbelieving human race. We call this common and efficacious grace.



This is part of the “much more” love from the God who now dwells inside you. Christ captured salvation, won the victory, at the cross. Now it is being brought to you. The rewards...your rewards as it were...are given to you. The obedience required of you by your God is the obedience of faith. BELIEVE! 1 Cor 1:21 “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its (human) wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” Gal 3:26 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Another passage that describes efficacious grace is found in John 1:12-13. “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (11) He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. (12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

This is the real beginning of understanding grace. There’s lots more to understand and we will continue next time.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley’s lesson on Thursday, September 22, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

