

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 23

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
His Work of Efficacious Grace
Part 2

+



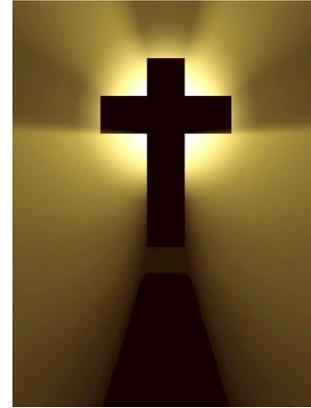
Sunday, January 30, 2011 & Thursday, February 03, 2011

EPH 2:8-9 "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, that no one should boast."

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 is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Lesson

Remember, kids, we're in our deep study about God the Holy Spirit. He has 7 ministries to the Church Age believers and they begin at the moment you believe in Jesus as your personal Savior. The first of those ministries is efficacious grace, which we already started studying last time. Today we continue with it. Like I said you're going to be experts!!!



All of the work for man's salvation was done by God. Not only was Jesus Christ judged for our sins on the cross, but the Holy Spirit makes the Gospel understandable and clear to unbelievers so they can have this so great salvation provided by our glorious Savior. The Holy Spirit makes our faith effective.

What exactly does it mean that the Holy Spirit makes our faith effective? Let's use an example: let's say you get really sick...fever chills...sore throat and you're so sick that can't get out of bed. So Mom or Dad takes you to the doctor and he says you can only get better by taking antibiotics. Mom or Dad get the medicine for you to take and give it to you and in a few days the medicine makes you better. So your being better was made effective by the medicine you took. But you couldn't do that by yourself, could you? You couldn't get to the doctor on your own or get the medicine that makes you better, could you? No you relied on Mom or Dad and the medicine to make you better. It was effective for your getting better!

Well that is what the Holy Spirit does for the unbeliever. He makes the unbeliever understand by grace the GOOD NEWS that Jesus is the WAY to HEAVEN and when the unbeliever hears...the verses in the Bible that tells that Jesus is the Savior of all mankind...the Gospel...and then the unbeliever says "yes" and believes in Jesus the Holy Spirit takes his "yes" and makes it effective for his SALVATION...efficacious grace. Do you see? Again this is when God the Holy Spirit takes the faith alone in Christ alone of the spiritually dead unbeliever (his yes) and makes it effective for his salvation. Isn't that wonderful...God is awesome! He tells us how to be saved, the Holy Spirit makes it understandable by grace to us when we were unbelievers and then when we believe or say "yes" to the Gospel, He makes it effective and gives us eternal life in Christ who did all the work!!!! AMEN and Thank you, Father.



Listen, kids, do you realize how important this is? Without the Holy Spirit, in total depravity as unbelievers, we would be deaf to the Gospel, and our faith would be mute...voiceless...having no effect at all. Without the efficacious grace supplied by the Holy Spirit, our faith would be like the screams of a drowning man in a sinking lifeless submarine...real screams...but no one above to hear them...totally ineffective because the unbeliever is in a state of spiritual death, cut off from

God the Father. But our gracious heavenly Father made a way for unbelievers to be saved. He loves the unbeliever and has the Gospel ready for all who seek salvation.



Efficacious grace is the work of the Holy Spirit which permits the unbeliever to have an effective faith in Christ as Savior when they seek salvation. This is why **EPH 2:8-9** says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it (faith) is the gift of God; (9) not as a result of works, that no one should boast." However, we have to be very careful here because when you say "faith" is a gift, we need to realize it is only a gift after we make the "no works" choice to believe from our free will that God gave us. So it is a gift IF we believe in Jesus. Believing is not human works. We hear the "good news" by the help of the Holy Spirit and then He makes us understand it by grace and then we if believe it He makes it effective for our salvation. So this efficacious grace is the ministry of God the Holy Spirit to ANYONE who responds by believing the Gospel information at the moment the Holy Spirit makes it understandable to them. Remember that the unbeliever is totally depraved...very bad because of his sin nature...so he needs help in all areas to respond to God. That's where the Holy Spirit first comes in for all unbelievers who seek salvation...HE'S the HELPER...HE MAKES IT CLEAR and HE MAKES the PATH for us to believe it by grace!!! Again, HE takes our little "yes" after we hear the Gospel and makes it effective for our salvation.

Now we have to understand what makes it possible for us to have this so great salvation in Jesus. Did you know that you couldn't have salvation without being first condemned? That's right. We have to start with the situation that each and every human was born into...SIN! **Psa 51:5** says, "Behold, I was brought forth (born) in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." Did you get that? You were conceived in your mom's body that has an old sin nature. You had one too, which you inherited from your dad, in every cell of your little body, but it wasn't active while you were inside your mom's body because you didn't have soul life yet...you weren't alive and breathing yet. Your sin nature activates when you come out of your mom at birth...the moment you take your first breath. You took your first breath because God gave you soul life! Only God can give life. Our mothers do not give us life...GOD DOES. He breathes soul life into us at the moment of our birth (outside from our moms). At the same time he imputes or assigns Adam's original sin to the sin nature that was formed from genes in the cell structure of your physical body. So at birth...the moment you breath...you are at the same time physically alive and spiritually dead.



Therefore, at birth because we were imputed or assigned with the sin nature, God now has to condemn or censure each human being...all mankind because SIN IS IN US!! God can't have anything to do with sin so God condemns us!!! We are born physically alive BUT spiritually dead!!! What a MESS!!!! Spiritual death is condemnation.

BUT believe it or not, this is really a GOOD THING...being condemned... because...being condemned means HE CAN NOW SAVE US!!!! WOW, are you confused yet? I hope not but if you are, be patient, it will make sense through the Holy Spirit. Here's a great example to help you understand condemnation before salvation. Suppose you have the opportunity to get a trip to Disney World. Would you rather:



1. have to obey everything your parents tell you to do for a month but if you do one thing wrong, you lose the trip to Disney World; OR
2. have your father say "I know your are a disobedient child. Just admit it and agree that you need your parents to train you to be obedient. Do that and I will declare you an obedient kid for the purpose of getting you to Disney World."

Which would you choose? 1 or 2? I hope you picked 2 because that is a picture of the fairness and love of God in condemning us at birth so we can have an opportunity to go to heaven...salvation! You see God knows we are sinners so he condemned us (like your dad wanting you to admit you're disobedient so he can say I'll declare you obedient because you admit it so you can get to Disney. God's being merciful towards us. His justice is key here. There is no salvation without condemnation. We recognize we are sinners and we're condemned so now we have an opportunity to be saved.

Let's look at **Rom 5:12-21**. "Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and (spiritual and physical) death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned (because we were all in Adam when he sinned...we were part of his body!!!!). (13) For until the Law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed (assigned) when there is no law. (14) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him (Jesus) who was to come. (15) But the free gift is not like the sin. For if by the sin of the one (Adam) the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (16) The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one sin resulting in condemnation (for all mankind), but on the other hand the free gift arose from many sins resulting in justification (+R). (17) For if by the sin of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness (+R) will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (18) So then as through one sin there resulted condemnation to ALL men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to ALL men. (19) For as through the one man's disobedience the ALL were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many (who believe) will be made righteous (+R). (20) The Law came in so that the sin would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, (21) so that, as sin reigned in (spiritual) death, even so grace would reign through righteousness (+R) to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."



Adam's original sin plus a sin nature equals spiritual death. Spiritual death is not only total separation from God it is a complete lack of relationship with Him. So the very first thing God does after we are born like this is to condemn us through His perfect justice!! So we can say we are legally (by God's law) separated from God. Because we are separated from God, we are also in total domination by our old sin nature...slavery to it...as an unbeliever!

What could God do? He cannot have anything to do with sin so His justice must condemn us because of sin. NOW He can bless us with salvation. God's not the author of sin. God condemns sin. Adam is the author of sin in the human race. A perfect God could only create perfect creatures and He did! They messed up not God!!! NO sin nature existed in the human race before the fall of Adam!

And so the invisible, immaterial soul that God breathed into us and prepared for us was perfect. The soul that comes from the hand of God is flawless and sinless. However, the soul is ruined only because it comes under the bad influence of the old sin nature as soon as it is imputed or assigned to the human body at birth!!!! In Adam, this contamination of his soul occurred at the moment that he ate the fruit from the woman's hand and sinned. For us, it happened at the moment of our physical birth when we were imputed with Adam's original sin to our old sin nature. This condemned us...made us spiritually dead...and therefore opened the door for us all to be eligible



for God's so great salvation in Jesus and the righteousness (+R) that is available through salvation.

You are really getting some very important Bible information here, kids. I know it's hard to understand all this at once but the Holy Spirit will teach it to you so hang in there, okay?

Close in prayer

*Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, September 29, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church*

