

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 10

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit



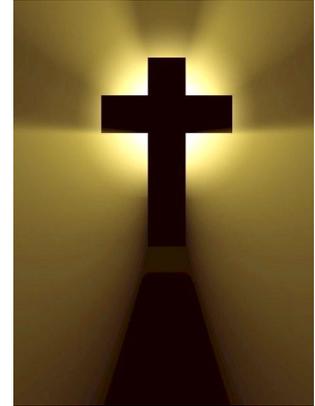
December 12, 2010

1 Cor 12:4 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit..."

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

Now that we have studied the problem (arrogant mental attitudes and the sins they cause us) in our last lesson, it is time to move on to the solution! And the solution is spiritual gifts. Now whenever you have a gift, there has to be a giver. In order to appreciate your gift, you have to know the Giver. So we are going to spend a little time on the Giver of the spiritual gifts before we get into the spiritual gifts themselves, and the Giver is God the Holy Spirit.

You know, there's one thing that must be pointed out as well, and that is this: we studied our position (in Christ) and our condition (totally sick mind from the old sin nature) last week. We looked at the heavenly (humility) and the earthly (arrogance). Well, there is a bridge between the two.



Do you know what that bridge is? We studied this before too. The bridge is that simple word called "FAITH." Paul puts it like this in Gal 2:20. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." This should be our thinking...totally grateful to Christ for His salvation gift, which was received by us through faith.

Now when you hustle to make a big impression in the world, in a place like Corinth (which represents the world cosmic system in our study), you end up making strange friends from the neighborhood, school, sports etc. Parties and hanging out with unbelievers or believers who don't want anything to do with God or His Word is where you wind up. This is what happened to the worldly people of Corinth. They hung out with the idol worshippers and the pagans (who rejected Jesus) and got tangled up with all kinds of trouble, which put them far away from God and His Word because they lacked faith and lived totally for the flesh instead of in the Spirit. They were proud of it too!!! Arrogant much? That's how deceived they were from Satan.

Put your time into the new man, not the old man! Produce fruit instead of spiritual death which takes us out of fellowship with God. Gal 6:6-10 says, "The one who is taught the Word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him (support for your Pastor/teacher). Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows (his priorities and lifestyle), this he will also reap (production or harvest). For the one who sows to his own flesh (lives only by his sin nature) will from the flesh reap corruption (production of the flesh, vanity, death), but the one who sows to the Spirit (lives by means of the Holy Spirit) will from the Spirit reap eternal life (fruit of the Spirit, the resurrection life). Let us not lose heart in doing good (living in the plan of God in fellowship), for in due time we will reap (capacity for life and reward here and in heaven) if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people (believers and unbelievers alike), and especially to those who are of the household of the faith (believers)."

Gal 5:16-24 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (of sin). Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, pleasure, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, trouble, jealousy, outbursts of anger, arguments, dissensions, causing division, envying, drunkenness, partying, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit (reward) the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

There is a parallel passage in Romans 8:4-6 "...so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is (spiritual) death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace..."

You see, these deeds of the flesh are their own punishment, because they have pride and spiritual death built right into themselves. Kids, WE HAVE GOD LIVING INSIDE US!!!!!! The moment you believed in Jesus you got the Holy Spirit! He loves you and is your Guide in life. We have to know this and use it to glorify our Savior and to get the benefits the Bible tells us about. Jesus promised this to His disciples and to us in John 4:16-18. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (other than Jesus), that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

He will give you a helper. This is great news. Here's a deep spiritual principle. Ready? Who gets a helper? People who need help. That's all of us! Jesus was speaking to His 12 apostles in John 4:16-18 that we just read. They didn't get it yet because they didn't have the Holy Spirit yet. But they had Jesus! It was really hard for them until the Holy Spirit came. They needed help and Jesus was leaving them but sending the Holy Spirit in His place!



Let's look at the 12 apostles. The day or so leading up to the crucifixion of our Lord, Jesus Christ was not exactly their finest hour. You might even call them arrogant at times. Peter, John and James will conk out and fall asleep just at the time when our Lord most needs company while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. As they go into the upper room where Christ will host the Passover meal (the Last Supper), what are they doing? Well, they are arguing about who is the greatest one among them. Peter is just hours away from denying our Lord...three times by the way. Judas is moments away from betraying Him for the money he so lusts for. All of them will run away once the Roman soldiers and the Temple guards grab Jesus and take Him away. It's not their finest hour. Not by a

long shot. Do you get the picture?

We fool ourselves sometimes about the nature of the spiritual life. We take a subject like the spiritual gifts and we kid ourselves. Our pastor gets all eager about the idea of the Holy Spirit urging us on to lay down your lives for the sake of the our fellow believers because he's in the Word of God constantly and sees that it's very holy and beautiful...no doubt about it...our Lord's teachings on this night in question, His last night on earth before the crucifixion...are amazing, amazingly wonderful and beautiful. And so, too with the New Testament verses describing the Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit...they are deep doctrines of God!!

This is why we needed to see first the ugly truth of what was going on in Corinth...the world. We had to see how sinful they were and how sinful we are. We had to understand why Paul wrote a letter to them scolding them and trying to get them back on track spiritually. When you get close to the light (Jesus and His Holy Word), your own ugliness starts to really stand out. Paul had to show them the light again. It can get scary when we are shown the light especially when we are walking in darkness out of fellowship for a long time...we're ugly. Like you just want to hide. Oh, we can totally



understand how Adam and the woman felt in the garden after they sinned. Sometimes you just want to hide just like they did.

But you know what? Our so great salvation...our so great Lord...the beauty of this free gift...causes us to tremble with awe and be VERTY thankful. We were saved by Jesus from the Lake of Fire!!! This is just downright awesome and scary to think where we were at one time. So you see we need to learn how to give grace to ourselves, too as we realize our weakness in our sin natures. We need to give ourselves a break and take the grace God so freely gives us. He loves us and has so much mercy on us in Jesus. That grace included God the Holy Spirit living inside us to guide us and to lead us in the WAY!

So let's consider the apostles like we considered Corinth. It was not their finest hour. Or maybe it was. These people were messed up in the head. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior. What does that tell us? God the Holy Spirit is the Helper. What does that tell us? A Savior only makes sense if there is somebody who needs to be saved. A Helper only makes sense if there's somebody who needs help!!! Anybody say that to you lately? YOU NEED HELP! If they did...they're right! We need rescuing. The apostles got rescued and so did we. We all knew we are sinners and needed help and we got it!!!



What does it mean to be a Christian? When you boil it all down, it means this:

First you need a Savior, and then you need help. 1 Tim 2:3-4 "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth." What does our Lord call the Holy Spirit when He introduces Him to the disciples and us in John 14:17? The "Spirit of TRUTH."

We need a Savior and we need help...Good News...Christ is your Savior...and the Holy Spirit is here to help. He's here and He's the Helper. HE STANDS BY YOU!!!

Close in prayer

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

