

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 25*

*The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit*  
*The Totally Depraved Unbeliever is Saved by Two*  
*Ministries of God the Holy Spirit*



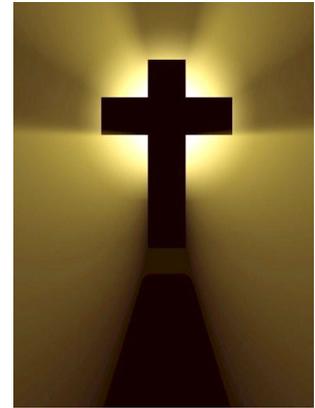
*Wednesday, February 9, 2011*

*'AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU. Behold, now is THE ACCEPTABLE TIME, behold, now is THE DAY OF SALVATION.'*

## 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

In our last lesson we answered the question: "Can a totally wicked, depraved person believe in Jesus?" The answer was "yes" but only by the grace of God...the Holy Spirit's ministries to the unbeliever.



Remember God the Holy Spirit takes the "yes" when a person believes and makes it effective for salvation. This is His ministry of efficacious grace that we have been learning about. We can do NOTHING for salvation. We just believe in Jesus and the Holy Spirit does all the work to make it effective. He let you understand the gospel through common grace and when you said "yes," He took your "yes" and made it effective for salvation. All this was done while you were condemned and spiritually dead in a very wicked state...total depravity. Do you understand?

The total depravity of a spiritually dead person is in a situation of total and complete helplessness. Spiritual death means helplessness to have anything to do with God. They are in a pit, and there is nothing they can do to get out of it. They have a soul and that soul has self consciousness, a conscience, mentality, and a will. That soul can make decisions. But those decisions are locked in place in the human physical life. The spiritual connection between the unbeliever in total depravity and God doesn't exist. There is NO RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD as a condemned depraved unbeliever.

But the GRACE of God has appeared...

When you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the two ministries of God the Holy Spirit and believe in Jesus, that common and efficacious grace are precious and it is for your total benefit and it is based on LOVE. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him (has faith in Him) shall never perish, but have eternal life."*



Here are more verses for you to see that a depraved person can believe in Jesus: *John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word (the Gospel through the Holy Spirit's common grace), and believes Him (the Father) who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of (spiritual) death (and condemnation) into (eternal) life."*

*John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day (Rapture)."*

*John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes (has faith in Jesus) has eternal life."*

John 20:31 "...but these have been written (about Jesus' miracles) so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have (eternal) life in His name."

1 Tim 1:16 "Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."



Summary (note – all this happens at the same moment):

- ✓ The condemned, depraved unbeliever or ungodly one believes in Jesus for salvation.
- ✓ At the same time he or she receives God's righteousness (+R) imputed or assigned (credited) to him or her.
- ✓ At the same time he or she is justified...declared perfectly righteous...vindicated by God.
- ✓ At the same time he or she is regenerated or "born again" spiritually.
- ✓ At the same time he or she receives the imputation or assignment of eternal life to the new human spirit the Holy Spirit gives to him or to her.
- ✓ At the same time he or she becomes a new creature (nature) in Christ and becomes God's child with His new eternal life and nature.

This beautiful indescribable gift of salvation through Jesus Christ is given to a spiritually dead ungodly depraved one who must rely on two ministries of God the Holy Spirit because he or she is deaf to the Gospel (needs common grace) and his or her faith is voiceless (needs efficacious grace).

Look at what the Holy Spirit was doing in **Genesis 1:2-4** "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the (Holy) Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (3) And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. (4) And God saw that the light was good..." The Holy Spirit was moving over the waters and melted the ice pack that was earth and restored the earth for the creation of mankind.

NOW however, TODAY in the Church Age the Holy Spirit is moving over the surface of the earth, searching and watching for souls of unbelievers that know there is a God and are ready to hear the Gospel. They are seeking answers...they are seekers and the Holy Spirit has all the answers for depraved condemned mankind thanks to the love of God.



Let's look at the four basic sides of spiritual death of the totally depraved person:

1. Total depravity...wickedness or evil includes the sin nature's trends toward both moral and immoral evil.
2. Total separation from God. ☹️
3. Total helplessness to establish a relationship with God. ☹️
4. Dichotomy... a really BIG word that means the unbeliever has only a soul and a body, but no human spirit and he cannot understand spiritual things from the God's Word.



Total depravity or wickedness is from God's point of view. He looks at the spiritually dead unbeliever and says:

NO GOOD (Adam's original sin plus old sin nature)

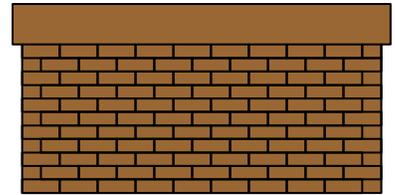
NO WAY (separated from God with no ability to come back to God)

NO HOW (total helplessness)

Our key Bible passage for this doctrine is **Ephesians 2:1-5**. "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 (Satan), of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (unbelievers). (3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath (depraved and under God's wrath or anger), even as the rest. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead (spiritually) in our sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..."

The spiritually dead person can use their volition or free will two ways in evangelism: First, while the unbeliever can't understand the Gospel, he makes a decision to listen to the Gospel. This is a totally non-works decision so it is allowed with God's grace policy. Secondly, the volition or free will of the spiritually dead person can respond positively to the Gospel once the Holy Spirit makes it understandable to him (common grace). But that faith by itself is ineffective for salvation. The Holy Spirit is the only One that can make it effective and that's His ministry of efficacious grace.

So the spiritually dead person by his free will can make a rightful decision to listen to the Gospel and to believe in Jesus. But these positive decisions come from a person in spiritual death...depraved...condemned...separated from God the Father. So these decisions have no ability apart from the ministry of God the Holy Spirit to be effective.



The Holy Spirit knows through His omniscience the perfect time for any unbeliever to hear the Gospel of Jesus and be saved. Look at **2 Cor 6:1-2** "And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain (2) for He says, 'AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU. Behold, now is THE ACCEPTABLE TIME, behold, now is THE DAY OF SALVATION.'"

With this in mind we will continue next time in our study with more details about how totally depraved unbelievers are saved by God the Holy Spirit.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, September 30, 2010  
Lighthouse Bible Church

