

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Acts 2:38

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Acts 2.38, Peter responded to the question asked by the those who were convicted of their sins. (Acts 2.37,38)
2. What does it mean to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? Have we received this gift today? There are four suggestions.

I. RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD?

- A. Some suggest that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the Bible.
 1. We are influenced by the word of God. (1 Thess. 2.13)
 2. Often the Holy Spirit is used in reference to the Bible as the product of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8.14-16)
- B. **ACTS 2.41:** *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized...”* They received the word before baptism.

II. RECEIVING A MIRACULOUS ABILITY?

- A. Miraculous abilities are gifts. (1 Cor. 12.1,4,8-10)
- B. If such was the case, then everyone would receive some miraculous ability. (Acts 2.38,39)
 1. The Samaritans were saved but had not receive the gift of the Holy Spirit until later. (Acts 8.12-17)
 2. Did the Ethiopian receive the gift? (Acts 8.35-38)
 3. When did Cornelius receive the gift? (Acts 10.43-48)

III. RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLING?

- A. It is true that the Bible teaching the concept of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 5.32; Eph 1.13)
- B. However, the Jews on the day of Pentecost had no concept of this indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

IV. RECEIVING THE GIFT OF SALVATION?

- A. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift of salvation.
- B. The Holy Spirit is involved in my salvation. (Titus 3.4-7)

CONCLUSION: The gift of salvation is available to all. (Titus 2.11)

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **FEBRUARY 27, 2022**
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 27, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE WISE SHALL SHINE

How beautiful it is to look up and see the darkness blanketed with the brightness of the starlit sky. The contrast between them is stark. The darkness of the night utterly fails to overcome the shining light. The darker the night the brighter the light emanates from its nighttime backdrop.

In a vision concerning future events an angel expresses this sentiment to Daniel: *“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever”* (Dan. 12.3). Those who live righteously in a dark world and are active in helping others to do the same are like the bright stars in the night sky.

Jesus uses a similar analogy describing the influence of the faithful in a world of darkness. Lanterns are not put under a basket but are clearly for the purpose of lighting up a room. The application? As lanterns, Christians are to *“let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matt. 5.16).

Christians ought to be distinct from the crowd. Without the world seeing us as any different from them, there is no motivation for them to change. However, if we let our light shine, we become a beacon from a lighthouse showing the way to a safe harbor.

With the world in such a state of moral obliquity, those who are lost need us to a living demonstration of hope, faith and love, to show the world that Christ is living in us.

CLP

JESUS HELPS ME WHEN I AM IN POOR HEALTH

MATTHEW 20:34

INTRODUCTION:

1. Physical and mental health issues affect the lives of millions who struggle every day.
2. In Matthew 20:29-34, Jesus helps a man who had been struggling with his health. [Read]
3. This account which appears in each of the synoptic gospels can help us when we struggle with poor health.

I. JESUS HAS FEELINGS FOR YOU

- A. **MATTHEW 20:34:** *“So Jesus had compassion”*
1. Compassion (splanchnizomai): Literally, “inward parts.”
 2. Jesus was being followed by “great multitudes,” but He cared about one individual. (Matt. 20:29)
 3. While others saw this man as a nuisance, Jesus called him to Himself. (Matt. 20:32)
- B. If you are suffering from poor health, Jesus feels for you.
1. Some health issues are obvious while others cause us to suffer in silence. But Jesus knows and cares!
 2. Repeatedly, Jesus stopped to give His attention to those who were suffering. (Matt. 14:14; 15:32)

II. JESUS EXPECTS FAITH FROM YOU

- A. **MARK 10:52:** *“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your faith has made you well.’”*
1. Jesus often credited a person’s faith. (Matt. 9:22; 15:28)
 2. Bible faith as accepting and obeying God. (Rom. 5:1)
 3. This man had the faith to believe in Jesus and know that He could heal him. (Mark 10:47,51; Matt. 22:42; 23:8)
- B. If you are suffering from poor health, Jesus still expects you to be a person of faith.
1. **HEBREWS 10:38:** *“The just shall live by faith”*
 2. Do you believe in the promises of God. (Heb. 13:5)

III. JESUS WANTS FOLLOWERS FROM YOU

- A. **LUKE 18:43:** *“all the people...gave praise to God.”*
- B. If you are suffering from poor health, Jesus still expects you to lead others to Him. (1 Pet. 3:15)

CONCLUSION: No greater pain than that experienced by Jesus!

LEARNING HOW TO BUILD: ATTITUDE

To be a successful builder, you need a plan, the right tools, and a desire to build. Just as the man built his house on the sand (Matt. 7:26,27), building anything without proper planning will surely fail. Such is the case in building physical structures, and such is the case spiritually. Paul warns us that when we build, *“let each one take heed how he builds on it”* (1 Cor. 3:10). We build our families. We are involved in building the church. We work hard to build a life for ourselves. In our of our building projects, there is a process that must be considered.

Before we begin building, we must have a proper attitude. After hearing about the condition of Jerusalem, Nehemiah traveled to the city to help rebuild the city. It seemed like an impossible task. The Israelites were discouraged by the condition of the city (Ezra 3:12). The Israelites were disheartened by their enemies who kept trying to undermine their efforts to build (Neh. 4:1,2). They were overwhelmed with the monumental task before them (Neh 4:10) and the assaults from their enemies (Neh. 4:11). Yet they succeeded in rebuilding the city, the walls, and the gates. How did they overcome these seemingly insurmountable obstacles? Attitude!

First, they had a willingness to work. Nehemiah 4:6 tells us that the Israelites *“built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.”* There was a determination in the heart of the Jews that was so strong that nothing was going to stop them from finishing the job. So much so that half of the Jews worked on construction while the other half stood guard with weapons (Neh. 4:16).

Second, they trusted in the intervention of God. By themselves, such building project might have been impossible, but with God, it was impossible not to succeed. Nehemiah reminded them to *“remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses”* (Neh. 4:14). They knew that God was involved and trusted that He would see them through.

Whether you are building your family, building a better life for yourself, or involved in building up the church, it begins with a proper attitude. There needs to be a desire to build, even in the midst of trials. And you need to always include God in the project. After all, *“unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”* (Ps. 127:1).

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