

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

09 November 2008
VOLUME 8; ISSUE 45

Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650

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Our Elders:

Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)

Tom Witherspoon
(766 – 5368)

Deacons:

Joe Cronin

Jim Hall

David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

Bible Facts about the Holy Spirit

Part VI

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

REVIEW: Part I (Identity), II (Work), III (Indwelling), IV (Baptism), and V (Given) of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) is an individual within the godhead (*theios*) and recognized in the scriptures as **deity** (Acts 5:3-4). The Holy Spirit has a distinct **work** in the sanctification of man by the Word of God (Jn. 16:8ff). Those guided by the word of God are said to have the **indwelling** of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:4, 9, 14; Gal. 3:1-2; 5:15-18). **Baptism** of the Holy Spirit occurred in the lives of the apostles so that God's power would be made manifest and their message confirmed as divine revelation (Mk. 16:20; Acts 1:5, 8). The Holy Spirit is so closely connected to the gospel message that sometimes the scriptures use the name "Holy Spirit" in the place of the gospel (see Rom. 5:5) (see also the name of Christ used in the same way at Col. 1:25-27). God thereby "**gives**" the Holy Spirit (the gospel) to those who desire it. Today's article will examine the "**Gift of the Holy Spirit.**"

Preliminary Statements

There is a definite correlation between being given the Holy Spirit, having the Holy Spirit dwel within, and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is **given** to those who seek (Lk. 11:10), asks (Lk. 11:13) and obey the truth (Acts 5:32). The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is "**given**" to those who are guided in their lives by gospel truths (I Jn. 4:13). The "gift of the Holy Spirit" is **given** to those who answer the call of the gospel (Acts 2:38-39). All of these gifts are freely given to those who so desire to accept them through obedience (Rom. 6:16, 23). So, what is the "gift of the Holy Spirit?"

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Report on Members:

Nicholas Long broke his ankle last Wednesday. **Quincy Adams'** eye surgery was incomplete and he will have to be going to Dallas for further procedures. **Paul McBroom** has been ill and unable to attend this week. **Pam Husak** continues to recover from her recent surgery.

April Gresham (along with Benjamin and Zachary) moved out on Saturday. **Thomas'** long deployment to Iraq has ended and the family will be meeting and living in Kentucky.

Bible Studies: Please continue to pray that much good would come of our Bible studies. We currently have eleven men who are studying while in prison.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

What do men say about the "Gift of the Holy Spirit?"

At Acts 2:38 Peter said, "*Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" H. Leo Boles said that "It seems that some of the early Christians received miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit, and that this is what Peter meant" (pp. 48 / Commentary on Acts). The Pulpit Commentary states that this gift is the forgiveness of sins, justification, and sanctification of man (PPC v. 18, pp. 54). Lenski writes that the gift of the Holy Spirit is received by repentance and baptism. "The genitive is appositional; as in v. 33 the promise is the Holy Spirit, so here the gift is the Holy Spirit... it denotes the gift of grace and salvation which is always present in the heart which the Spirit enters" (Lenski on Acts, pp. 109). Johnny Stringer writes, "It is reasonable to interpret Peter's promise regarding the gift of the Holy Spirit in the light of Joel's prophecy, which he had quoted, regarding the Spirit's coming to all flesh. That prophecy obviously had reference to the apostles and to Christians who would receive miraculous powers through the laying on of the apostle's hands" (Truth Commentaries on Acts pp. 46). Albert Barnes writes, "The gift of the Holy Ghost here does not mean his extraordinary gifts, or the power of working miracles, but is simply means, you shall partake of the influences of the Holy Ghost as far as they may be adapted to your case... i.e., peace, calmness, and joy that the Spirit lends to give evidence that one is born again" (quote / paraphrase to shorten jcr, Barnes' Notes pp. 54). J. W. McGarvey writes, "The gift of the Holy Spirit should not be confounded with the Holy Spirit's gifts, nor with the fruits of the Spirit... It is analogous to the expression, 'promise of the Holy Spirit,' in verse 33, above, where Peter says, 'having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has shed forth this which you now see and hear.' The gifts of the Holy Spirit were various miraculous powers, intellectual and physical. These were conferred only upon a few individuals, while the gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to all who repent and are immersed" (Acts pp. 44).

To summarize these author's comments we find three primary beliefs. Some believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit is being endowed with miraculous powers. Secondly, others believe it to be an indwelling of calmness and peace. Thirdly, some write that it is the forgiveness (i.e., sanctification and justification).

Continued next week (jcr)

The Purity of the Church

Ephesians 5:25-27

Introduction:

The church is comprised of people who have answered the gospel's call to receive the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:37-41; 4:4; 5:11). Members of the church are purchased by the forgiving blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28). God's objective for the church is that it be pure and without blemishes of sin (Eph. 5:25-27). This lesson shall focus on maintaining the purity of the members of a local church.

I. What makes a church?

A. People that have been Sanctified (I Cor. 1:1:1-3):

1. "Separate from things profane and dedicate to God, to consecrate and so render inviolable... Since only what is pure and without blemish can be devoted and offered to God (Lev. 22:20; Deut. 15:21; 17:1) sanctified signifies to purify and to cleanse externally, to purify by expiation, free from guilt of sin: I Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:10, 14, 29; 13:12... to purify internally by reformation of the soul" (Thayer 6).
2. Sanctification occurs at baptism (Acts 22:16; I Cor. 6:11) and made possible by the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28).

B. People who share a common Fellowship (II Cor. 6:14-15):

1. Fellowship means to be "associated or share" together (Moulton 235).
2. That which draws people together to experience Christian fellowship is interest and reverence for the Word of God (cf. **Jn. 6:44; Gal. 2:9-10**).
3. Those who are sanctified comprise a fellowship of saints (Jn. 17:17; Col. 1:22).

C. People who are united in truth (I Cor. 12:12, 27-28; Eph. 4:1ff):

1. Unity is "The state of being one, or united; oneness; singleness" (Webster's New World Dictionary pp. 1563).
2. God's church is thereby comprised of people who are knit (Col. 2:1-2, 19), fitly framed (Eph. 2:19-21), built (Eph. 2:22), and fitly joined (Eph. 4:16) together.
3. The church's unity is founded in the members having one mind (I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:1-2; 4:2), purpose (Phil. 1:27), and mouth (Rom. 15:5-7).

II. What Destroys a local Church?

A. People who loose their sanctification (Lev. 20:7-8; Jn. 17:17).

B. People who do not share a common desire and interest in the word of God (I Cor. 10:14-22).

C. People who seek their unity in areas other than truth (I Cor. 1:10-11).

III. How can a church maintain its purity?

A. Repentance and sorrow of sin (consider the seven churches of Asia / Rev. 2 – 3).

B. By exercising timely admonition, warnings, and discipline (I Cor. 5:1ff).

Conclusion:

Christ shed his blood upon the cross that man may be forgiven of sins. Why would anyone think that God would permit sin within His church seeing that His only Son had to die to rid the world of it? The eternal kingdom of God, the church, will always be comprised of the sanctified cleansed souls of men.