

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

1. **There has been much diversity over the statement**
"The gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:36-38

2. **What were these people really promised?**
 - A. **The Holy Spirit Himself?**

 - B. **A gift from the Holy Spirit?**

 - C. **Was the Holy Spirit Himself the gift or was He the giver?**

3. **In this morning's lesson we will attempt to answer these questions.**

Comparison of "Gift of" Passages

1. **To get a better understanding of the wording of Acts 2:38, we can look at some other passages of scripture that uses the same wording.**

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew **the gift of God**, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**, (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of **the gift of Christ**. (KJV)

Acts 8:20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that **the gift of God** could be purchased with money! (NKJV)

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit**. (NKJV)

2. **In each one of these passages you have what God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit would give.**
 - A. **God was not the gift but the giver.**
 - B. **Christ was not the gift but the giver.**
 - C. **The Holy Spirit was not the gift but the giver.**

- 1) A gift implies there being a giver. One cannot have a gift without there being a giver and receiver. If the Holy Spirit is "the gift," then who is the giver? This concept would make the Holy Spirit the gift and giver - one and the same.**
- 2) The gift of God was not God but rather the living water that He would give.**
- 3) The gift of Christ was not Christ, but the gifts named in the text.**
- 4) Likewise, the gift of the Holy Spirit was not the Holy Spirit Himself, but the salvation promised in Acts 2:21.**
 - a. This preceeds Acts 2:38**

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

- 3. If you read about where one received the gift of the Ford Foundation he would not think that the Ford Foundation was the gift, but that it was the giver.**

The Gift of the Holy Spirit in Immediate Context

1. The point of Peter's sermon was this:

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord **shall be saved**.

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass that **whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved**. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

A. During Peter's sermon he identified the Lord they were to call on, he explained the reason they should call on him, and he explained how they were to do it.

1) The emphasis is on the "whosoever" which is comparable to "all nations" in similar passages.

Paul wrote:

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For **"whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

2) Paul indicates that Joel was showing that both Jew and Gentile would have the right to God's blessings by obedience to His will.

A. Notice what Peter says:

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is **to you** and **to your children**, and **to all who are afar off**, as many as the Lord our God will call."

1) The recipients of the promise is to you (Jews), your children (Jews) and to all who are afar off (Gentiles).

Paul wrote:

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who **once were far off** have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

2. In Acts 2:21, salvation is promised to both Jews and Gentiles.**A. After Peter stated that the baptized would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, he stated the reason in verse 39 when he said...**

Acts 2:39.....For the promise is to you... (promise of the Holy Spirit unto salvation)

1) He is referring to the salvation of verse 21.

- **"whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

Remote Context of Acts 26:16-18**Acts 26:16-18****1. What we read here is a commentary on the gift of the Holy Spirit.****A. Paul was not teaching anything different. The promised inheritance that resulted from their receiving the remission of sins was the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

How Can this Salvation Be the Gift of the Holy Spirit?

1. Peter wrote to the children of God and said:

1 Peter 1:3-5, 13-23

- A. These brethren were called “children of obedience” (v14).
- B. They had been redeemed by the blood of Jesus (v18-19).
- C. They had their souls purified by obeying the truth (v22).
- D. They had been begotten by the Word of God (v23).

2. This is a description of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Begotten by the word of God (**Work of the Holy Spirit - convicting men of sin**), obedient children have a living hope based on a living Savior, are promised an inheritance that would not fade away, and are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

3. Peter also declares:

1 Peter 1:10-12

- A. Remember, the Holy Spirit enabled men to prophesy concerning this salvation.

2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, **but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

- 1) The Holy Spirit enabled men to preach this message of salvation.
- 2) This is why the salvation of Acts 2:21 can be and indeed is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Conclusion

Salvation Is the Gift of the Holy Spirit

1. Salvation was prophesied by the Holy Spirit.
2. Salvation was announced by those who preached the gospel by the Holy Spirit.
3. Their message of salvation was validated by the Holy Spirit.
4. The promise of the *gift of the Holy Spirit* in Acts 2:38 was not only to those present but for all who would truly repent and be baptized.
5. Everyone who complies with the conditions of Acts 2:38 receives the gift of the Holy Spirit and that gift is salvation.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

- A. These times of refreshing is salvation which is *the gift of the Holy Spirit*.

