

GOD'S GIFT KEEPS ON GIVING!

TEXT: **Acts 5:29-32:**

²⁹ Then Peter and the other Apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

³¹ Him hath God exalted with His Right Hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

³² And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him.

INTRODUCTION:

The background for my message to you here today is found in **Acts 5:17-32**. The apostles had just been released from jail by an angel of the Lord! Captains and officers, alerted by the chief priests, hurried to get them away from the temple area where they were preaching. They reminded the apostles an order had been given that they should not preach in the Name of Jesus.

I. The apostles had received much from God:

- A. Remission of their sins
- B. Eternal life
- C. The gift of the Holy Spirit in their lives for comfort, guidance, and for their spiritual growth in the gifts He bestows — (God's gift that keeps giving)
- D. Companionship with Jesus
- E. This spectacular deliverance from jail



II. These benefits were given them because of their faith, and they were kept because of faith and obedience. (Faith and works)

- A. They were told to preach in Jesus' Name.
- B. They obeyed God and gave faithful witness.

NOTE: Not all who are given great gifts are willing to give grateful obedience.

ILLUSTRATION:

A beggar received a generous gift from a wealthy man. The benefactor asked the beggar to deliver a message for him to some one who lived nearby. The beggar replied, “*Sir, I beg, I do not run errands!*”

APPLICATION:

There are many Christians who have accepted salvation through the atoning death of the Savior who look forward to being joint heirs with Him of the riches of Heaven, yet they are not willing to deliver His message to those nearby.

III. Excuses for not witnessing, teaching, etc.

A. I’m too embarrassed to speak of Him in public.

So was Peter, before the Holy Spirit filled him.

B. I don’t really know enough about the Bible to teach a class.

The Spirit will cause you to understand the Scriptures when you study in His Presence.

C. I’m not good enough to be a fit witness for Him.

The Holy Spirit gave Peter the humility to see his faults, too, but He also supplied the strength for Peter not to stumble because of his own weakness. His witness was not of his own self, but it was of Christ!

IV. The promise of the Holy Spirit is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 2:39: For the Promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Even to you and to me!

A. As we obey God, repent of our sins, and trust in the Saviour, the Holy

Spirit is given to us in fullness to enable us to more completely trust, and more gladly obey.

1. The Holy Spirit directs as in preparing Peter to be in the right attitude to meet the messengers from Cornelius.

Acts 10:19-20: While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

²⁰ Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.



2. The Holy Spirit provides strength to carry on the Lord's mission in the world. He is a Life-giving Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit comforts. Of Him Jesus spoke when He said:
John 14:16: And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;

ILLUSTRATION:

A pastor friend says that when he was a small boy, his mother would always make a bed for him on the sofa when he was sick. She would get out a special "comforter" — a soft, warm cover that was always used for those who were ill. It made this boy feel loved and protected even though he had to be sick for awhile. His first idea of the Holy Spirit was that He was a Comforter.

4. The Holy Spirit changes your life. Your life becomes one of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and temperance.

Paul lists these as things that grow naturally in a Spirit-filled life:

Galatians 5:22-23:

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

²³ ***Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.***

5. The Holy Spirit keeps us in constant remembrance that we live in the Presence of God, redeemed forever.

Only by the “witness of the Holy Spirit” can you sing and mean it — that wonderful old Hymn, Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine.

V. How To Allow The Holy Spirit To Work Freely In Your Life

A. Be open to His guidance.

1. Pray for it
2. Watch for it
3. Test the leadings with Bible truth

B. Be faithful in the disciplines God has ordered

1. The Ten Commandments given through Moses
2. The two great commandments given by Jesus
3. The call to be aware of the needs of those around us and to give generously of our time and money to supply those needs. As Rufus Jones, a great Quaker writer, phrased it: *“The one really big business in this world is the business of being a transmitter of the love of God.”*
4. The instructions to forgive, as you have been forgiven

VI. There is a dismal alternative

Disobey God, and thereby quench the Holy Spirit

1. He will not always strive with you.
2. You can come to a hardness of heart where you will no longer be given the Spirit’s influence and direction. You don’t want to walk alone.

A. God is here, as the Holy Spirit, to transform our life.

B. In a transformed life, we go out to gladly witness and to loving service.

CONCLUSION:

The new life that filled the Apostles is meant for each one of us. We humbly confess our need of a Saviour, accept Him, then live in His way of life.



The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. And that Spirit keeps on giving the choicest of gifts!

SUPPLEMENT:

Acts 5:32: And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him.

The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Him — to Christians — Believers.

Luke 10:20: Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in Heaven.

Rejoice not that the Devil is subject to you, but that your names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The Disciples had been saved, but were not Spirit-filled.

Being saved and then Spirit-filled are a Type or Foreshadow seen in the following passages of the Old Testament.

Exodus 29:4, 21:

⁴ And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.



²¹ And thou shalt take of the blood that is upon the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be hallowed, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.

Verse 4: is a Type or Foreshadow of Regeneration — Salvation.

**Verse 21: is a type of Foreshadow of being Baptized with Holy Spirit.
Anointing oil is a type or Foreshadow of the Holy Spirit.**

1. John baptized with water unto repentance but . . . :

Matthew 3:11: I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire:



Were the disciples of John Saved? — Yes

Were apostles of Old Testament saved? — Yes.

2. Philip went down to the city of Samaria, in **Acts 8:5**; they were saved and baptized.

Acts 8:8: And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:14-15: Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

¹⁵ Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit:

HOW TO BE SPIRIT FILLED:

1. **We must obey the teachings of our Lord.**

Acts 5:32: And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him.

2. **Present your body.**

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

3. **Love**

Romans 12:9: Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor [hate] that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

4. Love your enemies.

Romans 12:20: Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

5. Prayer



Luke 24:49: And, behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Luke 11:13: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?

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