



# THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GIFTS ON FIRE

You were baptized with the  
Spirit that dwells within  
you.

**NOW ASK YOURSELF**

Do you know how the gifts of  
the Holy Spirit flow from you to  
others?



## THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GIFTS

If you ask most Christians, “Are you saved and going to Heaven?” they will often reply, “Yes, I believe in Jesus.” Yet, this is precisely why Jesus said the gate is narrow. Scripture teaches that our *works of faith* are inspired by our *faith itself*. As Christians, we also understand that works without faith amount to nothing.

But how can we discern whether our works are inspired by the Holy Spirit—or merely by our own intentions?

When you accept Jesus, you are truly saved. However, if we fast forward to the second judgment—what then? There are no second chances. Our works of faith will be examined, and Jesus Himself will stand as our advocate before God. The question we must ask is: how do we prepare for that day with the spiritual tools of today necessary to stand firm?

We must recognize that water baptism represents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—filling us as a cup is filled with water. Yet, there is another, distinct baptism: the baptism of the Holy Spirit’s gifts. This is when the water

overflows, producing genuine *works of faith* aligned with God's will.

When our actions are driven by our own desires rather than the Spirit's leading, there is no spiritual reward. A historical example can be seen in the early church, when believers sold all their possessions to fund the church to take care of one another. Though their intentions were biblical, the outcome was most likely not Spirit-led and ultimately unsustainable. "When God Guides, God Provides."

In contrast, a true Spirit-led event occurred when the gift of tongues was given, enabling others to speak fluently in previously unknown foreign languages. This demonstrates the clear difference between human ambition and divine direction.

Scripture reveals that there are indeed two baptisms of the Holy Spirit: one that dwells *within* us, and another that *overflows* outward like fire empowering us to act according to the Spirit's guidance for the benefit of others.

Matthew 3:11

"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Acts 1:4

"Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me.'"

Acts 2:1-3

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them."

John 20:22

"And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

## **Paul's Conversion and the Indwelling of the Spirit**

On his way to Damascus, Jesus appeared to Paul. At that moment, Paul was converted.

An ordinary disciple named Ananias was called by God to restore Paul's eye sight and to fill him with the Holy Spirit. From that point on, Paul was filled inwardly, having the Holy Spirit dwelling within him.

## **The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit**

When Peter visited Cornelius the centurion, he spoke to a group of Cornelius's friends. Peter shared the message of Jesus Christ, and those who traveled with Peter were astonished to see the Holy Spirit poured out upon the Gentiles.

The gifts of the Spirit came before water baptism. This marked the beginning of Gentiles being allowed to be baptized in water. Once it was shown that God blessed the Gentiles with the gift of speaking in tongues, they could now be baptized in water.

Acts 10:44–48

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter responded, 'Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?' And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days."

Soon after, Peter had to explain his involvement with the spiritual event that occurred, to the Jews in Jerusalem, and when doing so recalls what the Lord had said:

Acts 11:16

“And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

## **The Different Ways the Holy Spirit Was Received**

Within the Book of Acts, there were various experiences, methods, and ways people received and were filled with the Holy Spirit:

Acts 8 – The Holy Spirit was imparted by the laying on of hands by Peter and John.

Acts 9 – The Holy Spirit was imparted to Paul through Ananias, an ordinary disciple.

Acts 8:18–20 – Simon tried to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit to sell it to others.

Acts 10 – No hands were laid upon the Gentiles; the Spirit interrupted Peter and came upon them as they believed.

Acts 19 – Paul laid his hands on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

No two experiences were the same. There was no specific method or formula to receive the Spirit's gifts. We cannot pattern our experiences to figure out spiritual guidance, because God works uniquely within each person, according to their unique temperament and personality.

The danger arises when we assume we understand the Holy Spirit's intentions because of how He revealed Himself in one instance, but not in another. This can mislead us into relying on emotional or intellectual interpretations directing our lives towards earthly desires.

If we seek a certain type of experience, we risk putting our faith in the experience rather than into God Himself. Then, when the Holy Spirit does move in our lives, we may miss it and fail to recognize the gift God is offering.

Perhaps the best approach is to remain open and let God work as He desires—through the Holy Spirit doing supernatural blessings, that may seem natural to us. As any old normal day occurrence. If we are not careful, we can miss His movement altogether.

## **We are made up of three parts**

1. Our Body
2. Emotions (aka mind)
3. Spirit (aka soul)

Why does this matter? How does it influence our relationship with the Holy Spirit, and how does it impact our spiritual walk toward the narrow gate and a favorable second judgment? It is because all things are interconnected and draw from one another. Whether positive or negative, each part works together toward either good or harm.

Beginning with the body; when we are thirsty, we require water. Without water for approximately three days, we can die. Our bodies warn us through signals of thirst—from a dry mouth to repeatedly expressing, 'I'm thirsty.' In this state, we naturally do little else but seek water, driven by the instinct for survival.

The emotions seek love, security, and belonging. For example, when a long-term partner passes away, the surviving one often declines soon after because their emotional need "to be needed" is no longer met. This is compared to being in a desert without water.



Our spirit thirsts for our Heavenly Father. It burns with a deep desire to know Jesus and to be drawn toward our salvation. This is what Jesus meant when He said, “If any man thirst...”—He was speaking of the spirit’s longing for God.

Because these three parts are connected, when one suffers, the others are affected. If something affects you emotionally, it can influence your physical health. Likewise, spiritual experiences can affect your body and emotions.

This makes it difficult to discern whether we are facing an emotional attack or a spiritual attack. What feels like emotional pain may in fact be spiritual warfare. Perhaps many forms of mental illness could be healed through Jesus Christ. When mental distress occurs, it may often be rooted in a deeper spiritual struggle.

We must feed our spirit so it remains strong against spiritual warfare. Sometimes, people mistake physical and emotional experiences for spiritual ones.

Imagine being in the wilderness, dying of thirst. Someone comes along and praises your courage for enduring the adventure. Your emotional needs might be touched—but your body is still dying of thirst. You cannot feed one part of yourself and expect it to nourish the others.

In the same way, we must feed the spirit with God's Word and Christlike actions. The world constantly attacks us to satisfy our spiritual hunger with worldly desires, but that only leaves us empty. Material items like big boats and luxury cars are spiritual buzz kills. Only the nourishment that God can provide will feed our spiritual hunger.

## **A Powerful Gift of Fire**

The gift of the Holy Spirit is exactly that—a gift. It is not a reward, and it cannot be purchased. As we begin to seek the Holy Spirit's gifts, Satan attacks us by telling us we are unworthy. He constantly condemns us for our shortcomings and failures. Because there is truth in our faults, his accusations feel powerful. This can make us believe that God does not want to do anything for us because we are not worthy. We reach a point where we stop asking God for anything and start believing our insecurities. But Scripture says that if we ask, and it aligns with God's desires, we will receive.

As a gift, the Holy Spirit must be received. Jesus said it must be received. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us so we can overcome evil and have the power to witness for Jesus. We must ask for the gifts through prayer. Because we have free will, we must choose to ask—God will never override our free will. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened.

Jesus said that anything we ask in prayer, believing, we shall receive. If we ask for anything within God's will, He will provide. So if we ask for the Holy Spirit's gifts to accomplish God's will, it will be done, and we can have confidence and faith that it will happen. How much more, then, can we accomplish for our Heavenly Father? How much more will we be spiritually rewarded?

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. The greatest obstacle disciples face when asking for the Holy Spirit is expecting or wanting supernatural evidence that God has answered our prayer. We look for signs to confirm God's presence, just as Thomas wanted to place his finger in Jesus' wounds to confirm He rose from the death of crucifixion. When we take God at His word without requiring a sign, our relationship with the Spirit becomes as unique as our DNA—no two experiences should be the same.

I believe the only one thing we have in common is this: when we look back, we can always see God's hand in our lives. The Signs that guide us to our spiritual destination are shown to us afterwards, not during our journey.

When we take a test in school, we have to study. We must have faith that we did our best to study. During the test, we are not allowed to look at the answers. Only afterward do we review the results to see the fruit of our work that we accomplished.

In the same way, when we follow God's Word and go through life's tests, faith is the test. The Holy Spirit guides us and provides gifts. Afterward, we can look back and see the works of faith that were completed through God's hand in our lives. At that point, we can see how God revealed Himself along the way.

Do you want to see God? We are made in His image—we are Christlike. We were created to reflect God, so we should stop expecting to see God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit physically. We were not meant to see God directly; we were meant to see God within one another. We are the visible image. If you want to know what God or Jesus looks like, look at each other. Stop looking upward expecting an appearance—He is already present in His creations.

Do you want to hear God's voice? Our faith allows us to receive the Holy Spirit's gifts and do the works Jesus did. When Jesus performed miracles, no extra words were needed. In those moments, people could "hear" God's voice through the actions themselves. The love and power were unmistakable without a single spoken word. So stop asking for signs or constantly questioning, "What should I do? What's wrong? How can I fix this?" God's voice is always around us—we just are not listening. Increase the volume of your faith by tuning in to the Holy Spirit's gifts. Then you will "hear" God's voice clearly as you see the

works of faith produced by those gifts. We may not be meant to hear God audibly; We do hear Him when we are witnessing and sharing our testimonies with followers and non-belivers.

Do you want to work for God? How do you know if you are walking on the spiritual path toward Heaven according to God's desires? The gifts of the Holy Spirit working through others will guide us clearly. Since actions speak louder than words, all we must do is "hear" with our eyes. If you want to work for God, understand this: you cannot choose it like a career. You must be chosen, gifted, and blessed. And even then, you are not working for God—God is working on you. That's why, at times, we are led to what seems like another dead end in life, thinking we have made another mistake. But often, that moment is meant to help others. After fulfilling that purpose, we can then see the U-turn that brings us back to our spiritual pathway. We realize the dead end was simply a pit stop to refuel our spiritual fruit.

## **Power To Witness**

Jesus said that after the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will be His witnesses, as we are told to preach Christ to the uttermost parts of the world.

Many people associate witnessing with their faith, testimony, scripture, and their need for Jesus. Yet our actions often speak louder than words. It is our walk with Christ that becomes an example to others of what a faithful believer looks like. We can simply live in a way that reflects what Jesus has done in our lives. That is the strongest witness we can offer. Often, what we say is discredited because our actions reveal who we truly are and what we truly do.

We cannot say that Jesus gives us peace while we are blowing up in anger. We cannot say that Jesus brings joy while being grumpy all the time. What we say about Jesus should align with our daily actions. When people see the fruit in your life, they will ask you to share the truth behind that fruit—how they too can experience peace, joy, love, and inner happiness.

When our lives align with our testimony, we become an example to other believers. Jesus summarized this truth when He said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” Jesus could declare this because He was a faithful and true witness. You could know exactly what God was like by looking at Jesus. Likewise, after people observe our lives, we should be able to say, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve witnessed Jesus,” as they witness our Christ-like actions.

If you want to take a test of self-examination, read 1 Corinthians 13 and remove the word charity, inserting your own name. You will quickly discover how true of a witness you really are. When we insert Jesus' name, the text flows perfectly. When we insert our name, it rarely measures up. This is why we need the Holy Spirit's power to be a great witness.

Romans 7:15 shows that Paul was not listening to the Spirit. He was doing things by his own free will—things he did not want to do. The sin that naturally dwells within us prevents us from doing good. When we read about Jesus, of course we all want to be like our Heavenly Father. Yet our bodies do not desire spiritual life; they crave worldly appetites. Our spirit desires to be like Jesus. There is a spiritual war between the flesh and the spirit. We do not always do the spiritual desires that we wish to do. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to overcome this war within. Jesus said we will receive power when the Spirit comes upon us.

Peter expressed the desire of his heart to be a faithful witness of Christ and never deny Him. But when he was asked, "Aren't you one of His disciples?" Peter denied Jesus three times as the rooster crowed. It was not because Peter was unfaithful. It was because he lacked the Spirit's power to overcome his fear during a threatening moment. Later, when Peter explained to the Jews by what power the lame man was healed, he was

now a powerful witness—because the Holy Spirit had empowered him to speak God’s word with boldness.

The Holy Spirit is the only way to overcome our flesh, to fight the spiritual war, to pass through the narrow gate, and to stand in the second judgment—allowing us to rest in Heaven with our Heavenly Father and the family who made it there. For this reason, it is vital to teach our children, so they can teach their children in return. This is where the Jews fell short as generations grew up, slowly letting God and the Holy Spirit fade from their lives. Do not let your children walk toward the pit of fire for eternity. Imagine if your child disappeared for twenty-four hours—would you risk them disappearing for eternity? We need to ask ourselves: Are we hearing the rooster crow, or are we performing miracles for the lame?

## **Lets Be Like Jesus**

There is a time in childhood when we can only digest milk, and as we grow, we are able to eat meat. Infants cannot eat meat. This same pattern is true in spiritual growth. We must move from simply reading scripture to operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing wrong with being a child in Christ. But as we grow in Christ, the diapers and bottles are no longer needed. Sadly, in the church today, many adults are still wearing diapers and drinking from bottles. They never grew up



spiritually and will be choked out by the thorns of worldly desires.

Jesus lived exactly how God intended us to live—in the likeness and image of our Heavenly Father. Yet we are not living as Jesus lived. We are constantly surrounded by worldly desires that mankind has created over time. Think about this: Jesus could have said, “Boil water,” and life in that era would have improved tremendously. They already had fire. They were melting metal, so they had the means to boil water, yet this was not Jesus’ concern. What was His concern? Exactly what He commands us—to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Our focus should always be our spiritual walk that leads us back home to our Heavenly Father.

How Christ-like are we 2,000 years after Jesus walked the Earth?

It is the Holy Spirit and His gifts that enable us to accomplish God’s desires, no matter how many material things man creates to pull us away from salvation. It is not merely a battle between the flesh and the spirit—the Spirit will always win that fight. Jesus made that clear. The real issue is our free will, which hinders our capacity to fulfill the desires of the Holy Spirit, allowing our weak flesh to indulge in the world’s distractions.

The only true victory comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. Once we realize we are helpless and come to God for help—praying with tears—our Heavenly Father steps in at the last hour to help His faithful children. Faith is not simply knowing the Holy Spirit is working in and around you; it is looking back and seeing what gifts helped you overcome spiritual battles. Your faith should grow, allowing the Spirit's power to overcome your flesh and display actions that witness your Christ-like walk to others. In return, this helps lead others to salvation through Jesus. This is why reading scripture, obtaining intellectual knowledge amounts to nothing over time. It is the spiritual knowledge and gifts within faith outside of scripture that allows us to walk as Jesus did, no matter what year it is.

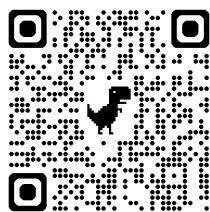


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1 Corinthians 9:20, Paul explains?