



GOD'S GIFTS

As Christians we receive many gifts from God. We receive both spiritual and physical gifts from God our savior. Many of us have received the gift of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Acts 2:38-42

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

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.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Here is the greatest spiritual gift where we receive the the actual spirit of Christ. Those of us who have received the Holy Ghost realize that we actually have a portion of Christ within us. This is not the end, but just the beginning of our spiritual walk with the Lord.

Many have spent years seeking the Lord and the infilling of the Holy Ghost, but they were always holding back something. They wanted to keep control of themselves and wouldn't allow the Lord to enter them.

When I was in college, there was a fellow Christian who sought the Lord every chance there was an alter call. His quest for seeking the Lord lasted over 25 years. During this time he saw many who were able to receive the Holy Ghost, but he came to the conclusion that the Holy Ghost was not for him. Ho matter how hard he prayed, he could not receive the Holy Ghost. One day I was praying with him and the Lord laid on my heart to tell him that he needed to give everything to the Lord and hold nothing back from God. When he finally released everything to the Lord, he received the Holy Ghost.

Afterward he told me that he was afraid to give everything to the Lord. He was afraid to allow the Lord total reign over his life. He spent 25 years holding out on God! God knew how he was holding out, so God would not give his precious Spirit to him until he gave his whole Spirit to Christ.

When you obey Peter's commandment to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. To receive this precious gift of the Lord's Holy Spirit, the Lord requires you to give your all to him. He gave his all for you on the cross and he expects the same.

Jesus agonized over his impending torture and death.

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Luke 22:39-46

39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 **And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Jesus did not want to endure the pain and suffering that was coming his way. As a man, he did not really like pain and suffering. He knew that the abuse and impending doom that he would suffer would be the atonement for the sins of the world. Jesus gave his all so that you could live and he requires likewise of you.

Many want to pray for good weather and having everything go their way. These prayers will not be answered because they are not needs but desires of the flesh. We need to pray and seek the Lord's will and not our own will. Jesus prayed, "nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Jesus knew that the will of the Father was of greater concern than his own desire not to go through the torture, agony, and doom. He knew that God's infinite wisdom contained more wisdom than all of the world.

There are some who do not like the hot summer days and ask me to pray for God to cool down the heat. But, I know that the summer heat goes with where we live and know better than to pray for fleshly desires.

There are some of us who have gifts of healing, and other gifts. Jesus gives us the gifts based on our heart and how we will use the gifts that he will give us.

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Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
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