

# Receiving the Gift of God

*The experience of receiving the power from on high is only the beginning of a fellowship which should lead to the manifestation of victorious living.*

Victor Paul Wierwille

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*In the early 1940s, Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille was asked by a friend, "Why don't you search for the greatest of all things in life which would teach Christian believers the how of a really victorious life?" This challenge was the beginning of his search for the source of the power which was manifested in the early Church. "Finally," he writes in his enormously important book **Receiving the Holy Spirit Today**, "I realized that the experience referred to as 'receiving the holy spirit' in the Scriptures was and is actually available to every born-again believer today." In the following article, he addresses those who want to better understand and to tap into the power from the Holy Spirit—and yet not do it in the darkness, fear or frustration caused by a lack of teaching from God's Word.*

—Editor

I know what fear can do. I know how Satan can frustrate a believer and keep him from receiving the holy spirit into manifestation. I know the common fears which kept me from receiving. And in my dealings with believers, I have discovered that most of them have fears similar to the ones I had.

Most of the fears in regard to receiving the holy spirit into manifestation are due to wrong teaching or ignorance of the Word of God. Our minds have been preoccupied with thoughts of what others have said and done rather than with what the Word teaches. For many people, there has been a lack of teaching. Therefore, certain believers do not know that the gift, holy spirit, power from on high, is an indwelling reality in the life of every born-again believer.

Only when there is a clear and accurate teaching of the Word of God are fears quickly

dispelled, for knowledge of the Word roots out fear. I know the terrible spiritual and mental anguish people go through when overcome by fear. I also know the great joy and the overwhelming peace that the believer has when fears are removed by the Word of God. We cannot look to God with believing for anything so long as we are beset by fear, for fear builds unbelief, and unbelief blocks the promises of God.

Some people fear that they are going to ask for something which is not meant for them to have; they fear that the holy spirit was for the first-century believers only. But Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

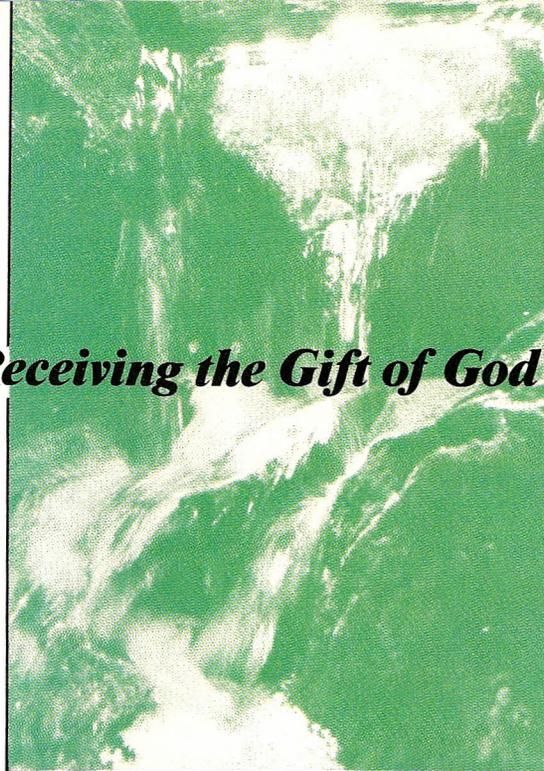
This scripture means what it says—that we may have all that was ever promised or given, and that God's gifts and the manifestations are not limited to the first century. Ephesians 5:18 admonishes, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit [*pneuma*]."

This is for all believers, because the Book of Ephesians was written to the saints, *believers*, the faithful in Christ Jesus. Thus, Ephesians 5:18 is a definite command from the Word of God that we as believers should be filled. Acts 2:38 promises that "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [*pneuma hagion*]." The promise was made to you, as a believer, and to your children as believers and to all believers until the appearing of Jesus Christ.

One of my nagging fears had to do with where the experience of manifesting a supernatural ability was coming from. I knew that there is such a thing as devil possession and

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that Satan does supernatural feats. How could I be sure I would not be getting a counterfeit experience when receiving the *pneuma hagion*? This was perhaps my greatest fear. Luke 11 thoroughly allayed this fear.

*Luke 11:11-13:*

*If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*

*Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

*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 [pneuma hagion] to them that ask him?*

This makes it clear that a human father would not give evil to his son. Then who can possibly believe that our heavenly Father, who loves his children more than any earthly father, would allow a seeking child to be filled with something harmful, wrong or false, when with a deep yearning he is believing to be filled with power from on high according to God's own Word and will?

So when you come to God, approach Him with believing and absolute confidence, knowing that from His hands you receive only good. How dishonoring it is to God when we as children trust our earthly fathers more than our heavenly Father, thinking that He might allow His hungry children to receive a false or harmful thing when we ask Him for, and believe to receive, the holy spirit into manifestation.

I also feared that I was not good enough to receive power from on high. From a human point of view I knew I was not. I had tried for years to become good enough, but I did not and I could not. The erroneous belief that the holy spirit is given only to those who are good

is keeping many people from walking into great deliverance and power. Remember, God gives the gift because we need it, not because we deserve it.

The receiving of any of God's gifts is not in itself a proof of goodness on the part of the receiver. The holy spirit is *the gift of God*. All gifts of God are received by believing, without any merit on the part of the recipient. God never gives the holy spirit as a reward for living a good, honest life. He gives the *pneuma hagion* to a believer to do in the believer that which no believer can do in and for himself.

*Romans 10:10:*

*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Man receives righteousness because of God's goodness, not his own goodness. We cannot raise ourselves by our bootstraps to be good enough to receive any of God's gifts. The experience of receiving the power from on high is only the beginning of a fellowship which should lead to the manifestation of victorious living. An added spiritual gift places upon us an added responsibility to manifest this gift in right living.

Remember that a gift is a gift. You may give your daughter a beautiful new dress, but she can take your gift and sit down in a mud puddle. She has freedom of will to do this, has she not? But, truly, your daughter should respect your gift and treat it accordingly. So it is with the gift of holy spirit. The recipient should hold the gift in reverence. We are held accountable for the spiritual light we have and the gifts we possess.

The fear of perhaps misusing the holy spirit was another great barrier in my quest. I wanted to be sure that I would not misuse the gift if and when the power came to live in me. Salvation is a gift to us as Ephesians 2:8 tells. Even though saved, believers all will sin; yet, when we confess our sins to God, He reestablishes us in fellowship. We should never purposely want to sin after salvation, after we receive the gift of holy spirit; but if we sin we do not mar the perfection of the gift. We only harm ourselves, and we have God's faithful forgiveness if we confess our sins.

*I John 1:9:*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

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All the gifts of God are the means to an end and not ends in themselves. The end is that we might be like Christ. The gift of holy spirit equips us with the ability for a life of greater fruitfulness for God. The power from on high is ours to help us to grow more Christlike.

The gift of holy spirit is never given on the basis of human merit but on the basis of grace, as the Bible so clearly teaches. Immediately after receiving the holy spirit, power from high, a man has no more Christian character than he had the moment before he received, but he now has a source of help and the ability to bring forth spiritual fruit, and this cannot be overvalued.

*Galatians 5:22 and 23:*

*But the fruit of the Spirit [pneuma] is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

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

Men are known by their *fruit* and not by the *gifts* they possess. Gifts are no proof of good character. Gifts are

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Another fear I had concerned the ability or power Christ said would come upon those who received the holy spirit. Many so-called spirit-filled Christians whom I knew were, by their fruit, indicating ineffective and powerless lives. If they had the God-given power, why were they so down-and-out? I could not understand this until one day I realized the difference between a gift and its use. This point can be effectively illustrated. A skillful carpenter has a building site, a set of blueprints and all the materials necessary to build a house according to the plans; but he has no tools whatsoever. In this situa-

tion he is unable to build the house. If he is given a chest full of all the tools he needs, he receives the power, or ability, to build the house. He may, however, sit down on top of the tool chest and fold his hands. It lies within his own power to work or to remain idle. The possession of tools constitutes no guarantee that he will use them. So it is with the one who has received the gift of holy spirit. This believer has power divinely given of God; but he, like the carpenter, may sit down and fold his hands.

Another fear I had was that I might do something foolish and thereby make myself appear ridiculous. Suppose people would say, "He is crazy."

Again Luke 11:11-13 came to my attention. God never makes anyone do anything ridiculous or foolish. Every gift of God is a good and perfect gift. Therefore, nothing imperfect comes with God's gift. If some people have, by their actions, demonstrated foolishness, it was not of God but of their own doing. By

their own wills they did that which was foolish, for God definitely says in I Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order." Though someone else fails or neglects to use the gift wisely or properly, we need not be stopped from applying God's best in our lives. Just because one cake fails, the housewife does not forever refuse to bake a cake, nor does she say all cakes are no good. Just because some may have twisted the experience of Pentecost, we should not throw overboard the experience of the power from on high. I Corinthians 14:32 says, "And the spirits [*pneumata*] of the prophets are subject to the prophets," which means that all spiritual abilities from God are subject to the man who re-

ceives them. The next verse in I Corinthians amplifies this truth.

*I Corinthians 14:33:*

*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

Man has freedom of will, and his use of the gift is his responsibility. God's gifts do not possess people, but people who have God's gifts are responsible for the operation of them.

Don't let fear prohibit you from carrying out God's will. Know His Word in order to have complete confidence in the truth that you as a born-again child of God have been given the gift and now have the opportunity and responsibility of operating all nine of its manifestations. Confidence in knowing God's will, plus your desire to do God's will, shall give you the impetus to launch ahead—speaking in the tongues of men and of angels and operating the other eight manifestations of holy spirit as well. ☐

## True Child in the

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*Philippians 2:15-19:*

*That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke [from God], in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation [generation], among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

*Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

*Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.*

*For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.*

*But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheous shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.*

Paul wanted to know their state. "Standing" was their sonship, which is to be born again of God's Spirit, to be in the family. "State" was their fellowship with God. He wanted to know how their fellowship was with God, so he sent Timothy.

*Philippians 2:20:*

*For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The word "likeminded" is *isopsuchos*. It means "equal-souled." Paul, by revelation, said he had no man other than Timothy who was equal-souled, of "one soul" with him. This is a tremendous figure of