

**Today's Message: "Grace Like Concrete"**

*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all of your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13, ESV)*

Jesus' Promise of the Gift:

*"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39, ESV)*

*"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give a good gift to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:12-13, ESV) [see also: John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7.]*

*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed... Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11, ESV)*

Gifts = Gk. Charism from Gk. Charis = Grace. Gifts (lit.) = a concrete expression of grace.

Spiritual Gifts = the varieties of ways in which God empowers every Christian with His Spirit, distributed according to the will of God, for the common good. The Holy Spirit is the agent through whom we receive the gifts of the Father, purchased by the Son.

Tragic misunderstandings about Spiritual Gifts:

1. **Gift Stopper.** See Romans 8:5-11, Galatians 3:3.
2. **Gift Dodger.**

*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:15-20, ESV)*

"God the Spirit: Gifts of the Spirit"

Pastor Doug Melder

May 30 & 31, 2015

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Four truths from Ephesians 5:18 based on the verb:

- imperative, implying a command, not an option.
- plural, implying all are to be filled - no spectators, no consumers.
- present perfect tense (be being filled), implying repeated action - continually.
- passive, implying that filling is something being done by another to you - God is gifting.

We are commanded, all of us, continually, to be filled with the gift of God's Spirit.

*<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit... <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27-31 ESV)*  
(Major gift passages: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 7:7, 1 Peter 4:11)

*<sup>1</sup> Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. <sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church... <sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? (1 Corinthians 14:1-4,23 ESV)*

*"Being fully yielded to the Lord opened the door to spiritual experiences that could only be described as 'transformational'. Dynamic worship, loving witness, sacrificial service, prophetic words, were all part of the 'life in the Spirit' that we discovered in those early years. However, if it didn't bring focus and glory to Jesus; it didn't remain. That was our bottom line..." - Founding Pastor Jay Passavant*

1. **We don't prioritize one gift. We prioritize the gift of God the Spirit.**
2. **We don't have different classes of Christians. We follow and pursue Jesus together.**
3. **We don't seek the gifts. We seek God and steward the gifts.**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV)*

see [www.spiritualgiftstest.com/](http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/) for spiritual gift tests and definitions of spiritual gifts from

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