

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #47 – Sunday AM2 September 23, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

-- POD review --

POD: Spiritual fruit surpasses knowledge and understanding because it is produced by God the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22 cf. Eph. 3:19; Phil 4:7).

From John 15 – Parable of the vinedresser and the vine

POD: Suffering is designed to produce more fruit in the life of the believer.

POD: Suffering [testing] is designed to produce more fruit by increasing one's dependence upon God.

POD: A greater amount of fruit is contingent upon the branch's dependence upon the vine.

As the branch depends upon the vine, so the believer draws upon Christ's strength to do all things.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Bearing fruit is a process – it takes time.

As you abide, fruit will be manifested in your life by the Spirit.

Fruit in the sense of sharing the love of Christ “. . . the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.”

Fruit in the sense of joy “. . . so that our joy may be made complete.” 1 John 1:4

And as we abide, “The peace of God . . . will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:7

Fruit in the sense of your spiritual gift being manifested.

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would **grant** you. . .

- **Grant** – **δίδωμι** – **DIDOMI** – “To give”
- God is the One who gives.
- That is the purpose of prayer – requesting something from God that only He has the power to do or the ability to provide.

James 4:2 “You do not have because you do not ask”

. . . according to the **riches** of **His** glory. . .

Riches - **πλοῦτος** – **PLOUTOS** – “Wealth or abundance”

- The believer can actually tap into the storehouse of God's glory.

- That storehouse is infinite; beyond what we could ever venture to ask or think.

The only thing that limits dividends received from this storehouse of God’s glory is our prayers!

... to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

- **To be strengthened** – κραταιόω – KRATAIOO – “To become strong”
- The believer is strengthened by God through the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit.
- **Power** - δύναμις – DUNAMIS – “Power or ability” ←

This is God’s supernatural ability – not yours.

... through His Spirit in the inner man [from within].

1 Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- That is how you can “do all things through Christ who strengthens you.”
- That is how you live by means of the supernatural ability that God provides through His Spirit.

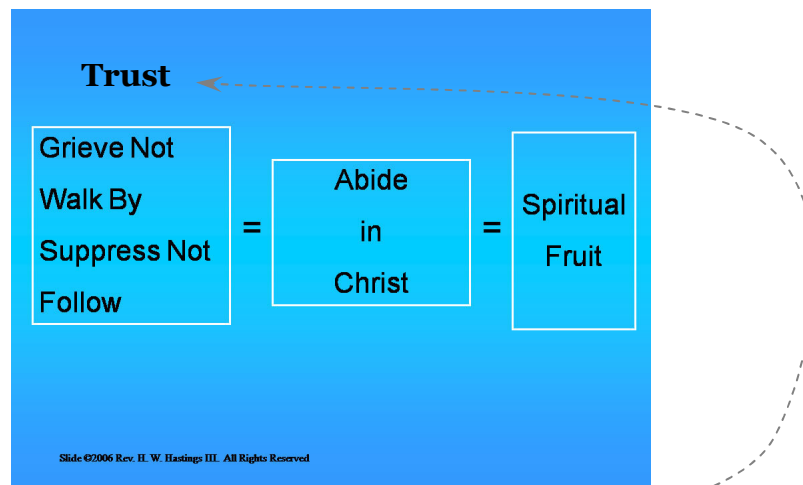
God’s power is infinite!

- God’s power is provided from the wealth of God’s glory.

¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

- **Dwell** – κατοικέω – KATOIKEO – “To be at home in the house”

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,



Abide - Trust – “Through Faith”

- Faith is the believer’s trust or dependence.

⁷“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,

Trust [ABIDE] = Spirit + Truth [BIBLE DOCTRINE]

Trust [ABIDE] = Christ at home in our hearts

- When Christ is at home, His character is manifested in our life “through His Spirit in the inner man.”

Eph. 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend. . .

- **May be able** - ἐξισχῶ – EXISCHUO – “That you may be in a position”
- **Comprehend** - καταλαμβάνω – KATALAMBANO – “To attain, to grasp”

. . . with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth [limitless dimensions], ¹⁹ and to know [realize] the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge [in order] that you may be **filled up** to all the fullness of God.

This [love] surpasses knowledge because it is produced by the Spirit in the life of the believer who walks by the Spirit!

ἵνα πληρωθῆτε εἰς πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ θεοῦ.

- **Filled up** – πληρῶω – PLEROO – “To make full, to bring to completion, to be full of”

πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ θεοῦ

“The fullness, the sum total, the superabundance of God”

Two Questions:

Q1. How does the believer receive the [πλήρωμα τοῦ θεοῦ] fullness of God?

Q2. What does the [πλήρωμα τοῦ θεοῦ] fullness of God refer to?

Eph. 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **power that works within us**, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Things that surpass knowledge and understanding

Things that cannot be accounted for in the natural realm of things

²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

A1. The πλήρωμα τοῦ θεοῦ is manifested in the life of the believer by the Spirit.

A2. The fullness of God πλήρωμα τοῦ θεοῦ is the fullness of Christ.

The fullness of Christ is the very character of Christ!

The very character of Christ manifested in the life of the believer!

Manifested because of his walk in the Spirit!

Gal. 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Gal. 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.