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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

Acts 2:38

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 you shall receive
the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- One of the most debated questions among brethren over the years has been the question of how does the Spirit dwell in the Christian.

- None of these views have been considered **a fellowship matter.**
- They do not affect our respect for God's Word, our worship, how we live our lives in service to God or anything which would affect our **soul's salvation.**

- All these views hold that **the only way the Spirit works** on the heart of man **is through the Word**

- **Ephesians 6:17**

**And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God:”.**

- When someone advocates **a direct work of the Spirit** it would be a fellowship matter.

- **“What is the gift of the Holy Spirit”**
Acts 2:38?

- **And**

- The question for today is,
“Does the Holy Spirit dwell in us today?”

- John's promise of Holy Spirit baptism
- looked forward to
Pentecost
- and backward to
Joel's prophecy.
(John 1:33)
 - Think of it as
two book-ends.

- Joel's prophecy
then becomes
the background
to everything that is said
in the New Testament
regarding the
miraculous outpouring
of the Spirit.

- Most explanations of Joel's prophecy focuses on,
**“I will pour forth of
My Spirit
on all mankind...”**
- Commonly explained as
“Jew and Gentile”
(Acts 2 & 10)
- **While this is good
as far as it goes.**

- There is a better, fuller explanation:
 - “I will pour forth of My Spirit...”

(1) “on all mankind”

— without regard to *nationality*

(2) “your sons... daughters”

— without regard to *gender*

(3) “young... old men”

— without regard to *age*

(4) “My bondslaves both men and women”

— *without regard to social status.*

- The gospel of the Christian age would need to be introduced into the world in a miraculous manner,
- And it was to be accomplished by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, using various ranks of society to spread that message.
 - Hence the mention of:
 - sons and daughters,
 - old and young men, etc.

- **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**
mentions nine
gifts of the Spirit
- **Wisdom** & **Knowledge**
 - **Faith**
 - **Healing**
 - **Miracles,**
 - **Prophecy,**
- **Discerning of Spirits,**
 - **Tongues,**
- **Interpretation of Tongues.**

The miraculous
outpouring
of the Holy Spirit
in the first century
did three things.

(1) to *reveal God's word*
in the absence of
a completed Bible.

(**Mark 16:20**)

(2) To confirm the spoken word by
“**signs, wonders, miracles.**”

(**Mark 16:17-18**)

(3) It reveal that
all were equal before God,
all had the same access!

(**Galatians 3:28**)

- Let us analyze

Acts 2:37-38

and the crowd's reaction to Peter's statement.

- Note:

- 1st a command:

Repent & Be Baptized

- 2nd and the promise of
“the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- Consider this:

(1) The people had seen the miraculous manifestations in the apostles.

(2) The people had heard Peter quote Joel's promise of a general outpouring of the Holy Spirit;
(Acts 2:.33)

- What else were they to think but that

Peter was promising?

- The same thing
Joel promised?

- The **miraculous** outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

- **If not why not?**

- Imagine one of the three thousand, immediately after being baptized asking,
 - **“Where is the gift of the Holy Spirit?”**
 - **What is Peter’s best answer?**

- Oh, you've already been given the 'ordinary measure' of the Spirit, **you just don't realize it,**
 - **Or...**
 - **To lay hands on him and** give them the exact thing Joel prophesied like in:
 - **Samaria** (Acts 8),
 - And **Ephesus** (Acts 19)?
 - **Acts 2:39** – The “**promise is to you...**”

- Are we afraid that all in the audience that day received the “gift of the Holy Spirit”?
- These men and women would soon return home and spread the gospel message.
 - How were they to confirm that message?
- Well, that’s what Peter said!

- **Ephesians 4:11**

And he gave some:

- apostles;
- prophets;
- evangelists;
- pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12

For the **perfecting** of the saints,

- **1 Corinthians 13:10**
until that which is **perfect**...

- **A prominent view among brethren:**
- This ‘**promise**’ has no direct reference to the Holy Spirit;
 - It relates to God’s promise **to give salvation to Jew and Gentile** through Christ.
 - The “**promise**” was God’s promise to Abraham (**Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:29**).
 - This does not fit the context.

- A passage should always be studied in its context.
- Peter began his sermon with the prophecy of Joel
 - And closed it with a summary of the prophecy.
 - This is the thought throughout the chapter and with this in mind there will be no difficulty in seeing that verse 39 is a summary of Joel's prophecy.

- The question was about the miraculous

- Acts 2:12

- “What is this?”

- Points back to

- Acts 2:1-4.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Peter's reply was a prophecy that contained a promise of the miraculous.

- Since Peter had used the word "**promise**"
in verse 33,
- which was based on **Joel's prophecy,**
- and Joel's prophecy **included miraculous gifts**
- why should the promise of **Acts 2:39**
refer to anything else?

- The word translated “**gift**”
is used **six times**
in the New Testament
in connection with the Holy Spirit.
- Is there any better way
to determine the meaning of the word
than to see its use in the Scriptures?
- A careful analysis of these passages
where this word {**gift**} is found
will enable one to understand
the meaning of the word.

Gift of God

Acts 8:20

Miraculous

Gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:45

Miraculous

Like Gift

Acts 11:17

Miraculous

The Gift of the Grace of God

Ephesians 3:7

Miraculous

The Measure of the Gift of Christ

Ephesians 4:7

Miraculous

Gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38 ?

I think that there would be
complete agreement
that the word “gift”
{**G_1431**}
in the first five passages
is in reference to the
miraculous operations
of the Spirit.

- Does it not strike you as being strange that the word “**gift**” {**G_1431**} is used **six times** in the passages that refer to the Holy Spirit
 - And that **five** of them **are miraculous** and **one non-miraculous?**

- Some contend that the “**gift**” of the Holy Spirit mentioned in this passage is a reference to **salvation from past sins.**
 - Again, this does **not fit into context.**

- The Holy Spirit uses the **Word** as his instrument of instruction
(**Ephesians 6:17**)
”the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God:”
 - Is this the influence of the Holy Spirit through the word or the **Holy Spirit Himself?**
 - **Why** does He need a sword?
 - He could just do it **Himself.**

- Some contend that “*the gift of the Holy Spirit*” can be the Spirit himself

- As is demonstrated by a comparison of

Acts 10:45

with

Acts 10:47.

- However, Both are miraculous.

- Acts 10:45 (ASV)

And they of the circumcision that believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 11:17

For as much then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us,

- Notice, that Peter called this a “like gift”

- J.W. McGarvey wrote:

“The expression means the Holy Spirit as a gift, and the reference is to that indwelling of the Holy Spirit by which we bring forth the fruits of the Spirit...

- It is certainly true that we are to bring forth the “fruit of the Spirit”.

- But, how is that done?

- Do we not produce those “fruits” due the influence of the Spirit?
 - Or do they just spring up without any effort on our part?
- Does it not seem strange to you that non-Christians can produce “fruits of Spirit”?

• Burton Coffmen Commentary

• Quote:

“The results of the indwelling of the Spirit in the hearts of God's children

are also spelled out in

Galatians 5:22-23,

where such results are defined as

love, joy, peace, longsuffering,

gentleness, goodness, faith,

mekness, and self-control.”

- **Burton Coffmen Commentary**

- “The token quantity of this gift is ample to supply the child of God with all the **help** that he needs.”

- How does the “**Spirit**” supply that need?

- If the Holy Spirit does that then **why** did Peter sin?

- **Galatians 2:11**

But when Peter was come to Antioch,
I withstood him to the face because
he was to be blamed.

2:12 For before certain ones
came from James,
he ate with the Gentiles,
but when they were come,
he withdrew and separated himself,
fearing those who were of the
circumcision.

- When you were baptized how did you know you had received the gift of the Holy Spirit”?
 - Was there some strange new feeling?
 - Were you suddenly able to remember better?
 - Did you find resisting sin easier?
 - Did you ever sin again?
- If the “Spirit” enabled you to resist sin the first time why did He not continue?

- Another argument for the view that the “gift” of the Spirit is the Spirit himself, is Paul’s statement in Romans 8:16.

- The apostle Paul declares that the Holy Spirit and the human spirit bear dual witness to the fact that we are children of God.
- It is the indwelling Spirit himself who bears testimony with us (**Romans 8:16**).
 - Exactly, how is that done?
 - Is this some mysterious influence?
- And if so, how do I know it is not the Devil?
 - Do not denominational preachers use the same logic?
- What is gospel to them is gospel to us.

- **Romans 2:14**

When the Gentiles,...
show the work of the law

- **written in their hearts,**
 - their **conscience** also bearing witness,
 - **accusing** and also **excusing**
- their reasonings one with another
 - This shows that the heart, witness, is **not** always accurate in it's assement.

- What of the man who beats his chest and declares
“**I know I am saved,
I feel it right here.**”

- **Jeremiah 17:9**

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things* and desperately wicked; who shall know it?

- **The answer:**
- The Holy Spirit gives **directions** by His **word**, Bible, as to the kind of life we are to live,
- And our own spirit bears testimony **as to whether we conform our life to these instructions.**
- Those directions are found in **Galatians Chapter 6**
- **The Whole Armor of God.**

- Our body is indeed the temple of the Holy Spirit
- “***Or know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you,***
- **(1 Corinthians 6:19).**
 - It is also:
 - “**temple of God**”
(2 Cor. 6:16)
 - **temple of Christ.**
(Ephesians 3:17)

- **2 Corinthians 6:16**

We are a **temple** of
the living God;

even as God said,

- I will **dwell** in them,

- and **walk** in them;

- and I will be their God,

and they shall be my people.

- Ephesians 3:17

that Christ may

- *dwell*

- *in your* *hearts*

- {G_2588 = *mind*}

- *through* *faith*;

- Let us take a look at:

1John 3:24

And he that keeps his commandments
dwells in him,

- **{what if you don't keep the commandments}**

- and He in him

{The “He” is Jesus}.

- And hereby we know that

he abideth in us

- *by the Spirit {G4151}*
which he hath given us.

- This is determined by

“keeping His commandments”.

- What is difficult about that?

- 1John 4:4

*greater is He that is in you,
than he that is in the world.*

- The He here is God.
- So, how is God in you?
- How does God give the victory?
 - “Sword of the Spirit”
(Ephesians 6:17)

- **Ephesians 5:18**

How can one be

filled with the Spirit

if one has already received the
ordinary measure of the Spirit

or

“gift of the Spirit”

at baptism?

- Jesus said,

My words are Spirit and life

(John 6:63)

- Would not being
filled with the **“word”**

equate to being filled with the Spirit?

- Hebrews 6:4-6

For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

- 6:5 ***And have tasted the good word of God,*** and the powers of the world to come,
 - 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

• Is

“resisting the Spirit”

(1 Thessalonians 5:19)

equal to

resisting the

”good word

of the Spirit”?.

- Paul writes,

***“And do not get drunk with wine,
which is debauchery,
but be filled by the Spirit”
(Ephesians 5:18).***

- The point is don't let wine control you but rather have the Holy Spirit do so.
- How does one let the Holy Spirit **control them?**
 - Jesus said in **John 6:63**
“my words are Spirit and life”

- Gal 3:2 This only would I learn of you,
Received you the
Spirit {G_4151}
by the works of the Law,
or by the hearing of faith?
- What Spirit is Paul discussing?
 - The “gift of the Spirit”
 - Or the ordinary?
 - How does one know they have the
“ordinary” gift of the Spirit?
- As the “Spirit” is neither “seen nor heard”

- Galatians 4:19
until Christ be formed in you,

- Christian Graces

2 Peter 1:5

Christian Virtues

add to your faith virtue; knowledge;
temperance; patience; godliness;
brotherly kindness; charity.

- How is that done?

- 1. By the
“gift of the Holy Spirit?
(Acts 2:38)

- 2. Or by the word of the Spirit?
the words that I speak unto you,
they are spirit,
and *they* are life.
(John 6:63)

- **Gal 3:2** This only would I learn of you,
Received you the **Spirit** {**G_4151**}
by the works of the **Law**,
or by the hearing of **faith**?
 - **Ephesians 1:18**
having the
eyes of your **heart** enlightened,
- They had received something they were aware of.

- Compare
Acts 2:38

Vs.

Mark 16:15-16

- It should not seem strange that we would leave the “gift of the Holy Spirit”
(**Acts 2:38**)
in the apostolic age in that we do that with the reference to:

- Mark 16:16-17.

- We know this was specific for the church in its infancy as these gifts were needed in order to confirm the word.

- I find no scripture where Paul or any other Gospel writer alluded to what is called the **“ordinary”** measure of the **“Spirit”**.
- How many people at Galatia received the **“Spirit”**?
 - Answer Paul’s question in **Galatians 3:2**
“Did you received the Spirit by the Law or faith..?”

- At Pentecost
3,000 men who were baptized.
- Did all **3,000** receive the
“**Gift of the Holy Spirit**”?
- It is indeed **possible**?
 - They would be
returning to their native home
with a strange message.
- How are they to **prove** this message?
(**Mark 16:20**)
- **Well, that’s what Peter said.**

- **Whatever the Spirit Does Today
in Leading Men,**
- **The Same Is Said To Be Done by the Word.**
 - **Dwells in us**
 - Col. 3:16; 2 John 2; Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18
 - **Leads or guides**
- Psa. 119:104,105; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Thess. 2:13
 - **Sanctifies**
 - John 17:17,19; Gal. 5:22f
 - **Bears fruit**
- Col. 1:5f,9f; Luke 8:11,15; Rom. 15:13; Eph. 3:16

- **Whatever the Spirit Does Today
in Leading Men,
the Same Is Said To Be Done by the Word.**

- **Gives power**

Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 8:16; Eph. 1:13f

- **Testifies we are God's**

- 1 John 2:3-6; 1 Peter 1:23; Acts 9:31

- **Comforts Us**

- Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess. 4:18; Heb. 2:3,4

- **Gives evidence**

- John 20:30,31

Conclusion

- In affirming that the Holy Spirit dwells within the child of God, one need not suggest
- That miracles are performed today,
 - That the Spirit “guides” or “illuminates” us in some way apart from the Scriptures,
 - Or that he operates directly upon the saint’s heart.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 3-14-21 Tryon, NC

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