

**December 18, 2022**  
**Special Delivery: Week 3**

In Week 1 of our series, we talked about the Special Delivery of Christmas and HOW the GIFT was REVEALED.

It is a story of Mis-Direction. Who would have ever written the script for Jesus to show up as He did?

But the reason that Christ came was because WE needed Rescued!

And then last week we talked about how the GIFT was REVILED.

But the true miracle of Christmas is that Jesus was willing to go through everything He did so you and I could receive the greatest GIFT ever offered to humanity: The forgiveness of our sins, and the promise of a heavenly home!

There is so much that God wants for us, but scripture is clear that if there was only ONE GIFT that God would want to bless us with, it would be the Gift of His Holy Spirit!

It is the Gift that has been RELEASED!

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the GIFT my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind *came from heaven* and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Over the years, a lot of people have had problems with this Special Delivery!

But I'm not making it up. There it is, right in scripture. The delivery of the Holy Spirit fell on the New Testament believers that caused them to worship, praise, and pray, and it came by way of a new language!

Fortunately there are many Gifts that God wants to bless His children with, but if I could ask you to add ONE thing to your list this Christmas, it's that you would pursue this Presence, this Power of Christ, which is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit!

What does the DELIVERY of the Holy Spirit make available to the Believer?

## I. The Gift of Power

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

“But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my WITNESS in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

How many are glad for POWER?

But the Holy Spirit was given not so we could receive physical power, He came so that we might have Spiritual Power!

He is the SOURCE of abundant living!

## II. The Gift of COMFORT

John 14:12,16,18 (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and *greater* works than these shall he do... And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another COMFORTER, that he may abide with you for ever... I will not leave you Comfortless...

The Early Church was operating in the dunamis power of the Holy Spirit, and despite fierce opposition and hardship, the fledgling church not only grew strong in faith, but increased in numbers as well!

Acts 9:31 (KJV)

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God dispatches His Holy Spirit to reside in us, always ready to assist, console, reassure, and guide us in times of distress or need.

With the Comfort of the Spirit...

- He draws us closer to Jesus and strengthens us in our inner being (*Ephesians 3:16-17*).
- The comfort of the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness when we don't know how to pray (*Romans 8:26*).
- The Spirit gives us the power and wisdom to witness with boldness (*Acts 4:31; 1 John 5:6-8*).
- He teaches us (*John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:27*).
- The Holy Spirit even reveals to us the deep mysteries of God (*1 Corinthians 2:9-10*).

We can walk free from sin's control in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit is a righteousness-producing, life-giving source for every believer.

### III. The Gift of Conviction

Don't panic, Conviction can work two ways!

- Our first tendency is to think that it's *corrective*.

But that's not His only work in our life!

- He also firmly "grounds" us in our Faith and Belief

We are people that *must* LIVE with CONVICTION!

For God so loved that world that he gave His only Son, is not just a theme for Christmas, but a message we must share daily!

#### 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 (NIV)

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with Words but also with Power, with the Holy Spirit and Deep Conviction...

In the early chapters of Hebrews, the writer is trying to convince the people that whatever they've put their Hope in, Jesus was better! He didn't pull any punches! He highlights the leadership of Moses that was given the task of getting the people out of bondage.

But that turned out to be a really difficult task!  
How many remember about hearing of the wilderness journey of Israel?

Someone commented that half the time God was talking Moses out of killing all the people, and the other half, Moses was talking God out of not killing all the people!

#### Hebrews 3:12-14 (NIV)

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original CONVICTION firmly to the very end.

Christmas is the beginning of our Conviction, we were loved by God so much that He sent to us His only Son to be our Savior!