



The Gift of God

October 2004

In the gospels Jesus gives us a command to go heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils. It only makes sense that if He's going to send us to do something he'll equip us to do it. If you or I send one of our kids to the store to buy something, we make sure that they have enough provision to get what we're sending them for. Likewise, if Jesus is sending us to do something for Him, and He is, it only makes sense that He provide us with what it will take to get the job done. If you're going to build a house you must first provide material for the builder. Jesus sends us to do some pretty heavy duty tasks and He's expecting us to get the job done: heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, etc. Yet many times these things stop us dead in our tracks. If we want to talk about Jesus we'll burn the midnight oil, but if we need to heal the sick we're stopped, shrug our shoulders and say, "God has his reasons for not healing", or, "It must not have been His will", even though we would never preach salvation that way, even though salvation includes healing. Yet the order is clear. On more than one occasion Jesus sends us to accomplish the supernatural and use miracles to get the job

done, and a time is coming when it will have to be that way. As we know, we are His hands and feet, and that He is the same yesterday today and forever. However, knowing that doesn't seem to get the job any closer to being done. What is needed is a strong revelation of the Gift of God which lies inside each and every one of us. When the Bible asks us a question starting with the words, "Do you know," or "Know ye not", it's a question in which the answer ought to be ingrained in our minds as a solid biblical truth; a truth we should never lose sight of as long as we walk this Christian walk. For example, Paul says in Rom 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" That's a point that Paul is emphasizing that should never be forgotten by the church. Likewise, when Paul says to the Corinthians, "Don't you not know the you are the temple of the living God and that the Holy Spirit lives in you?", the point should not be forgotten by the church. At first it sounds like a silly question and one would immediately answer, "Of course". But why would Paul ask that question if the church hadn't lost sight of that simple, basic and yet profound truth. Paul says that you are the temple of God. If you

think of how the old temple of Solomon was you'd see certain characteristics in it such as: it was glorious, full of gold inside and out, full of incense, full of sacrifice, full of hot bread, full of worship. It was tremendous to behold and it took the breath away from the queen of Sheba. Today God does not dwell in a temple made by hands; we are the temple of God and those same characteristics should be present in us. Fresh bread is revelation of the Word of God. Gold is the nature of God on the inside and the visible blessing on the outside. Incense is intercession. Worship and sacrifice should be very evident in the life of each one as well. These are the characteristics that we should be showing forth, as well as being holy unto the Lord. The temple was also full of the presence of God. And we as believers should be as well. If you recall in Acts chapter 3 as Peter and John met a paralytic at the entrance of the gate, the beggar was looking for something. Peter said to the paralytic, "Silver and gold I have none but what I have I give to you, in the name of Jesus raise and walk," and he did. What did Peter give him? Just what he had, **LIFE**. Peter didn't have money at that moment, but he did have life, and as he gave it freely, that man walked under the power of God. Peter understood that **he** was the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit

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job done. One would ask, "then what is my problem?" I believe God echoes that same question, "What is your problem?" Am I sick when God has given me life? I must believe the higher truth of God's Word.

My symptoms can be truthful but there is a higher truth that they must bow too; that is the truth of God's Word.

Am I enslaved by besetting sin? God's life is not enslaved by any sin or demon. II Cor. 3:17 says,

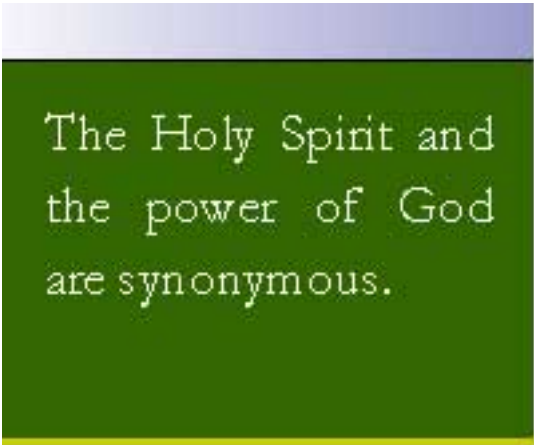
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." Not, there will be liberty, but that there is because God's Spirit is present, liberty. So I ask, where

type, but His very life, the same life He has. The Bible says the second Adam, that is Jesus, became a life giving spirit, and that is what He has given you. Something you didn't have before, life, His life. God does not live shackled and neither should we.

When John the Baptist came preaching before Jesus appeared, he said, "Prepare the way, make straight the crooked...". When Jesus sent

lived in him. That's why he could essentially say receive life and walk. It wasn't surprising to Peter because that's what life does,

expels death and anything and everything contrary to it. Paul said in Romans 6:23, "The gift of God is...life." We tend to use that verse in respect towards going to heaven. We use it witnessing to sinners and tell them that they can live forever in heaven but that's not what Paul is necessarily saying. He's talking to the church and he's saying that the gift of God is God's very life and it's here and now. How can the Spirit of God live in me and I, being the temple of God, be anything but full of life, and God's life destroys death. We have let the truth of our circumstances take the place of the truth of the Word of God.



The Corinthians did the same thing and Paul had to write to them and say, "Don't you know that you are the temple of God, and that the Holy Spirit lives in you?" The Holy Spirit and the power of God are synonymous.

You can't have one without the other. God's power goes with him and He has chosen you in whom to dwell. So you could read that verse this way, "Know ye not that you are the temple of God and that the power of God dwells in you?" So life and power now dwell in you. That life, expels and destroys death and that is the provision that Jesus sends you with. It's sufficient to get the

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is the Spirit of the Lord? Is it in your heart? Then your heart is not enslaved to any sin or demon because the Spirit brings liberty just by being there. Romans 8:21 calls this the glorious freedom of the sons of God. It's time to believe the fact.

"Do you not know" Paul asks, "that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Do we have the Spirit in a wheel chair crippled by unbelief? Do we have Him enslaved to sin? The Spirit will not sit in a wheel chair nor be enslaved by sin. The gift of God is life, the very life of God that cannot be enslaved by sin or sickness or demons. The

his disciples out to preach he sent them to the lost house of Israel. Can you imagine that statement from Jesus, the lost house of Israel. How did they, being the people of Almighty God get lost? They exchanged the truth of God for circumstantial truth, meaning whatever they saw or felt that is what they believed. Thus John came shouting to make straight the crooked which was the way they were believing in God. Today we have the ministry of John the Baptist to prepare the way for the second coming of Jesus but we must make straight the crooked which is to stop living in unbelief and believe God.

We need to understand that the same Holy

word
“salvation” in
the New
Testament
means: saved
from sin, saved
from sickness,
deliverance,
provision, and
protection. Said
another way,
it’s life in every
aspect. Do you
have that life?
If you do, you
are free. That
life is the gift.
The fact that it
is a gift implies
that it was
something I
didn’t have
before. God is
the one who
gave it to me.
What kind of
life is it that
God has given
us? The kind
that pumps
blood? Not
only that

Spirit that was
present in the
creation, awaiting
the command
from God is living
in us. At creation
God spoke the
word and the
Spirit brought it to
pass. That same
Spirit now awaits
the command
from us to bring
once again light to
change the
disorder in our
lives and to fill
the

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void. The Word tells us in first Peter that we are a royal priesthood which makes us ministers in the temple, as well as being the temple. As ministers we have certain functions like those of the Old Testament had. One of their functions apart from making sacrifices and burning incense was that of examining lepers. When someone was suspected of having leprosy he was to show himself to the priest and the priest declared him contaminated or clean. That

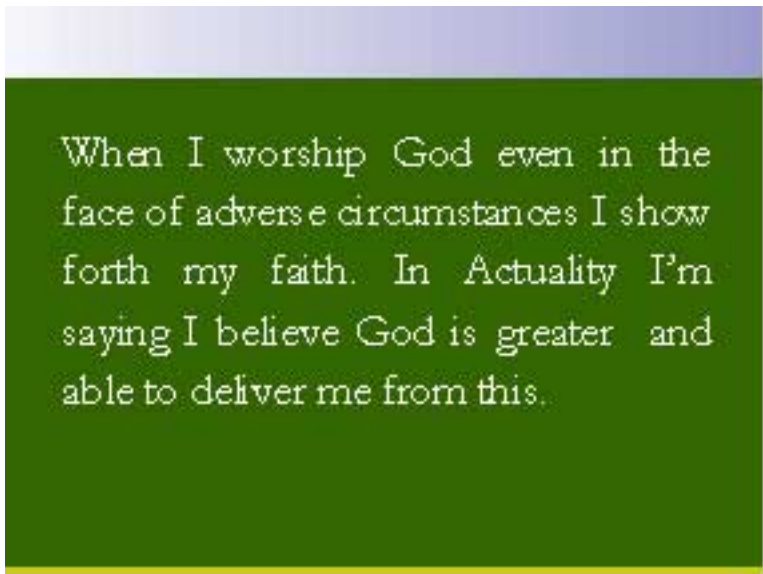
free (present tense). Free from what? Sin, sickness and anything else that would try to enslave us. That's the message we have accepted and that message is the power of God. The verb, "is", in that verse, is a present tense term. The Bible does not say, "was", nor "will be", but **right now**, the gospel is the power of God to those who believe. If you believe the gospel, the power of God is at your disposal. That power when activated by faith, (and faith speaks the Word of God), is not passive but aggressive against sin, sickness and

was their function back then and it's ours today. As priests, we have the ability to declare one clean or not clean. The problem we find in the Old Testament is that they never declared anyone clean. Why? They couldn't get above the visual truth to the faith truth. Therefore we don't read in the Old Testament of anyone being declared clean even though the priests were invested with such power. The priest ministered before God and they represented Him before the people, as we do today.

any other thing that would like to see you and I enslaved. Faith is not negative nor lazy.

Psalms 107:2 says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those He's redeemed from all the power of the enemy." We should be declaring what He has done, not our situations and circumstances. We want to confess a higher truth than our circumstances. Believing the fact makes way for the experience. Experience should be built on fact. Psalms 106:12 says, "They believed His words and sang His praise." and again in II Cor. 4:13, "We believe;

disciples, healing all those oppressed by the devil, setting the captives free, forgiving sins etc, because that's what life does. It expels everything contrary to it. And Jesus, the Life, lives in your heart. He's made His abode with you. Jesus asked his disciples, "Where is your faith?". Faith needs a place to be put. When He calmed the storm he asked, "where", because He didn't see any on the boat, just a lot of struggling and complaining. He says, "put your faith in me". When talking to Martha in John 11, he says, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" Here there is a feeling of exasperation on Jesus part, as if He was saying to Martha, "I already told you



once, how many times do I have to tell you before you believe?" Many times we're in that same boat with the very life of God in us. The power of God by His Spirit lives in us yet we can't seem to see beyond our situations and circumstances.

The other day I went to pray for a very dear woman diagnosed with brain cancer. As I was going to her house I felt the Lord speak to my heart these words, and I speak them reverently not trying to make anyone in this current situation feel bad. But the Lord said to me, "You tell her I said that this is only a disease nothing more." It's not something that has the right to dictate when I live

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Sadly, many therefore we
have to get speak”.
turned away Believing
because we precedes the
have let the seeing and
Biblical truth experiencing.
take a back It requires no
seat to our faith to
experience, complain and
even though allow doubt to
we call undo our faith.
ourselves Faith pleases
believers. God. When I
Romans 1:16 worship God
says, “I’m even in the
not ashamed face of adverse
of the gospel circumstances
of Christ I show forth
because it is my faith. In
the power of actuality I’m
God unto saying, “I
salvation”. believe God is
We would do greater and
good to able to deliver
understand me from this
that the trail”. One of
message of Jesus’ titles is
the gospel is deliverer. He
power. The will deliver.
word, Jesus said, “I
“gospel”, am the life”.
means, “good We see him as
news”. it says in Acts,
What's the moving
good news? through the
Man is disciples

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and die, it's just a disease and it is not mightier than God. As I spoke she saw and faith arose. After, she said to me, "Others have come and talked to me but none have spurred me on to believe for a miracle from God, as you did". Cancer is not greater or stronger than life. **Life conquers death and it's the gift God gave us.** When God saw down through the ages and looked at humanity at what they would need to help them along, He foresaw every type of plague and anything that would try to hinder us from a victorious life. He saw we would need deliverance, healing, provision and many other areas so that He summed it up in one thing, **life**. All you need is summed up in that one word, in that one Gift, life. Life and Jesus are synonymous.

You can't have one without the other and having one gives you the other. Do you have Jesus? Then you have all that you need for life and godliness and it will always work for you when applied with faith. That's the gift. I know that as we get older in the faith we tend to think that the things of faith get automatic, but they don't, faith will always be required. For example, my car needs a key to start it, in order for me to take it anywhere. If I don't put the key in the ignition I'm not going anywhere even though I want to. The key is what starts the engine. Faith is the key that starts my life's engine. For as many times as I have started my car it will never become automatic. Neither will life without faith, I'll always need it. So then faith becomes a very important thing for me to

and assisting worship services and speaking the Word now take on a different priority to me. I do those things now to obtain faith so I can live a life pleasing to Him, and set the captives free. It's not a duty, it's a need. May we be filled and go forth obeying the command: Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:21 "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

obtain. Bible reading

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