

How much more will God Give Us - Part 2

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" – Luke 11:13

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had already uttered this wonderful phrase "How much more?" Here in Luke, where He repeats the question, there is a different emphasis. Instead of speaking about giving good gifts, He says, 'How much more shall our heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit**?' Jesus is implying that the best of all these gifts is the Holy Spirit, or rather, that in this gift all other good gifts are contained. The blessed Holy Spirit is the primary gift of the Father, and the one He delights most in giving. The Holy Spirit is therefore the first gift we ought to seek.

The unspeakable worth of this gift should be fully understood. Jesus spoke of the Spirit as 'the promise of the Father', the one promise in which God's Fatherhood revealed itself. Note, the best gift a good and wise father can bestow on his child is his own spirit. This is one of the greatest promises of the Father – to reproduce in his child His own disposition and character. If a child of God is to know and truly understand his Father; if (as he grows up) he is to enter into all His plans and purposes; if he is to have inexpressible joy in the Father (and the Father in him), then he must be of one mind and spirit with Him. That being the case, it is impossible to imagine God bestowing any higher gift on His child than this – **His own Spirit**. God demonstrates who He is through His Spirit. The Spirit is the very life and essence of God. Just think what it means to you and me – God chose to give His own Spirit to His children on earth. He wants us to be just like Him!

What was very evident with Jesus, when He was here on earth, is that the Spirit of His Father was in Him. At His baptism in Jordan two things came together, the **Voice**, proclaiming Him the Beloved Son, and the **Spirit**, descending upon Him. The apostle Paul says the same of us, "*Because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*" The Voice and the Spirit are one and the same! As the Spirit of the Father, and of the Son, the whole life and love of the Father and the Son are in Him (the Spirit); and, coming down into our hearts, He lifts us up into their fellowship. As the **Spirit of the Father**, He sheds abroad the Father's love, with which He loved the Son, in our hearts, and teaches us to live in it (and by it). As the **Spirit of the Son**, He breathes in us the childlike liberty, and devotion, and obedience in which the Son lived upon earth. The Father can give no higher or more wonderful gift than this: His own Holy Spirit, the **Spirit of sonship**.

All the fulness of Jesus; the fulness of grace and truth, out of which we go from glory to glory, is contained in God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the appointed conveyancer, whose special work it is to make Jesus (and all there is in Him) for us a personal and blessed experience. He is the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus; as wonderful as that "life" is, so too is the wonderful way the Holy Spirit communicates it to us. If we but yield ourselves entirely to the disposal of the Spirit, and let Him have His way with us, He will manifest the life of Christ within us. He will do this with a Divine power, maintaining the life of Christ in us in uninterrupted continuity. Surely, there is but one prayer that should draw us to the Father's throne and keep us there. And it is this... That the Holy Spirit, whom we as children have received, to flow into us and out from us in greater fulness. How awesome is that! The Spirit of life (the God kind of life) flowing in and through us all the time!

In the variety of the gifts, which the Spirit has to dispense, He meets the believer's every need. Just think of

the names He bears:

- **The Spirit of grace**, to reveal and impart all of grace there is in Jesus.
- **The Spirit of faith**, teaching us to grow in ever-increasing faith.
- **The Spirit of adoption** and assurance, who witnesses that we are God's children, and inspires the confident cry "Abba, Father!"
- **The Spirit of truth**, to lead into all truth, to make each word of God ours in deed and action.
- **The Spirit of prayer**, through whom we speak with the Father; prayer that is always be heard.
- **The Spirit of judgment**, to search the heart and convict of sin.
- **The Spirit of holiness**, manifesting and communicating the Father's holy presence within us.
- **The Spirit of power**, through whom we are equipped to testify boldly and work effectually in the Father's service.
- **The Spirit of glory**, the pledge of our inheritance, the preparation and the foretaste of the glory to come.

Surely a child of God needs but one thing to be able to really live as a child, and that is, to be filled with this Spirit. So now, the lesson Jesus teaches us today is this; that the Father is longing to give His Spirit to us. All we need to do is ask with the same childlike dependence expressed in this passage: *"If you know to give good gifts to your children, HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."* In the words of God's promise, 'I will pour out my Spirit abundantly'; and of His command, 'Be filled with the Spirit'; we have the measure of what God is ready to give us. As God's children, we have already received the Spirit. However, we still need to ask and pray for His special gifts and operations to manifest, as we require them.

Not only this, but for the Holy Spirit to take complete and entire possession of us; and for His unceasing guidance in our lives. Just as the branch, already filled with the sap of the vine, is ever crying for the continued and increasing flow of that sap, that it may bring its fruit to perfection, so the believer, rejoicing in the possession of the Spirit, ever thirsts and cries for more. And what Jesus would have us understand is this, that nothing less than God's command to be continually filled with His Spirit would suffice. He would have us ask this in the assurance that the wonderful HOW MUCH MORE is the pledge that when we ask, we will most certainly receive.

Let us all believe this. As we pray to be **filled with the Spirit**, let us not seek for the answer in our feelings. All spiritual blessings must be received, that is, accepted or taken in faith. Therefore, let us continue steadfast in this faith. On the strength of God's Word we know that we have what we ask. Therefore, let us; with thanksgiving that we have been heard; with thanksgiving for what we have received and taken of; continue steadfast in that which has already been given to us, and to which we hold on in faith, may break through and fill our whole being. It is in such believing thanksgiving and prayer, that our soul opens up for the Spirit to take entire and undisturbed possession. It is such prayer that not only asks and expects, but takes hold of the full blessing. In all our prayer let us remember the lesson the Lord would teach us this day, that, if there is one thing on earth we can be sure of, it is this, "the Father desires to have us **filled with His Spirit**, and that He delights to give us His Spirit."