

What Is The "Gift" Of The Holy Spirit?

by Wayne Goff

"Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" ~ Acts 2:38

Gift Of The Spirit?

The phrase "**gift of the Holy Spirit**" can mean either the Holy Spirit **Himself** or the **gift** which the Holy Spirit **gives**. I believe that Peter is referring to the **gift** given by the Holy Spirit which are the many "**spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ**" (**Ephesians 1:3**). These blessings follow upon one's baptism into Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and that's where we find the promise in **verse 38**.

Compare the statement of **Acts 2:38** with that of **Acts 3:19**. I believe they are parallel statements and therefore give us divine commentary on the meaning of each verse. **Acts 3:19** says "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." It is easy to see the parallels:

Acts 2:38	Acts 3:19
Repent	Repent
Be Baptized	Be Converted
Remission of Sins	Sins Blotted Out
Gift of the Holy Spirit	Times of Refreshing

Based on the comparison of the two passages and the obvious parallels, one learns that the "**gift of the Holy Spirit**" is **not** the Holy Spirit **Himself**, but the "**spiritual blessings**" that provide "**times of refreshing**" which "**come from the presence of the Lord.**" These include such wonderful blessings as having (1) Jesus as our Great High Priest, **Hebrews 4:14-16**; (2) Forgiveness of sins as we repent and confess them, **1 John 1:7-9**; (3) The privilege of

fellowship with God and one another, **1 John 1:1-3**; (4) Being part of the Family of God, **Ephesians 3:15**; and (5) Worship in the House of the Lord, **Acts 2:42-44**. This list is not all-inclusive, but it shows you what wonderful blessings come from the *relationship* entered upon baptism.

To You & Your Children

"For the promise is **to you and to your children**, and to **all who are afar off**, as many as the Lord our God will call." ~ Acts 2:39

On the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2** the entire audience was comprised of Jewish people. Peter explains that the Gospel will not be part of the old Jewish covenant but that it will be offered to all nations. "**To you and to your children**" refers to the Jewish people. "**And to all who are afar off**" refers to the Gentiles. Paul explains the "**far off**" concept in **Ephesians 2:13-13**: "**That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**" The Gentiles were not literally "**far off**," but outside the Mosaic covenant and away from salvation. "**The blood of Christ**" remedied that situation and now Jews and Gentiles, bond and free, male and female can all be saved the same way and be one in Jesus Christ (**Galatians 3:26-28**).

Dear reader, I hope and pray that you have chosen to become a part of the wonderful salvation offered through Jesus Christ. If not, then please consider it today.

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