

In a Word - Gift

Introduction

- Gift-giving is as old as mankind. Cain and Abel brought a gifts to the Lord in Genesis 4:3-4.
 - Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines (Genesis 25:6)
- Gift Defined: A thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present or a talent or ability.
 - The word is used in both senses in the Scriptures.
 - The word “gift” is found some 64 times in the New Testament, 111 in the entire bible (NKJV)

I. A Gift as a Present

- a. Gift-giving exist in most societies or cultures. We give gifts for all occasions. Name some...
 - i. This type of gift is not mentioned very often in the New Testament.
- b. The infant Jesus received gifts from the wise men...

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)

- c. Jesus spoke of gift-giving in what is called the Parable of the Good Father (Luke 11:11-13)

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)

- i. Parents want to give their children the best gifts.

II. A Gift as an Offering

- a. As already mentioned, offerings to the Lord began with the first family, continue until this day.
- b. Jesus called these offering a “gift” after cleansing the leper in Matthew 8:1-4.

And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” (Matthew 8:4)

- i. As part of the Levitical law, those healed from skin disease had to make offerings through the priest. (Leviticus 14:3,4,10)
- c. The giving of an offering of money. In the story of the Widow’s Mites...

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury... (Luke 21:1)

- i. Jesus placed conditions upon this type of gift, conditions that should apply to us.

(23) Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23–24)

- d. Our gift giving, our offering is to be...
 - i. Consistent (1 Corinthians 16:2) “Upon the first day of the week”
 - ii. Generous, liberal, from the heart, not reluctantly, with gladness (1 Corinthians 9:6-7)

(6) But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (7) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6–7)

III. A Gift as Ability or Talent

- a. When speaking of talent or ability, we often say a person is gifted.
- b. Moses said while giving the instructions of building the tabernacle and furniture...

All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the LORD has commanded: (Exodus 35:10)

- c. In the beginning of the story of Daniel, they were to...

Bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand... (Daniel 1:3–4)

- d. As we enter into the New Testament, after the gospels, we can determine that there are gifts of natural talents and gifts of spiritual abilities.
 - i. The gifts listed in Romans 12: 6-8 seem to be natural abilities...

(6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6–8)

- e. The gift of the Holy Spirit and miraculous gifts. (Acts 2:38)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:1,4)

- i. The passage then names the following gifts:
 - 1. Wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

- ii. It's worth pointing out that these gifts not only confirmed the word of God, but also caused many problems in the church. Read 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14.

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12:31)

- iii. From this point Paul teaches the importance of what has been called the greatest gift, Love in Chapter 13.

IV. A Gift as a Blessing From God

- a. Solomon spoke of the blessings of life...

As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God. (Ecclesiastes 5:19)

- b. Believers give credit to the Lord for their physical blessings.
 - i. As Jesus said in Matthew 6: 25-34, we believe the Lord will provide.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

- c. All good things come from God...

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17)

V. The Gift of Salvation

- a. Talking to the Samaritan woman at the well Jesus spoke of salvation as the “gift of God”.

Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” (John 4:10)

- b. Of course the most famous and probably the most quoted is Ephesians 2:8:

(8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8–10)

- c. Even though we are sinful beings, the gift of forgiveness and salvation is available.

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. (Romans 5:18)

- d. Is it even possible to adequately describe this wonderful gift?

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)