

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

01 October 2023

Our Precious Holy Spirit!

Yes he is a gift, a very special gift of Jesus to those who love and follow him.

Text: "I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you." *John 14:16*

Do you like gifts?

We all like gifts and God is the greatest gift giver of all time.

He gave us Jesus and Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit when his time on earth was over and he knew we needed help.

For he knew that we people were like sheep without a shepherd so the Holy Spirit is our shepherd.

We often give gifts to those in our families or our friends and occasionally we might give a gift to a stranger.

But God is the greatest gift giver.

As James put it, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." *James 1:17*

Our Lord contrasted the good gifts of God with the ability of fallen man to give good gifts to his children: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

God only give good gifts.

God always gives his good gifts with the right motive.

We all have received a gift that did not come with the highest motives.

When God gives a good gift, it is always with the proper motive.

God's gifts come as an expression of his love.

God's gifts are not substitutes for his love.

They never come as a payment or bribe.

God's gifts are an indication of his hope for us.

We should recognize his gifts as an affirmation of our worth.

His gifts come to us as an expression of his divine confidence in us.

God's gifts to us are always chosen by his wisdom.

God's gifts are always practical.

God's gifts are always good.

God's gifts are always helpful.

God's good gifts are always appropriate.

Someone once remarked concerning a gift of money, which came in the form of greenbacks, "The color of the gift is always appropriate."

God's gift of the Holy Spirit to each believer as an indwelling presence is a gift.

It is unmerited, and it does not come as an expression of gratitude or as a payment for service rendered.

The Holy Spirit is a gift of unknown value to the recipient at first.

The value of this gift to the new believer is far beyond anything he or she could possibly evaluate.

The Holy Spirit is a gift of undiscovered value to most believers.

Have you ever received a gift without understanding its value or recognizing it's significance?

This is true in every instance concerning the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a gift of unappreciated value to most of us.

How long has it been since you have expressed sincere gratitude and thanksgiving to God for his

gift of the living presence of his Holy Spirit?

This gift has great practical value.

This gift can have great sentimental value.

This gift can have great emotional value.

This gift can have great spiritual value.

This gift can have great teaching value.

This gift has permanent value.

We need to recognize and appreciate God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift.

It is not a reward for hard work.

It is not a prize to be won.

It is not a property to be purchased.

It is not a treasure to be stolen.

The Holy Spirit is a gift from God to each of his children.

It is a present gift.

It is a purposeful gift.

It is a powerful gift.

It is a precious gift.

It is a personal gift.

It is interesting to note how the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit is translated in modern versions of the Bible.

The variety in the manner in which this verse, *John 14:16*, has been translated provides us with a key to the significance of this great gift that God has given to us.

The Holy Spirit is called a comforter, counselor, helper and advocate.

And He is all of these.

God gave the gift of his Son. Who came to die for us.

He has given us the gift of his Spirit to live within us to work the works of God so that we might be delivered from the power of sin.

As believers, we have received the gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

Then this precious Holy Spirit is our life guide to bring us into the fullness of our life with and for God.

As we respond to Him fully he brings the Kingdom of God to earth through us and the way we live our life for God and others.

We ask God to give us our daily bread.

Part of our daily food in this gift of the Holy Spirit.

He feeds us with the Word of God as we study and meditate on it.

When we pray, "Give us our daily bread", we say simple words that have great meaning for the living of our lives.

This request includes all that we need for life on earth and life for God and His purposes.

It covers the basic necessities of life and the spiritual necessities we need to be God's person.

Our God is concerned about the total person.

This petition acknowledges God as the source for all of our needs.

We are to come to God with our petitions for these necessities as an acknowledgment that we rely on Him as the giver of every good and perfect gift, he will provide for us.

In the Exodus saga we see that the food they brought with them soon ran out and they were hungry.

Of course they grumbled at Moses and Moses went before God and God provided food from heaven.

It is easy for us to forget the source of our bread when we pick up a loaf at the supermarket.

Jesus tells us that the source of life giving bread is the God who never changes.

Praying for our daily bread affirms God's method of supply.

This day means enough for our present needs.

We ask for what we need each day, whatever that might be.

And God knows better than we do what that will be.

God gives it as we need it.

With it comes our concern for others.

There is no place for selfishness when we come before the heavenly Father in prayer.

It is a prayer for the community of believers not just the individual.

When we come before the Father we must bear a concern for any in God's family who have material needs.

This petition for daily bread surely mandates a practice of daily prayer.

God wants us to come before him daily with the concerns of our lives.

This petition surely mandates daily thanksgiving as well.

If God faithfully supplies the needs of our lives each day, it would be a crime not to express genuine thanksgiving to him.

Replace your anxieties about daily needs with prayer and know that God will hear and answer.

He will give you not just what you need but an abundance that you can be generous with others.