

## The Word Of God - Lesson IV A

### Baptism In Water

Today we will study the subject of Water Baptism which is to take place after someone has come to faith in Christ Jesus. Water Baptism can be compared to circumcision in the Old Testament which God established with Abraham as we can read in:

Genesis 17:9-14

**“Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner – those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”**

However, even in the case of the Old Testament believers, their acceptance by God was based on their faith and not just on the outward sign of their circumcision as we can read in:

Hebrews 11:8-11

**“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith, he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city without foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, Abraham, even though he was past age – and Sarah herself was barren – was enabled to become a father because he considered Him to faithful who had made the promise.”**

Jesus had this to say about Abraham in:

John 8:56

**“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad.”**

And the Apostle Paul writes in:

Romans 4:1-3

**“What then shall we say, the Abraham, our forefather discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”**

We can read this in:

Genesis 15:6

**“Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”**

How can believers apply this to their lives? Paul explains it in

Romans 2:28-29a when he writes to Jewish believers:

**“A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code....”**

This refers to our born again, or born from above experience which is the work of the Holy Spirit for He has come to bring conviction as we can read in:

John 16:8

**“When He comes He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement.”**

Jesus spoke about this born again experience in:

John 3:5-7

**“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”**

The Apostle Paul teaches what happens to those of us who have become believers in:

II Corinthians 5:17

**“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.”**

And Philippians 3:13

**“This I do, forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead.”**

And Romans 8:1-2

**“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of Life has set me free from the Law of Sin and Death.”**

Although in the Old Testament only males were circumcised, in the New Testament, this circumcision of the heart that Pauls speaks of is for men and women, for we who are believers are all sons of God and co-heirs with Christ as we can read in:

Romans 8:14-17

**“Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...”**

For the New Testament believer the outward sign of the born again experience is water baptism as Paul explained in:

Romans 6:3-4

**“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”**

And in Colossians 2:11-12

**“In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.”**

And in Galatians 3:26-27

**“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ.”**

Luke gives us various accounts of believers who were baptised as in:

Acts 2:38-39

**“Peter replied, “Repent, and be baptised, everyone of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off –for all whom the Lord our God will call.”**

Acts 2:41

**“Those who accepted his (Peter’s) message were baptised ...”**

Acts 8:12

**“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised both men and women.”**

Acts 8:32-38

**“The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:**

**“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so He did not open His mouth. In His humiliation He was deprived of justice. Who can speak of His descendants? For His life was taken from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”**

**Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. “Why shouldn’t I be baptised?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him.”**

Acts 9:18

**“Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptised.”**

Acts 10:47-48

**“Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.”**

Acts 19:4-5

**“Paul said, “John’ baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe on the One coming after him, that is in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptised into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Jesus Himself was baptised in water as we can read in:

Matthew 3:13-16

**“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John (the Baptist). But John tried to deter Him, saying, “I need to be baptised by You, and do You come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do so to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised He went up out of the water....”**

Jesus included Water Baptism in His Great Commision as we can read in:

Matthew 28:18-20

**“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

From Scripture we can learn then that the first step a person has to take is to repent of his sins and believe in the Lord Jesus and the following step is Water Baptism as an outward sign of what has already taken place in a person’s heart. Eventhough Water Baptism in itself does not save a person, it is an important step of obedience for a believer.

In our next study we will look at the subject of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

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## **The Word Of God - Lesson IV B**

### **Baptism In The Holy Spirit**

Having looked at the subject of Water Baptism we will now look at the subject of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We know that every one who is born from above or born again already has the Holy Spirit living on the inside of him/her according to:

John 3:5-8

**Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone**

**born of the Spirit."**

This means that person is now a child of God as we can read in:

John 1:10-12

**He (Jesus) was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him. He came to that which was His own (the Jews), but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God -children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

Those of us who are born of God have received eternal life as we can read in:

I John 5:13

**I (John) write these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

We can know that at the time of our death we will be with Jesus just as the criminal at the cross in:

Luke 23:40-43

**But the other criminal rebuked him, "Don't you fear God", he said, "since you are under the same sentence. We are punished justly, for we are getting our deeds deserve. But this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise."**

This man never received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for God had not yet send the Holy Spirit into the world as we can read in:

John 7:37-39

**On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living waters will from within him." By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**

And Acts 1:4-5

**On one occasion, while He (Jesus) was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift of My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."**

However, this man did not need the Baptism in the Holy Spirit since his earthly life was coming to an end and he was about to enter Paradise by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please understand that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not necessary for believers to enter heaven but is helpful for believers who are still here on earth to enable us to fulfil our God-given task.

John the Baptist explained that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is done by Jesus as we can read in:

John 1:32-34

**Then John (the Baptist) gave his testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him (Jesus). I would not have known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptise with water told me, "The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down will baptise with the Holy Spirit." I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God."**

Jesus imparted to the disciples the Holy Spirit as we can read in:

John 20:21-22

**And Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent Me I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**

At that time Jesus commissioned the disciples to go as He had gone to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God and He prepared them by giving them the Holy Spirit.

However, the initial experience of the disciples was not sufficient for them to be able to fulfil their commission so He told them to wait until they received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as we can read in:

Acts 1:4-5

**"..... Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."**

And in Acts 1:8

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

This happened at the Day of Pentecost as we can read in:

Acts 2:1-4

**When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

The 120 were then empowered by the Lord to fulfil their commission.

We have other examples of believers who received the same Baptism in the Holy Spirit as in:

Acts 8:14-17

**When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of**

**God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they simply had been baptised into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.**

And in Acts 9:17

**Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."**

Although this verse does not indicate that Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul, did receive the gift of tongues, we know from other passages in Scripture that he did as in:

I Corinthians 14:18

**"I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."**

Another example is Acts 10:44-47

**While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can any one keep these people from being baptised with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."**

And Acts 19:6

**When Paul placed his hands on them (the believers in Ephesus), the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied....**

Just as the believers in the Early Church needed to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, which was accompanied by a gift of speaking in tongues, so today we who are believers need to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, accompanied by a gift of tongues. This particular experience will empower us for our God-given task.

Furthermore, we as believers need to realise that after the initial Baptism in the Holy Spirit it will be necessary to receive a daily infilling of the Holy Spirit in order for us to live an overcoming Christian life as we can read in:

Ephesians 5:18

**Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit.**

This word "filled" means to be continually filled so it has to be an ongoing experience. We receive this daily infilling of the Holy Spirit by daily submitting to His leadership in our lives as we walk in close relationship with Him.

The Apostle Paul encouraged believers to have a close walk with the Holy Spirit in:

II Corinthians 13:14

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

We will look next at the subject of the gifts of the Spirit.

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## **The Word Of God - Lesson IV C**

### **The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit**

Every believer has been given one or more gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are not to be confused with natural talents, natural abilities. Even though these gifts have been given by God too they have been given to every person so people can function in the world. But spiritual gifts are given only to believers and are for the benefit of others.

A number of passages in Scripture deal with this subject, for instance:

I Corinthians 12:1-11

**Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no-one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no-one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.**

**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of workings, but the same God works all of them in all men.**

**Now to each one is the manifestation given for the common good.**

**To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.**

**All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.**

And I Corinthians 12:27-30

**Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**

**And in the Church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets/ Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.**

We will have closer look at the various gifts mentioned in these passages so we have a greater understanding how these gifts function. As I have already said, every believer has been given one or more gifts by the Holy Spirit and is to function in their gift for the benefit of others.

### **Word of Wisdom**

The believer who has received this gift usually functions in the Gift of Knowledge as well and is able to apply their spiritual knowledge at the right time and in the right way.

### **Word of Knowledge**

This gift is not about intellectual ability or learning but is an inner knowing, a supernatural revelation of facts given by the Holy Spirit about a situation, people or things which otherwise could not have been known.

Example: Acts 5:1-4

**Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."**

### **Gift of Faith**

This gift is a special Spirit-given ability to know with certainty that God wants to do something and is certain to do it.

Example: Acts 27:21-26

**After the men had gone for a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said, "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless we must run aground on some island."**

### **Gifts of Healing**

These gifts are special abilities to bring physical, emotional or spiritual healing in a supernatural way.

Example: Acts 8:4-8

**"Those who had been scattered preached the Word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to**

what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in the city.”

### Gift of Miracles

This gift is a display of supernatural extraordinary power, overturning the law of nature to show forth the power and presence of God in the affairs of men.

Examples: Acts 4:6-8

**Then Peter said, “Silver of gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.**

And Acts 9:36-41

**In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please, come at once!” Peter went with him, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.**

And Acts 13:9-11

**Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.**

Gift of Prophecy

**This gift is a special Spirit-given ability to receive and communicate a message from God so that believers may be strengthened, encouraged and comforted. The Greek word for prophecy literally means “to speak forth”. It includes “forth telling” which means “instruction” and “fore telling” which means “giving details of future events” as we can read in:**

I Corinthians 14:3-5

**But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.**

And in I Corinthians 14:29-31

**Two or three prophets should speak and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.**

Examples of foretelling are: Acts 11:27-28

**During this time some prophets came to down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)**

Acts 21:10-11

**After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, "In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles."**

Discerning of Spirits

**This is a special Spirit-given ability to distinguish between spirits, or to know whether a particular word, action or motive has its source in God, sinful flesh or satan.**

Example: Acts 16:16-18

**Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned round and said to the spirit, "In the Name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her." At that moment the spirit left her.**

### **Speaking in Different Kinds of Tongues**

This gift is a Spirit-given ability to speak words in a language unknown or not learned by the speaker. This gift may be given specifically for use in public settings and in that case not every one has that particular gift as we can see from:

I Corinthians 12:30

**....Do all speak in tongues?**

The answer is, of course, "No". However, believers are to receive a gift of speaking in tongues at the time of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. That particular gift is a gift for private use and is available to every believer.

Examples: Acts 2:4

**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

And Acts 10:44-46

**While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard**

**the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.**

And Acts 19:6

**When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.**

### **Interpretation of Tongues**

This gift is a special Spirit-given ability to interpret into a known language a message that has been spoken in tongues. The interpretation may be given by the person who initially spoke in tongues or by another person. The interpretation may not be a word for word translation but rather give the sense of the message. Paul taught on this gift in:

I Corinthians 14:5

**I would like every one of you to speak in tongues but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.**

And in I Corinthians 14:27

**If anyone speaks in a tongue, two - or at the most three - should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.**

And in I Corinthians 14:39

**Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.**

Another passage which deals with spiritual gifts is:

Romans 12:4-8

**Just as each one has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith. If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. If it is to encourage, then give encouragement. If it is giving, then give generously. If it is to lead, do it diligently. If it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

In this list we find some gifts not mentioned in I Corinthians 12 such as:

### **Encouragement/Counselling**

This is the Spirit-given ability to effectively encourage, comfort, challenge or rebuke others to help them live lives worthy of God.

Examples: Acts 14:21-22

**They (Paul and Barnabas) preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God," they said.**

And II Timothy 4:1-2

**In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His Kingdom, I (Paul) give you this charge: “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.”**

### **Gift of Giving**

This is contributing personal and material resources to the Lord’s work. The Greek word used in Romans 12:8 places emphasis on “giving or sharing of ourselves” as we give.

Examples: Luke 21:1-3

**As He looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “I tell you the truth,” He said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the other. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”**

And Acts 9:36

**In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.**

### **Gift of Administration or Leadership**

This gift enables the person who is gifted with leadership to steer the flock of God into channels of effective service.

Examples: I Thessalonians 5:12

**Now we ask you brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.**

And I Timothy 5:17

**The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.**

### **Showing Mercy**

Ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for hurting people and turning that feeling into cheerful acts of service.

Example: Acts 9:36

**In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas) who was always doing good and helping the poor.**

Furthermore, a list of gifts is mentioned in:

Ephesians 4:11-12

**It was He (Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.**

In the Ephesian passage Paul shows us that the gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers function differently from any other gift for he did not write that Christ gave gifts to certain people so that they can function as apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers but Paul wrote that it is Christ who gave people as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to the Body of Christ. Therefore, these people themselves are the gifts given to the Body.

I would like to conclude with the following statement:

We must remember too that the foundation of any gift is to be love. This love is in fact the “agape” love, which is the God-kind of love. We can read this in:

I Corinthians 13:1-3 where Paul wrote:

**And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.**

Therefore, as I have already said, every believer has been given one or more gifts by the Holy Spirit. These gifts have been given for the benefit of others and are to be exercised in love.

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## **The Word Of God - Lesson IV D**

### **The Fruit Of The Spirit**

Having looked at Water Baptism, Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit, we will now look at the subject of the Fruit of the Spirit.

We have learned that all believers are to undergo Water Baptism.

Furthermore, we have learned that every believer is to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the outward sign of a prayer language.

Thirdly, we have learned that the Holy Spirit has one or more gifts for every believer and that each believer should use their gift for the benefit of others. As far as the fruit of the Spirit is concerned, the first question we need to ask is:

What exactly is the fruit of the Spirit ?

The answer can be found in Galatians 5:22-23 where the Apostle Paul writes:

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.....**

He refers here to the character traits of the Holy Spirit.

The second question we need to ask is:

Who is to display this fruit of the Spirit?

The answer is:

Anyone, who by faith has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. At that time the Holy Spirit came to reside within them and they are then to submit to the Holy Spirit on a moment by moment basis as we can read in:

Romans 8:9

**You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.**

This means that such a person is to allow the Spirit of God to display His character through them which is His love, His joy, His peace, His patience, His kindness, His goodness, His faithfulness, His gentleness and His self-control.

Let us look at each one of these character traits.

### Love

The kind of love Paul talked about here is the God-kind of love, which is an unconditional love. We see this love expressed in:

John 3:16

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

Jesus sets the standard for the kind of love believers are to have for others in:

John 15:12

**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.**

He tells us who is to be included in the list of “others” in:

Matthew 5:44a

**But I tell you, “Love your enemies....**

Furthermore, Jesus teaches us that there is a close connection between obedience and love in:

John 15:10

**If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love...**

Also, the Apostle John teaches on the importance of obedience in relation to love, as we can read in:

II John 6

**And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands...**

Paul gives us a beautiful description of this kind of the God-kind of love in:

I Corinthians 13:4-7

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It**

**is not rude, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

This is the kind of love the Holy Spirit desires to display through us who are believers. Please remember that God does not require that we try and do produce this kind of love in our own strength for He knows that we will not be able to do so. However, when we submit to the Holy Spirit He will enable us to love others in that way as we can read in:

II Timothy 1:7

**For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.**

The Apostle Peter reminds believers to live that way as we can read in:

I Peter 4:8

**Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.**

The Apostle Paul has the following to say about love in:

Romans 12:9

**Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.**

And in Romans 13:9

**The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule, “Love your neighbour as yourself.”**

And in Colossians 3:12-14

**Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these things put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

The Apostle John writes the following on the same subject in:

I John 3:11

**This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.**

And in I John 4:16-21

**“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement, because in this world we are like Him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen,**

**cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

## Joy

Joy is not to be compared to happiness because happiness so often is dependant on our circumstances. Instead joy is in inner quality solely based on who God is and is given to us by the Lord as Jesus shows us in:

John 15:11

**“I (Jesus) have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”**

The Apostle Paul explains too that the believer’s joy is God-given in:

Romans 15:13

**“May the God of hope fill you will all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

Nehemiah describes the important role of joy in a believer’s life in:

Nehemiah 8:10b

**“....Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”**

The Prophet Isaiah writes that joy is everlasting in:

Isaiah 35:10

**And the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads, Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to be joyful in the Lord at all times as we can read in:

Philippians 4:4

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: “Rejoice!**

And in I Thessalonians 5:16

**Be joyful always.**

Furthermore, he encourages believers to be joyful regardless of the circumstances as we can read in:

I Thessalonians 1:6

**You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.**

The Apostle Peter writes about the great joy believers have in:

I Peter 1:8

**Though you have not seen Him (Christ) you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.**

### Peace

Those of us who have come to Christ have made peace with God as we can read in:

Romans 5:1

**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We will then be able to walk in the peace of God, as Jesus promised in:

John 14:27

**Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

The Apostle Paul teaches as well that those of us who are believers cannot produce this peace in our lives; it is God's doing as we can read in:

Romans 15:13

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

And in II Thessalonians 3:16

**Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.**

Furthermore, Paul explains how believers can always walk in the peace of God in:

Philippians 4:6-7

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

Having made peace with God and walking in the peace of God should have its outworking in the lives of believers in relation to others as we can read in:

Romans 12:18

**“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”**

And in Colossians 3:15

**“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful.”**

And in I Thessalonians 5:13b

**“...Live in peace with each other.”**

## Patience

This term means “bearing trials calmly”, the quality of enduring” or “long suffering”  
God Himself is the greatest example of patience as we can read in:

Numbers 14:18a

**“The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion...”**

And in Psalm 86:15

**But You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

And in II Peter 3:9 where the Apostle Peter writes:

**The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

The Apostle Paul encourages those of us who are believers that God will enable us to be patient in:

Colossians 1:11

**Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience....**

However, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that we as believers are to actively co-operate with God so that His patience may flow through us in Ephesians 4:2

**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.**

And in Colossians 3:12

**Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

And in I Thessalonians 5:14

**And we urge you brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.**

He further encourages believers to be patient under all circumstances as in:

Romans 12:12

**“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”**

## Kindness

The term kindness means “to treat others as God has treated you.”

God Himself is the greatest example of kindness as we can read in:

Romans 2:4

**Or do you show contempt for the riches of His (God’s) kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God’s kindness leads you towards repentance?**

And in Ephesians 2:7

**In order that in the coming ages He (God) might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

And in Titus 3:4-5a

**But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour, appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.**

Believers are to show kindness to others in the same way that God has shown us kindness as Paul teaches us in:

Ephesians 4:32

**Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

And in Colossians 3:12

**Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

And in I Thessalonians 5:15

**Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.**

The Apostle Peter teaches this too in:

II Peter 1:5-7

**For this very reason make every effort to add to your faith goodness, and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.**

### **Goodness**

We can read of the goodness of Jesus in:

John 10:11

**I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.**

Furthermore, Jesus teaches us that we are to apply goodness to others in:

Luke 6:27

**But I tell you who hear Me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.**

The Apostle Paul teaches us along similar lines in:

Romans 12:21

**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

And in I Timothy 6:12

**Fight the good fight of the faith....**

The Holy Spirit's goodness in believers is to lead us to good actions which God has prepared in advance for us as we can read in:

Ephesians 2:10

**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

The Apostle Paul tells believers not to give up on doing those good works as we can read in:

Galatians 6:9

**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

Furthermore, He tells believers how to be equipped for every good work in:

II Timothy 3:16-17

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man (or woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

The Apostle Peter encourages believers to be examples to others by the way we live as we can read in:

I Peter 2:12

**Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.**

Furthermore, He teaches those of us who are believers how to mature in our walk with God as we can read in:

II Peter 1:5-7

**For this very reason make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to your goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.**

### **Faithfulness**

God is a faithful God as we can read in:

I Corinthians 10:13

**No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

The Apostle Paul shows believers that God is faithful at all times as we can see in:

II Timothy 2:13

**If we are faithless, He (God) will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.**

The author of Hebrews says the following about God's faithfulness in:

Hebrews 10:23

**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.**

The Apostle John helps believers to understand the faithfulness of God in relation to our sins in:

I John 1:9

**If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify from all unrighteousness.**

We who are believers are to display the same kind of faithfulness as we submit to the Holy Spirit's work in us as we can read in:

Revelation 2:10b

**...Be faithful even to the point of death, and I (Jesus) will give you the crown of life.**

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to show the God-kind of faithfulness in regards to our prayer life as we can read in:

Romans 12:12

**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.**

### **Gentleness**

Jesus invites believers to follow His example of gentleness as we can read in:

Matthew 11:29

**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

The Apostle Paul shows believers that his gentleness is based on the gentleness of Christ in:

II Corinthians 10:1

**By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you – I Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” when away.**

He encourages believers to make a public demonstration of that same Christ-like gentleness as we can read in:

Philippians 4:5

**Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.**

And in Colossians 3:12

**Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to make gentleness a priority in their lives as we can read in:

I Timothy 6:11

**But you man (or woman) of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.**

### Self-control

God expects us as believers to be in control of ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we can read in:

I Thessalonians 5:6

**So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.**

The Apostle Peter teaches this as well in:

I Peter 1:13

**Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Christ Jesus is revealed.**

Furthermore, Peter connects the importance of self-control in relation to prayer as we can read in:

I Peter 4:7

**The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.**

The Apostle Peter declares too that self-control is needed because believers have an enemy as we can read in:

I Peter 5:8

**Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.**

He encourages those of us who are believers to develop self-control as part of our godly character as we can read in:

II Peter 1:5

For this very reason make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

It is very obvious that these godly characteristics will take time to be formed in us who are believers. However, over time, as we daily submit to the work of the Holy Spirit on the inside of us, we will begin to display more and more of this wonderful fruit of the Holy Spirit, this godly character. Moreover, godly character will enable us to fulfil the calling of God in our lives.

In our next study we will look at the subjects of our position in Christ and prayer.