



Gifted By Grace

An introduction to the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

Study Guide

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Lesson 1: A New Life

It's always a good idea to start at the beginning. Or better said it is best to begin with the most important thing. In this study we are focusing on the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts, but we first have to be sure that we center our hearts on the main thing: the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Briefly describe the gospel in your own words:

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

In verse 3, the Apostle Paul describes the gospel as being of “first importance.” Notice that he addresses those in Corinth who already have believed in the gospel and received it by faith. Paul emphasizes the importance of the gospel in Romans 1:11-15 as well. He writes to believers telling them that he longs to impart a spiritual gift to them and preach the gospel to them. In addressing Christians in this way, Paul points out that the gospel is of first importance not only to those who have not yet believed, but to those who have believed as well.

List the major elements of the gospel described in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

Christ died for our sins. That is the good news. But before we receive good news, we must acknowledge the bad news: we have all offended God.

Read the following passages:

Isaiah 53:6

Romans 3:10-18

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:12-14

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:1-3

Ephesians 5:3-8

Colossian 3:5-9

Titus 3:3

James 2:10

What does the Bible say about the extent of sin in the human race?

What tendencies do we have toward God?

Describe some of the effects of our sin. What is the result (i.e. the wages) of sin?

We are all guilty before God, and the Bible says we are helpless to do anything about it. We deserve death. So what does this death look like?

Read these verses:

Revelation 20:11-15

Revelation 21:8

Physical death is the cessation of life and the separation of our immaterial self (i.e. soul, spirit) from our bodies. The second death, or eternal death, is the separation of our souls from the presence of God for eternity. The Bible describes eternal death in terrifying terms of physical and spiritual anguish.

We cannot atone for our own rebellion and guilt and thus we cannot, on our own power, avoid the death we deserve. We need to be rescued. We need a Savior.

So God provided a way.

Read the following passages:

Matthew 20:28

John 1:29

John 3:16-21

Romans 3:23-26

Romans 5:6-8

Galatians 1:3-5

1 Peter 2:22-24

1 Peter 3:18

How is the work of Jesus described in these verses?

What are the results of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross?

How was God the Father involved in Jesus' sacrifice?

Jesus absorbed the wrath of God the Father for our sins. He took the punishment we deserved upon Himself so that we could spend eternity with Him in heaven. This is an astonishing and nearly incomprehensible truth. That He would humble Himself and die for your sin and my sin reveals His inexhaustible grace and love for us. We are ransomed and rescued by Jesus so we do not have to face the wrath of God the Father for eternity.

But the work of Jesus on the cross doesn't end in the grave. The Bible says that He rose again on the third day.

Read the following passages:

Matthew 16:21

Acts 17:31

Matthew 20:18-19

Romans 6:4

Matthew 28:1-6

Romans 8:11

John 10:18

1 Corinthians 15:4

Acts 2:23-24, 32

1 Corinthians 6:14

Acts 13:30

Colossians 2:10

From these verses we see that God the Father (Acts 2:32), Jesus (John 10:18), and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11) are unified in action in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In John 14:19 Jesus says, “Because I live, you also will live.” This is an amazing promise and is the hope of all who believe in Him for salvation. When we die, we will live. We will live because Jesus overcame the grave and He promises we will do the same in victory.

Paul reflects on the resurrection body and the victory that we have in Jesus over death in 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. Take some time to read this passage and reflect on its meaning and the hope that is offered to all who believe in Christ for salvation.

What to do now?

If you have not placed your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, then today is the day to do it. Now is the time of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2) and today is the day for you to be reconciled to God through Jesus. There is no reason to put it off any longer. He will forgive you of all of your sins, past, present, and future. Psalm 103:12 says, “as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.” The Lord will give you new life as He promised and will receive you as His own child (John 1:12; Romans 8:16-17). You will no longer be under the wrath of God, and even your troubles will be caused to work out for your good (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; Romans 8:28). Life on earth will still not be perfect, but you will have a perfect Savior to walk through it with you day by day.

For those who have Jesus as their Lord and Savior, He challenges you to stand firm in the faith and walk steadily in it.

Read Romans 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 1:18

What is the gospel to the believer?

Why should you saturate your life with the hearing and reading of the gospel?

Read the following passages

1 Corinthians 15:58

Ephesians 2:8-10

Colossians 1:9-14; 23

All Christians have work to do. We do not work for our salvation, but we do work in view of it and because of the love Jesus has shown us. We work in response to the work that Jesus has done on our behalf, and for the life and love we have been given because of that work. We were created to glorify God in all that we do and worship Him forever.

What work do you believe God has prepared for you to do?

What is holding you back?

Questions for Group Discussion

How would you explain the gospel to someone who has never heard it?

Why is the resurrection an important part of the gospel?

How has the gospel personally affected your life and the way you live?

Why is it important to be able to understand and explain the gospel as a Christian?

What are some benefits of “preaching the gospel to yourself?”

If you are a believer, briefly share your personal testimony of salvation.

How can you share the gospel and your testimony with someone this week?