The Gift of The Holy Spirit.

10-18-2026 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: Acts 2:38-39.

B. Regarding the text:

1. This passage has been subject to much disagreement and speculation.
2. Among our own brethren there are various ideas as to the meaning of the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. The various positions are followed by a number of good, scholarly, reliable brethren. However, these brethren do not make their view a test of fellowship.
    1) With only one exception.
    2) And his doctrine is new to me, and to all that I have asked concerning this position.

I. ACTS 2:38: "AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST."

A. This passage has been discussed by many people.

1. Pentecostals teach that the gift is the baptism of the Holy Ghost that enables one to perform miracles. Yet, those gifts ended with the revelation of God's word (**1 Cor. 13**).
2. Among faithful brethren, there are various thoughts as to the meaning of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

B. We should not allow our conclusion to drive a wedge between brethren in Christ, thus destroying fellowship.

1. However, if one's view of the subject under consideration leads him to violate some precept of God's will, such is not to be condoned.
2. There are some ideas that are not in the context of **Acts 2**.

II. THERE SEEMS TO BE *THREE BASIC VIEWS* OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS 2:38: WITH SOME VARIATIONS.

A.* The *personal, literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1. Most of these do not claim that this benefit does anything for the Christian apart from the word of God.
2. In the conviction and conversion of alien sinners, these brethren faithfully maintain that the word of God is the instrument. Passages cited include:
    1) **Acts 5:32**.
    2) **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**.
    3) **Galatians 4:6**.
3. Many of these brethren think that the Spirit personally indwells us, that the gift received is the Holy Spirit as a person.

B. *Others say that the gift of the Holy Spirit is salvation.*

1. Specifically, some think that pardon is the gift; or eternal life which we have in promise (**1 John 2:25**). This view states, therefore, that the gift is something which the Spirit gives, and is not the Spirit himself.
2. These good brethren affirm that the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian only through the word of God. Verses cited include these:
    1) **Romans 6:23**.
    2) **Hebrews 9:15**.

C. *A third view is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the miraculous gifts.*

1. Those who advocate this position believe miracles ceased after the first century. Those gifts were given by the "Laying on of the apostle's hands."

2. The Samaritans obeyed the gospel but did not receive miraculous gifts until the apostle laid "hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (**Acts 8:14-17**).
3. These faithful brethren believe that miracles are not being done today. All will affirm that the age of miracles ceased as was taught in **1 Corinthians 13:8-13**.

D. We must also discuss another view that is new. New to me as well as everyone that I have discussed it with.

1. This position is stated in written communications: "We believe the gift is the promise of the resurrection from the dead unto eternal life."
2. We had one come into our congregation that accuse us of not teaching truth concerning this subject.
    1) He has put us in the class of those who teach "infant baptism," and "faith only" teachers. We were given the designation of a Progressive Church of Christ. Which are liberal congregations.
    2) The verses that he uses are not in harmony with **Acts 2**.
3. If he held that position and would not make it a test of fellowship, we could work with it. But to mark us as progressive will not work.
4. He tried to interject his doctrine into our Bible class that had nothing to do with **Acts 2:38**.

III. WHAT CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE REACHED?

A. The information discussed is intended to be a brief overview of the subject. It is not offered to prove any position conclusively, but to present some basic information concerning the "gift of the Holy Spirit."

5. It has not been our intention to cause turmoil in the church. However, we must never allow error to fracture our fellowship.
6. Our aim should be unity, but not at the expense of truth. We should be united in all matters of truth but be tolerant in matters of judgment.
    1) **Philippians 2:2-3**.
    2) **Philippians 3:16**.

B. Ephesians 4:3-6.

IV. INVITATION:

A. To become a Christian one must…

1. **Hear** the gospel (**Romans 10:17; 1:16**).
2. After hearing, one must **believe** the gospel message (**Romans 1:16; Mark 16:15-16**).
3. Believing will cause us to **repent** (**Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3, 5**).
4. Confess Christ before men (**Romans 10:9-10**).
5. **Be baptized** for remission of sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**).
6. Then live faithfully to the Lord (**Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58**).

B. Heaven is the place prepared for those who are prepared.