

Introduction:

- *"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."* (John 1:16 ESV)
- *"Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."* (John 7:39, ESV)
- I want to look at the topic of gifts tonight, in light of this Pentecost Sunday.
- Webster 1828: "**GIFT**, *noun* [from give.] A present; any thing given or bestowed; any thing, the property of which is voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation; a donation."

I. Everyone Likes A Gift

- A. A gift giver, motivated by love, gives gifts because in his heart he is good, kind, generous, and thinking of others. Most gifts, when given, are given to put a smile on someone's face.
1. Because he is motivated by love he does not seek to manipulate.
 2. Because he is motivated by love he does not seek to control.
 3. Because he is motivated by love he does not seek to make others perform.
 4. Because he is motivated by love he does not seek to show off with his gift.
- B. Everyone likes receiving a gift.
1. A gift says that someone was thinking about you.
 2. A gift says I like being in relationship with you. It helps build social bonds.
 3. A gift says you are important to me. It can be a way of showing love.
- C. God is the greatest of gift-givers! Because...God is love! (1 John 4:8) When He gives a gift it is motivated by love. Agape love! :)
1. *"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!"* (Matthew 7:11, ESV)
 2. I Cor 13:4 Love is patient love is 'kind' -
 - a) It means friendly, worthy, respectful, honoring.
 - b) it means to be compliant to the needs of others. "Love is so focused on the needs of others, that it bends over backwards to become what others need it to be." Rick Renner p. 672 Sparkling Gems. Jesus became sin...it was what we needed from Him.
 3. The gift will be good not evil. Every good and perfect gift is from the Father. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (James 1:17, ESV)
 4. He gives us gifts with us in mind!
 5. His gifts are incredibly generous!

II. Everyone Should Like Father's Gift

A. Two words for gifts:

1. Dorea - gift that the Father gives. It denotes God's gifts in the NT but always with an implication of grace., e.g., the Spirit in Acts 2:38; 8:20, etc.; Heb. 6:4, or more generally the gifts of God or Christ in Rom. 5:15; 2 Cor. 9:15; Eph. 3:7.
2. Charis - grace. Charisma gift - *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23, ESV) 'What is in view is the process whereby one who has something turns graciously to another who is in need.' Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985).

B. The gift of grace. "Grace is better defined as **the 'empowering presence of God'.**"

God's ability in me to the things I cannot do in and of myself. Grace empowers people to be righteous.

1. *"For the wages (something we earn/deserve) of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23, ESV) Gift is free! It is not earned or deserved.
2. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,"* (Ephesians 2:8, ESV)
3. *"Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power."* (Ephesians 3:7, ESV)
4. Free gift of righteousness! *"... much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."* (Romans 5:17, ESV)
5. The gift results in thanks giving. *"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"* (2 Cor 9:15, ESV)
6. The OT reflects the grace of God. *"And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."* (Exodus 33:19, ESV)

C. The gift of Jesus Christ

1. *"Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.""* (John 4:10, NLT)
2. *"And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification."* (Romans 5:16, ESV) James 1:17

D. The gift of the Holy Spirit.

1. *"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38, NLT)

2. You cannot earn a gift. *"But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought!" (Acts 8:20, NLT)*
 3. God is not partial! The gift is for all who believe.
 - a) *"The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too." (Acts 10:45, NLT)*
 - b) *"And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to stand in God's way?" (Acts 11:17, NLT)*
 4. *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13, ESV)*
- E. Five fold gifts
1. *"Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (Ephesians 4:8, ESV)*
 2. Again, God is giving Himself away to us for our good.

Conclusion:

- *"Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:39, ESV)*
- Luke 12:31-32 Father's good pleasure to gives us the kingdom.