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Youth and Our Obligation to Them

BY JASON Y. FRIZZELL

At this time of the year, thousands of young people embark on a part of life that is completely new. They have high hopes of the future, usually their goals are high. Their spirits are high with anticipation of accomplishing their dreams. They are full of energy, they are optimistic, full of confidence, and for most part are honest, and have an air of confidence that is almost bewildering to most adults.

We as older people, fathers and mothers should be very proud of our youth for these traits. Our youth of today are our greatest and most prized possessions. They are or should be the dearest things on earth to us. As our children and youth of our nation come to the time in life that depart from our care and protection of the home. Do we as parents and adults look back over the past few years and wonder about the following questions concerning our children and youth:

Did I teach them how to live? Did I tell them the pitfalls in life? Did I teach and lead them in the paths of righteousness? Have I loved, admonished, and nurtured them as the Bible teaches? Have I been too busy to answer their questions concerning the things of life that are most important? Have I led them in love? Have I molded them while they were young and pliable?

Concerning our duties as parents and older people: Let us consider some of the following quotations from the Bible that are applicable to these questions:

Titus 2-2,8; that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity in patience. (3) The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things: (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands that the word of God be not blasphemed. (6) Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. (7) In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: In doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, (8) Sound speech that cannot be condemned: That he that is of contrare part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

If we as older people, having no other instructions than that just recorded, have or would live according to these instructions: These would not be any trouble in the world today.

Proverbs 22-6: Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

There are some that try to give excuses for this verse in saying: There is nothing that we can do about our children after they leave home and out from our jurisdiction. This is so true but the verse says: Train up in the way he should go and he will not depart. When we question this verse, we are questioning the divine wisdom of God and saying that we made no mistake in the manner of training we gave our child. Now, you and I must decide, who is right and who is wrong, the word of God or the wisdom of man.

Proverbs 22-15: Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child: But the rod of corrections shall drive it far from him. (The 'Rod' in this passage does not necessarily mean something in the form of a stick, whip, club, but is used as an instrument of authority to produce a lasting and unforgettable affect.)

Proverbs 20-11: Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right. (A child will copy someone he looks up to. Have we as parents set the examples we wish our children to follow?)

Proverbs 4-4: He taught me also, and said unto me, let thine heart retain My words: keep My commandments and live.

Have we taught our youth, have we set the examples in such a way that they will remember the words of God and to keep His commandments? In times of trial, trouble, pain, and disappointment, have we taught them the words of:

Ecclesiastes 12-1: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

It has been our responsibility to teach the young people the golden rule and to live by it as an example to them. To paraphrase the scripture: Do unto others as we wish they do to us. Forgive others as we want them to forgive us.

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Gifts of the Holy Spirit

NINE ARE NAMED

From I Cor. 12:6-11, there are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit named. They are (these were supernaturally imparted by the Holy Spirit, Verse 7) the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues (different languages) and the interpretation of tongues!

NOT EVERYONE HAD ALL THE GIFTS

Just to notice that different gifts were given to different people and no one of these had them all, should help us to understand better. For instance, some could speak in languages which they had not learned, and some could interpret these languages. Unless there was some one who could interpret the language, they were forbidden to speak in such a language, I Cor. 14:27-28. So this rules out the "unknown tongues" in churches today! The word "unknown" is found in the King James Version of the Bible, but it was ADDED by uninspired men and WAS NOT in the original text!

THESE MIRACLES AND GIFTS HAD A PURPOSE

"Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ", I Cor. 1:6. Paul said that the church at Corinth had the Gospel confirmed in them. They came behind in no gift that this might be done.

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." (Heb. 2:3). Here it is stated that this salvation was FIRST spoken by Christ and was CONFIRMED unto us by them that heard him. BUT HOW WAS THIS CONFIRMED UNTO US? "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will," Heb. 2:4. God gave witness to the truth of their message by "gifts of the Holy Spirit". The purpose of these "gifts" was to CONFIRM THE WORD! In other words, the New Testament had not been written, so when a preacher came to a city (as Moses in Egypt) he could perform miracles to PROVE that God sent him. Therefore if God worked

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen
and James E. Henley.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit (con't.)

miracles through him, then his MESSAGE WAS ALSO TRUE! BUT THE WORD HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, so we have no NEED for these gifts today! The word ONCE CONFIRMED BY GOD, needs no further confirmation by man today! Even before Christ ascended into heaven, this was true. "And they (the apostles GVP) went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.", Mark 16:20. These gifts were to equip the teachers to teach a message which they had not learned, in languages which they did not know, and CONFIRM the truthfulness of the message. Today if a man preaches the Gospel of Christ, he must LEARN the message by a study of the Bible. If he preaches in a DIFFERENT language, he must LEARN the language. He does not have to CONFIRM the word for it has been CONFIRMED and WRITTEN so the hearer can SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES to see whether he is telling the truth or not!

HOW WERE THESE NINE GIFTS RECEIVED?

We first observe that after the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit (we will discuss this in another article), Acts 2:1-4, they were the ONLY ones performing "wonders and signs", Acts 2:43. In Acts 5:12, it is "by the hands of the apostles" that "many signs and wonders were wrought among the people." In Acts 6 there were seven men selected for special work and the Apostles "laid their hands on them", verse 6. Stephen was one of these and could perform miracles (Acts 8:6) and BECAUSE of his miracles the people gave "heed" to his teaching! ONLY by the laying on of the apostles hands could

Real Spirituality

Isa. 26:3 — "Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth thee."

Real trust depends on God to give direction. Real trust follows that direction given whether it is pleasant or unpleasant at the moment, knowing not what the future holds, but knowing WHO holds the future, and depending on Him to work all things together for good as He promises. God rebukes the immature Christian who remains a babe in Christ.

Paul says: "By this time, you ought to be teachers, but you need someone to teach you again the very first principles... You need milk yet, not solid food. Every one who lives on milk is unskilled in the word... he is a child..." (paraphrased Heb. 5:12-14).

Recently someone came to us who had not kept their mind on Jehovah. It had wandered. In the wandering Satan used this to bring to their attention a group 'which seemed so spiritual.' This person joined this group and after a time became disillusioned with them and wanted to know: "What do I do now?"

"When he prays and talks, you can just feel so close to the Lord."

"My life must not be spiritual enough because I don't feel chose enough to the Lord." I don't get anything out of the worship services."

These are comments one hears over and over again.

Spirituality is not measured by always feeling ecstatically on Cloud 9 during a worship period. Isaiah felt pretty low in

the presence of the Lord. Spirituality is not measured by fancy sounding prayer. In fact, Jesus said, "When you pray, do not be as the hypocrites who love to be heard...but enter your closet." A pretty good rule in prayer is; "The longer the man prays in public, the less he has prayed in private."

The real test of spirituality is "keeping our mind stayed on Him." Paul said: "Be instant in season and out of season." "Be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lords." It isn't always going to be pleasant, easy, or restful. Paul admonished: "be no weary in well doing, for in DUE SEASON, you shall reap IF you faint not." He knew we would be tempted to 'grow weary', 'get tired' and want to 'give up.' Just before he promised there would be the "PEACE THAT PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING" he cautioned: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, WITH THANKSGIVING, let your request be made known... (Phil. 4:4-8; I Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6).

The real test of spirituality is not in "better felt than told", not in "withdrawing from the saints and discounting God's specific written word. Real spirituality demands obedience even when I don't feel like it, even when I don't understand, but trusting Him to keep His promises in DUE SEASON IF I FAINT NOT. A more valid test lies in attitudes of daily routine, ordinary living — how the Christian wife washed here dishes, changes the diapers, keeps the home; how the man conducts his business affairs. REAL SPIRITUALITY is best seen in the way we walk when we are in the valleys. This is a far greater test than seeing one on the 'mountain top'. No human can always maintain a high emotional level. God calls us to FAITHFULNESS'

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these "gifts" be imparted, Acts 8:18. So when the apostles died, the source of gifts died also! God planned for these "signs" to cease, I Cor. 13:8. There are NO miracles today!

Glynn Purdy

May We Always Have

- Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
- Enough sorrow to keep us human;
- Enough faith in ourselves to give us courage;
- Enough wealth to meet our needs;
- Enough trials to keep us strong;
- Enough failure to keep us humble.
- Enough friends to give us comfort;
- Enough determination to make each day a good day.

--Selected.

If I Were Satan, Says Columnist

If I were the Prince of Darkness, I would want to engulf the whole earth in darkness.

I'd have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree.

I would begin with a campaign of whispers.

With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please."

To the young, I would whisper: "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that "man created God," instead of the other way around. I'd confide that "what is bad is good and what is good is square."

In the ears of the young married, I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not be "extreme" in religion, in patriotism, in moral conduct.

AN THE OLD, I would teach to pray—to say after me—"our father which are in Washington . . ."

Then I'd get organized.

I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature so that anything else would appear dull, uninteresting.

I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies, and visa-versa.

I'd infiltrate unions and urge more loafing, less work. Idle hands usually work for me.

I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could, I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction, I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the Devil I would encourage school to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions, let those run wild.

I'd designate an atheist to front for me before the highest courts, and I'd get preachers to say: "She's right."

WITH FLATTERY AND promise of power, I would get the courts to rule what I construe as against God and in favor of pornography.

Thus I would evict God from the courthouse, then the schoolhouse, then from the Houses of Congress.

Then in His own churches, I'd substitute psychology for religion and deity science.

That way man would become smart enough to create super weapons, but not wise enough to control them.

If I were Satan, I'd make the symbol of Easter and egg . . .

And the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the Devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. Then my police state

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

A PROMISE

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a PROMISE, never a command! Jesus promised this ONLY to the apostles, John 16: 17-13; 14-26 and Acts 1:1-8. The apostles received this so that they could convict the world, "of sin, righteousness and the judgment", John 16:8. **THE APOSTLES ONLY WERE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**, Acts 1:26 through Acts 2:4. The "theys" of Acts 2:1-4, all depend upon "Matthias and the eleven apostles", of Acts 1:26, as their antecedent, NOT the hundred and twenty of Acts 1:15.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are ONLY two cases of the baptism of the Holy Spirit recorded in the New Testament! He came on the Apostles so that they could perform miracles to CONFIRM their words; preach a Gospel which they had never heard, in languages which they did not know (they were all "Galileans"), Acts 2:7. They could also lay their hands on others and give them special gifts that they too could perform miracles, etc. These are recorded in I Cor. 12:8-11, and discussed in another article. There are records where others performed signs and wonders, but no record where this power was passed from one man to another, except through the apostles!

The second case of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is recorded in Acts 10, pertaining to Cornelius and his family. They received the Holy Spirit just as the apostles, Acts 10:47. This occasion was for a DIFFERENT purpose than that of the apostles. The church was about six, or eight years old and the Jewish apostles had refused to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. It took a miracle to get Peter to the home of Cornelius, Acts 10:9-19. Peter learned that God was no respecter of persons, Acts 10:34-35. Next, it was to prove to the six Jews who were with Peter that the Gospel was for the Gentiles, Acts 10:45? 11:12. For the first time a Gentile was baptized into the Lord's church, Acts 10:48. There is no other record in the New Testament, other than these two where anyone, at any time, for any purpose, was baptized with the Holy Spirit. There has been none since and there will never be another. The

would force everybody back to work.

Then I could separate families putting children in uniform, women in coal mines, and objectors in slave-labor camps.

If I were Satan, I'd just keep doing what he's doing.

-Paul Harvey

purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit has been fulfilled! The apostles spoke the word, confirmed the word and wrote the word, so today we can take the word and, "convict the world of sin, righteousness and the Judgment". It was to guide the apostles into ALL TRUTH and the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit has been accomplished! This INCLUDES the teaching that the Gospel is for "every creature".

THE ABILITY OF THOSE WHO WERE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

There were those who CLAIMED to be apostles in New Testament times, but when tried, they were found to be LIARS, Rev. 2:2. John tells us to TRY those who teach today, because "many false prophets are gone out into the world", I John 4:1. So any one today who CLAIMS to be baptized with the Holy Spirit is to be TRIED and if he cannot do the "works" of the apostles he is a "liar" according to God! If you find a man who tells you he has been baptized with the Holy Spirit, then he must PROVE this by "speaking in languages which he has not learned". You must be able to understand him. Every man understood the apostles IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE, Acts 2:8. He must be able to "Cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, drink deadly poison, and lay hands on the sick and they shall recover", Mark 16:17-18. Peter healed the lame and did it INSTANTLY, Acts 3:1-11. Peter raised the dead, Acts 9:36-41. Paul raised the dead, Acts 20:9-11. In no case did it take weeks and months for this to happen! Paul was bitten by a deadly viper with no harm, Acts 28:3-8. UNLESS A PERSON CAN DO ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE, HE IS NO APOSTLE AND HAS NOT BEEN BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. God said TRY THEM, if they cannot perform they are LIARS! WHAT DO YOU SAY? No my friend, there are NO miracles today. The fake healer pitches his tent and says, "bring the ill". The hospitals are FULL of the ill, why not go there and HEAL THEM ALL! Land is scarce for burial purposes, why not raise all in the cemetery! They cannot heal a fly!

Glynn Purdy

NEWS:

The Mammoth Spring Church of Christ will have a series of Gospel Meetings July the 24th through the 30th. Brother Charles White will be the speaker.

The Church of Christ at Poughkupsie, Arkansas will have a series of Gospel Meetings June 12-18. Brother James E. Henley will be the speaker.

Youth and Our Obligation (con't.)

I hope that everyone that reads this, especially if you consider yourself an adult, will stop at this time and read: First Thessalonians 5-15 thru 22: especially verse 22. Have we set the example before our youth this important scripture? Have we taught our children the full meaning of: First Corinthians, 13-11: As pertaining the ways of a child and how childish things should be put away in a godly manner?

Have we accepted our responsibility in fulfilling our obligation to our youth and our children: Ephesians 6-1 thru 4: Let us read and meditate upon these verses.

(1) Children: Obey your parents in the Lord: For this is right. (2) Honor they father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. (4) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: But bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Now if we as fathers have obeyed the last part of verse 4 above: We will not have to worry about Proverbs 22-6.

Have we, as adults, followed the advice that Paul gave Timothy in: First Timothy 4-12 Let no man despise thy youth: But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in purity.

In our troubled society today, can we as adults, find time to answer the questions of our youth from a Bible stand point: Or do we dare to try because we can't: Or, are we afraid to because we would reveal ourselves as hypocrites?

The often quoted phrase: "The generation Gap," do we explain to our youth that there has been a so called generation gap from the time of, "Cain and Abel" Abraham and Lot: King Saul and David: Christ and the Jews: Each generation has had its problems from the beginning to the present time but none of these problems are so difficult that they cannot be solved by and from examples given in Gods word.

Each generation has had the word of God that commands us to teach, preach, admonish, pray, love, exhort, set examples, prepare, obey the truth, become Christians, live the Christians Life. Youth is so pliable, it can be molded, its values and ideals can be turned and guided: But take stock of this: How many of we older people have taught our sons to be gospel preachers? How many have taught their children to be elders, elder's wives, preacher's wives, deacons, and song leaders? Where have we put the value for our youth? How many so called Christian homes have "Home Bible study" just once a week?

The phrase so often quoted these days, "Doing your own Thing", what is

Who Are We?

This congregation is a group of Christians drawn together in the love of Jesus Christ for worship and service. It is a free fellowship, in that only those are members of it who freely choose to be. But it is not a voluntary association such as a lodge or fraternity. For to become a Christian is to become a member of Christ's body, His Church, and be in active fellowship with others of like faith. Members wear no name but Christian.

We are not an organic part of any denomination, though we recognize a special closeness to other churches of Christ. We are free however, to study, teach and work as our conscience directed by the Bible leads us.

We carry on our work and worship as we understand the Scriptures to teach. According to apostolic precedent, we celebrate the Lord's supper each Lord's day. Our music is the praise of our lips without mechanical accompaniment. The proclamation of the word of God is given a prominent place, for we believe that in Christian worship God always speaks, and that we must be listening. Our giving is liberal. Symbolic of the dedication of all that we have and are.

Those not Christians are taught to believe in Christ with their whole heart, to repent of their sins, to confess their faith in Jesus and to be baptized into union with Him for the forgiveness of their sins. Since baptism instituted by Jesus and practiced by the early church was immersion, we follow that practice today. Thus baptism truly symbolized the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

We do not exist for selfish purposes, but to follow Him who came to minister and to give His life a ransom for many. We pray the Father for more workers here that we may serve Him better and His children more. Our marching orders are the Lord's world-wide commission. Christ is our only creed and the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice. Our message is "Jesus Christ and him crucified." I Cor. 2:2. "For we preach not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." II Corinthians 4:5.

--via McKnight Church of Christ
St. Louis, Mo.

your own thing according to the Bible; Let's look at one verse of scripture for the answer. Ecclesiastes 12-13: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear His commandments: For this is the whole duty of man.

May we as adults and parents have the courage and Christian love in our hearts to admit our faults to our sons and daughters, so that we may take heed, considering ourselves lest we fall.

Fabulous Facts 'n Figures

One of the biggest mathematical miracles in the world - Moses and the people of Israel were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding 3 to 3½ million people would require a lot of food.

According to the Quarter-Master General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have 1,500 tons of food daily. Do you know that to bring that much food each day, 2 freight trains, each a mile long, would be required?

Besides, you must remember, they were out in the desert, and they would have to have firewood to use for cooking the food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood - and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day. And just think, they were 40 years in transit!

Then they would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash dishes, it would take one million gallons each day, which would be the equivalent of a freight train of tank cars 1,800 miles long just to bring water. They had no lakes, and only a few wells. How did they get that much water?

And another thing, they had to get across the Red Sea in one night. Now, if they went on a narrow part, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would take 35 days and night to get through. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea 3 miles wide and they would have to walk across 5,000 abreast to get over in one night.

But then, another problem. Every time they camped at the end of the day, a campground 2/3 the size of the state of Rhode Island, (25 by 30 miles). Think of it - this space just for nightly camping!

Did Moses figure all this out before they left Egypt? I think not. You see, Moses believed in God and God was going to take care of these things for him. Let us be encouraged, we have the same God. We think that our problems are so big. Remember what God can do. Just team up with God, and your problems will be in His care. Let Him run your life, and as the old song says, "He will take care of you." (Via Tallahassee, Fla. bulletin)

Elizabeth, Arkansas 72531
Tutor Huett