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GIFT THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Erwin Cowen, Moten

This gift is wholly distinct from the gift discussed in our last issue and had no effect whatsoever upon it. Whether this gift was received or not, the one before mentioned always immediately follows baptism. The laying on of hands always imparted supernatural power, the other never did. With this thought in mind let us carefully examine this gift also.

This gift was never imparted except through the laying on of hands, and only the apostles could impart the gift in that way. The hands of an apostle were absolutely necessary to the imparting of this gift, because the gift always carried supernatural power and since the apostles alone possessed the highest gift which was the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These alone could impart gifts of supernatural power, for any gift with power must come from one with superior power.

Bear in mind that this gift could never be given to any unbaptized person it had to be added to the common gift received at baptism if received at all. The various gifts under this head were nine in number "Word of wisdom Word of knowledge, Faith, Gifts of healing, Workings of miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Divers kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues" I Cor. 12; 8-12 These were all miraculous

and were imparted through the laying on of the hands of an apostle. Let us note some of the instances [Acts 6:6] The apostles laid hands on the seven brethren recommended by the Jerusalem Church That miracle working power was imparted is proved by the case of Stephen. (Acts 6:8), and by that of Philip (Acts 8:6-7) two of the seven.

But one receiving this power from an apostle could not impart it to another, an apostle was necessary for that as is proven in (Acts 8:5-18). This miracle working Philip had preached to and baptized the Samaritans, "both men and women" [Acts 8:12] who at that time received the gift of the Holy Spirit common to all baptized persons, which was promised by Peter (Acts 2:38-39) But Philip could not bestow on the Samaritans miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, this required apostolic hands. Therefore in (Acts 8:14) "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had received the word they sent unto them Peter and John, (two apostles) who when they came down prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet it was fallen upon none of them only they had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."

The next verse shows that this gift was one of demonstrated

power, for Simon saw it demonstrated and wanted to buy it. The Samaritans had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, which baptism according to (Acts 2:38) brought them unto remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Furnishing proof that the Holy Spirit that came with the laying on of apostolic hands came only in miraculous power, in supernatural gifts, not in Acts 19:5-8. The Ephesians twelve had never been legally baptized only with John's baptism. When this had been attended to they received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. But when the supernatural gift was extended, the laying on of apostolic hands was necessary "And when Paul had laid his hands on them the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:6

Timothy had some miraculous gift (2 Tim. 1:6) Which was imparted by the laying on of Paul's hands. Supernatural or miraculous gifts were always imparted by the laying on of the apostolic hands. They never came by prayer in the absence of apostles, and they never came direct from God, without apostolic hands being laid on the subject. Therefore Paul an apostle wrote to the church at Rome, "I long to see you that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift to the end ye may be established." [Rom. 1:11] To do that Paul had to be at Rome in person "for ye can

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EDITORIAL

1000 MILES FROM A PREACHER

"Why preachers aren't necessary to salvation, you can be saved a thousand miles from a preacher", is the cry so often heard from the denomination of our country. This is because they do not WANT to believe baptism is essential to salvation and baptism is dependent upon another man to be administered. To support their theory of the plan of salvation they affirm that the word of God is a dead letter. The Bible and what it teaches is unimportant to them. They advocate the direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart of man, separate and apart from the word of God and the assistance of man. This they do to defeat the simple statement of Jesus Christ "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," Mark 16:16.

Their theory is a falsehood!!

They themselves practice otherwise!!

Their theory itself is dependent upon man for propagation. Except they preached it no man would believe or endeavor to

practice it. Unless man preached to people that the Holy Spirit must directly operate on their hearts, no man would seek that operation.

They saddle up the very horse they don't want to ride and ride it ignorantly, toward the same end. It is as necessary for a man to preach the direct operation of the Holy Spirit to get converts to it as it is to preach the gospel and persuade penitent believers to be baptized. If not why do so many claim to 'get it' in big meetings? Why do they hold big meetings? The folks who preach you can be saved a thousands miles from a preacher will drain your pocket-book to get support for one to come a thousand miles and persuade you to seek a direct operation of the Holy Spirit

Why, if the Holy Spirit converts in a direct way, separate from the Word, then are not all men converted? Why does God not convert heathens by the thousands? He is not willing that any should perish. Why would He wait until you who believe he saves apart from the word, raise enough money to send a missionary and establish a mission among the heathen, and preach the word that you say is not necessary?

Next time your preacher asks for your donation to foreign mission work, why not just tell him a man can be saved a thousand miles from a preacher? Next time they try to get you to help support the big meeting so the word can be preached, I suggest that you just say that a man can be saved separate and apart from the word. It might start a ruckus alright for they preach a thing they neither believe nor practice.

The theory is not true. God

teaches otherwise, "wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls." James 1:21. Furthermore he will call to account all those who teach, believe and support the theory that salvation is separate and apart from the word of God and is poured out by the direct operation of the Spirit. As Cornelius was advised, seek the man, "who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" Acts 11:14. When you hear the word, believe it and obey it. Instead of arguing about a man out on the desert, look for the place nearest you to obey the command of God and be baptized. Chances are the water necessary is not very far from you, and the man necessary to administer baptism will be very much nearer than the thousand miles mentioned. When you seek a way to obey, instead of getting out of obeying, it won't be difficult to do.

Boyd E. Morgan

It took the shouting of Joshua and the people to cause the walls of Jericho to fall, but remember God has not asked us to do so. Shouting today will not blow walls down, if it would I have seen times that I would have been moving. In fact God says he does not need our testimony. John 2:24-25

Some folks think preachers receive special light on certain passages of scripture, In II Pet 1:20 the bible says, "No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

PUTTING CHRIST FIRST

Marion Farley. Jonesboro Ark.

There is a great deal more in the above three words, than meets the eye. From the very beginning God the Father, demanded the best from man, who was created from the dust of the earth. And in His image.

This, he had a perfect right to expect, since he owed his very existence to the God of all the earth, and from him all blessings, both spiritual and temporal came.

But bear in mind, God, at no time has forced man to put him first, neither has Christ.

When the first man and woman was made, good and evil were placed before them, also the power was given them to resist or overcome the forces of evil, with the solemn warning of the consequences if they failed to do so.

But man failed to heed God's warning and was driven from the beautiful garden, (where he enjoyed everything the Soul could desire) to a life of toil hardships, sufferings, and finally death.

After a few hundred years, man became so wicked, that God repented that he had made man and placed him upon earth, and decided to destroy all flesh, both man and beast from the face of the earth, but he found Noah to be a righteous person and changed his plans, for Noah's benefit.

Abraham, was another who put God first, and because of his obedience and faithfulness became the heir of righteousness.

God commanded his people through his servant Moses to put him first.

He had them to set aside the seventh day of the week, which

he called the Sabbath, as a day of rest and those who would not keep it as such, were put to death.

They also were to sacrifice the best of their flocks, to bring the firstfruits of the field, and in short, to put God first in everything, which is further emphasized in (Eccl. 12:13) where Solomon, said 'Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man.'

Now we hear Christ say it (Matt. 10:37-38). "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

We know that to "Honor father and mother" is called the first commandment with promise; and that Paul said, "Parents love your children and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" [Eph. 6:4]. Yet if we love them more than Christ, we cannot be his true disciple. He MUST be first in our lives.

Since we, today, are no longer under the Mosaic law and are not obliged to keep the Sabbath as they kept it, but are under a better law, and by example are taught to keep the Lordsday, do you think the Lord will hold him guiltless that uses his day as he pleases, to promote his secular interests, or visiting recreational places, and not the way the early disciples kept it, by meeting to commune with Christ, by taking of the Lords supper, by praying and being taught God's word? As found in Acts 2:42 and Acts 20:7? Remember what Jesus said, Do you believe him?

We are either for him [putting

him first] or we are against him, there is no nappy medium here. (Matt. 12:30). "He that is not with me is against me."

Would you be willing to stand in judgement as you are? If you are not putting him first, you are not ready. What are you going about it?

WHEN? Now is the accepted time. Today is the day of salvation. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Yet, he said; "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

Funny how folks believe that everyone ought to believe their testimony without question if they say the Holy Spirit told them to testify. God says "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1. If you challenge the words or claims of a man who claims to be Spirit-filled is to tempt the Lord they say or to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. This is just to scare you off for in Rev, 2:2 God favored trying the speakers, "And thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not and hast found them liars,"

The bible, not your conscience is the inspired guide. A man follows his conscience like he follows a team he is driving.

Don't get angry and threaten to quit attending the services. A colored preacher said, "Some folks think they hurt the church when they get mad and quit. But they are wrong 'bout that. It never hurts the tree for the oid dried up apples to fall off."

apostle could not impart a spiritual gift without the laying on of his hands and by no other means at all could those gifts be received.

When the last apostle died all miraculous gifts necessarily ceased. Paul said in I Cor. 13:8 that these gifts would be done away "But when that which is perfect is come then that which is in part shall be done away." I Cor. 13:10 That these gifts were given in part cannot be denied for we read in I Cor. 12:8-11 that these gifts were given in part. "But all these worketh that one and the self same spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." I Cor. 12:11 These were given not for the benefit of the individual receiving them but that the word of God might be confirmed until the New Covenant or Testament had been written by inspired men after which New Testament there would be no need of miracles to prove the written word of God.

Now there was a custom of elders and congregations in extending good will and God speed to workers to impress those selected for a work, with the laying on of hands but no supernatural gift ever accompanied that ceremony. The Presbytery (elder-ship thus commended Timothy upon a prophetic call to him, a charge to a certain work here called a gift (I Tim. 4:4) but Timothy's God imparted gift, was given through the laying on of Paul's hands (2 Tim. 1:6) Also in like manner, when the church at Antioch was about to send Barnabas and Paul on their missionary journey, the brethren

laid their hands on them and sent them away Acts 13:3.

There was no miraculous gift imparted to them, for Barnabas had been preaching for a number of years possibly twelve or thirteen and Paul about ten, when away from Antioch. The ceremony only commended or committed them to their missionary work. On their return to Antioch it is said "Thence they sailed to Antioch from whence they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had finished." [Acts 14:26] This explains that the laying on of the elder's hands committed them to God's providence on their journey.

"Lay hands hastily on no man, neither be partakers of other men's sins, keep thyself pure" [I Tim. 5:22] This means as in Acts 13:3 where an example is found to be cautious in appointing or commending a man to any responsible duty in the work of the Lord, else the failure of the one appointed to honor the cause would rebound upon him who did the recommending.

THE BIBLE OUR ONLY CREED

Marvin Ed Berry, Welcome Hill

I could never become a part of some religious system which has a human creed for several reasons, namely:

1. For the first three centuries of the existence of the New Testament church, the Bible was the only creed. Why not use the same today? To be the same as then we must have the Bible only.

2. Every scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for

teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, and the man of God is complete, thoroughly furnished unto every good work. II Tim. 3:16, 17 This scripture teaches us that we are completely furnished. So we need nothing more. In fact we are told in Rev. 22:18 to not add unto His Word. Human creeds are additions to the Bible and are followed to produce fruit to the denomination to whom they belong. The Bible is given to produce christians only. Why pledge yourself to a human creed. The Bible is safe, but Human creeds are not. Even if the church leaders should write a creed which is not an addition to or a subtraction from the Bible, it would be exactly like the Bible. Why have two that are exactly alike?

3. The following can be said of the Bible only: The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. Christ is its subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is given you in life, will be open in judgement, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle with it's contents. No man made creeds can make these statements. How unnecessary man-made creeds are. Let us take the Bible only as our creed.

You may join the denominations of men, but the only way to get into the church of our Lord is to be added to it by the Lord himself.