

## God is better than His gifts!



We're learning a lot while on this ascended life path. It's a big learning curve. Lots of tweaking and adjusting of our beliefs, our narratives, our vocabulary and our practices. And different people are using different styles of presentation. So, we're all learning a ton!

I'd like to shine a light on the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 12). They are amazing gifts from Him to us. Since believing and receiving these gifts, we have operated them with Holy Spirit's help, ever since. When we need to function in those gifts, we ask for Holy Spirit's empowerment. After a while our faith grows to flowing without hesitation in these gifts. And that is exactly what Jesus said would happen in the Gospel of Luke.

*"... but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." – Lk 24:49*

The disciples tarried and we're still reaping the benefits. That's all been well and really good. But the Bible gives us a couple disturbing verses about this whole setup. Consider 1 Cor 13:8-10

*"Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away."*

At our present level of understanding, this reads that there will be a time when our dependency on and use of Holy Spirit gifts will be trumped by something better. Then, the gifts are "done away". So, when does this take place? The text says it will happen when the "perfect has come". Well, a couple of very important questions might be, "What is the "perfect"?" and "When is this mysterious but climactic exchange going to take place?"

Let's see if we can unpack it a bit. Let's start with John saying, "... God IS love." in 1 Jn 4:8. Tying that in, we're reminded that in 1 Cor 13, Paul venerates the virtues of LOVE. He starts out by saying that if I speak with tongues of men and angels and have not love then I'm just an obtrusive noise. LOVE suffers long, is kind, believes all things, etc. LOVE is ultimate! It is the enduring and esteemed subject of this chapter. Then in verse 8, Paul segues from the virtues of this perfect virtue called LOVE and begins telling us that even some of our most hallowed and cardinal aspects of our lives (the Holy Spirit gifts) will eventually yield to this ultimate virtue.

Wow! That sounds pretty dramatic and impacting. But what or who is this thing or person called "perfect"? Remember, God is love. Is it possible that when we come into union with God, the 'perfect' begins to be homogenized into our entire being... and our latent DNA (Divine Nature Activated) gets acknowledged?

*"... that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us," – Jn 17:21*

**Did you catch that? Jesus foresees us being** homogenized into oneness with Him and our Father. And just so we really get it; Jesus sees that our union with Them will be the same union that He and His Father enjoy! Wow!

Could this be "the perfect" that Paul was referring to in 1 Cor 13? Could Jn 17:21 be describing what it means when the perfect has come?

Now let's go back and remind ourselves as to what happens when the perfect has come? To quote Paul, he says the highly revered gifts of Holy Spirit "will cease"... "they will pass away"... they are "done away"... "they will come to an end". Why? To give way to something even better than Holy Spirit's gifts. Even better!

Maybe a quote from my good friend of mine Paul Bell, captures this dynamic succinctly, “God only gives the best gifts, but He’s so much better than His gifts.”

Let’s go a little deeper. We all know that when we got saved, we became a new spirit... a new creation. Our spirit got “*raised*” and “*seated*” in Heavenly places, “*with Christ*”... even “*hidden with Christ in God.*” This is a powerful truth. Those Heavenly environments and realities are what we now seek to live in as a continual lifestyle, not just in with our spirit man but in our soul and body, too.

It is not a given that we’re automatically enjoying the full fruits of these new locations. Colossians 3:1-2 admonishes us to, “*Set your affections on these things above.*” In other words, it’s possible that although our spirit man is “*seated*” and “*hidden*” in places above, it’s likely that the reality in which we’re living (thoughts, words and deeds), may be largely earth tethered and earth influenced... unless we’ve intentionally pursued those Heavenly places.

Although our spirit man is currently enjoying oneness with God, our soul and body may be living in a lesser reality. This leaves much to be desired when considering the possible benefits of being in total union with God.

Someone may ask, “Is this level of union with God even possible before we die?” I think that Rms 12:2 and II Cor 3:18 resoundingly answer that question in the affirmative. Those verses advocate “*beholding*” and thereby “*getting a new mind*” which leads to “*transformation*”... even “*transfiguration*” and “*glory*”.

Here’s a truth: “You become what you behold.” Thus, as we behold Him, we are changed... even transfigured! So, the impact of “*the Perfect*” coming isn’t just intangible, ethereal or Heavenly, but it is truly literal, relevant, and revolutionary. Not just our spirit, but our soul and body get to join in this amazing experience of oneness with God. Romans speaks clearly to this.

*“... because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God**... Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies**....” – Rms 8:21, 32*

The concept of “*the redemption of our bodies*” can’t be relegated until after we die, because millions of saints have died and Creation is still in “*bondage*”. It seems that this spiritual phenomenon must happen while we’re still alive. We must be alive for us to bring Creation with us into the “*glorious liberty*” that we just experienced.

Note: For modern day examples of Creation and nature being supernaturally transformed when God’s people become ‘unified’ with Him, watch the Transformations videos by George Otis, to see convincing modern-day documented proof of redeemed land, sea and creation. <https://www.sentinelgroup.org/streaming>

So, to wrap it up, it seems that God has entreated us to aspire to a level of union with Him in soul and body which unlocks aspects of our identity that has rarely been experienced en masse.

Is it possible that coming into union with God in our complete being (body, soul & spirit), will eclipse the need for functioning with the help of the Gifts? I know it sounds crazy to question our 2000-year-old established order of functioning with Holy Spirit gifts, but in light of the above, it seems as though this question at least deserves searching out.

As you and I know, “... *it’s the glory of kings to search a matter out.*” Happy searching... and happy union!!!!

-- MLH