

# GIFTS FROM GOD

Everyone should bring gifts to God: "Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them; Let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared" (Psa 76:11).  
And God desires your gifts: "I shall seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things" (Ezek 20:40).

*Good and perfect:* "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow" (James 1:17).

*Job satisfaction:* "moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good [‘finds satisfaction’] in all his labor — it is the gift of God" (Eccl 3:13; cf. 5:18).

*Riches and wealth* "Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God" (Eccl 5:19; cf. 1 Sam 2:7).

*Children:* "Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psa 127:3).

*Desires of your heart:* "Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psa 37:4; cf. Isa 58:13–14). This is a conditional promise: "if you take delight. . . He will give."

*Guardian angels:* "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways" (Psa 91:11).

*Protection:* "It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved *even in his sleep*" (Psa 127:2).

*Ask:* "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" (Matt 7:11).

## GIFT OF SALVATION

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23). "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God* (Eph 2:8). . . those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and . . . made partakers of the Holy Spirit" (Heb 6:4). Also John 4:10; 1 Cor 1:4–7; Rom 3:24; 5:15–17.

## GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*A fortiori argument:* "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11:13)

*Preconditioned on salvation:* "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

*For all:* ". . . the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also" (Acts 10:45). "God. . . gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord. . ." (Acts 11:17).

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*From Jesus:* "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift" (Eph 4:7).

*From the Holy Spirit:* "For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit. . . to another faith by the same Spirit. . . distributing to each one individually just as He wills" (1 Cor 12:8–11).

*From God:* "And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands" (2 Tim 1:6).

## JESUS

*Probably a reference to Jesus Christ; cf. Rom 8:32:* "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor 9:15)

## DIVINE OPERATING ASSETS

*Prudence, knowledge, and discretion:* "To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion" (Prov 1:4).

*Wisdom, knowledge, and joy:* "For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind" (Eccl 2:26). "For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding" (Prov 2:6).

*Must be desired:* "Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, And keep it with all *my* heart" (Psa 119:34). "Give me understanding that I may live" (119:144b).

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

*Peace of mind:* "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (John 14:27).

*Eternal rewards:* "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10d). "To him who overcomes. . . I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and. . . a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it" (2:17). "And he who overcomes, and. . . keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS" (2:26).

## ETERNAL INHERITANCE

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

". . . Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:17b–18).