



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

EARLY WINTER 2017-2018 FROM US TO YOU

It's the Holiday season! It should be a joyful, enthusiastic time for Americans and all in the free world. We have much to be grateful for, especially when compared to the suffering that is going on in other nations! It's great to hear people say "Merry Christmas" again! However, over the last few decades, times have changed in a less than Christian way. We remember, as children, growing up in the 1960's, how joyful it was going shopping with our parents to department stores and hearing real Christian Christmas music playing. Even the television sitcoms added traditional Christian values to their holiday shows. Sometimes they even showed families going to church together. There was a special feeling in the air that was intensely spiritual. For we were celebrating the birth of the only Person who even died for our sins and rose triumphantly after paying for them. For He freed us from an eternity of torture in Hell and the Lake of Fire (Mark 9:47-49, Luke 16:24-25, Rev. 20:15). Christmas is special to those who love Christ. For it is the time of the year that we celebrate the love of our Creator who put us before His own Son (John 3:16). It should not have to move over to make room for all the pagan beliefs that dim the light (John 8:12) Christ once shed over this nation when it was in the process of becoming great. Sure other countries envied us. God was blessing us due to our love and devotion to Him. But look how things have changed!

In every cultural means possible, Christ has been replaced by secular humanism. It is still considered "politically correct" to have respect for other people's religion (2 Cor. 6:14-17). Yet God warns against this continually (Deuteronomy 32:17-25, Isaiah 47:13-15). For the serpent that seduced Eve is the same one who controls the culture of former Christian nations today (2 Cor. 11:3). And *"the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made..."* (Genesis 3:1 NIV). Now, please don't misunderstand. It is part of Christian nature to be kind, patient, and loving to other people (Hebrews 13:2). But these very traits can be twisted around by Satan and his demons to lower our guard and become more complacent about our own faith (Deut. 7:1-4). For true Christianity is pure and undefiled love for God. It is to resist any compromise dangled before us as bait on a hook! There is no compromise with purity, just like there is no compromise with truth!

A glass of pure milk is considered wholesome and good to drink. But all it takes is one drop of poison in the glass to make it undrinkable. You cannot compromise on truth just as you cannot compromise on purity. To do is to destroy all the purity thereof! The Apostle Peter warned the church, *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings"* (1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV). So be polite to others with different religious views. But don't be deceived! And don't be so afraid of offending someone else's religion that you deny Christ (Jude 1:4)! For example,

it made us sick to hear that military chaplains were told to take the crosses off their uniforms during the battle of Desert Storm so that they would not offend the Moslems we were trying to protect. And lately, we have been hearing that military chaplains are being told not to pray publicly in certain nations, even ones we are greatly helping! Prison chaplains are also restricted in many facilities from showing any favoritism toward the Christian faith!

However, the compromising of our Christian faith has endangered America's position in the world and weakened us in many ways. *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..."* (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NIV). Look how our nation has changed over the years from what we once were! America never lost a war until it fought in Vietnam. And the Korean War ended in a compromise which has led us to the dangerous position we are in today. Compare this with Numbers 25:1-3, Judges 2:10 thru 3:11, 1 Kings 11:4-11, and Matthew 13:15. As Christians, we must stand

strong against the powers of evil in this world! We must stick together against those who would seek to divide and weaken us (Luke 11:17)!

Some things, however, are changing for the good. We are pleased to hear that the subject of sexual harassment is being taken more seriously these days. There are still many gentlemen left in western culture. We have to believe that. But with the decline of Christian values, respect for women has been decreased as well. It's sad that not all women act like ladies. But it has been

the male gender that has controlled most sources of power since the days of the Bible. Christ raised the status of women (see Mark 15:41). So did His apostles (Acts 2:17-18, 1 Peter 3:7, Philippians 4:3, and Hebrews 5:25). As for Judge Roy Moore, we are delighted that ["One America News"](#) has exposed some interesting information about Judge Moore's accusers regarding their ties to drug users and the Washington Post. And, as Christians, we know that none of us are perfect. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23 NIV). *"...There is none righteous, no, not one..."* (Romans 3:10-11 KJV). All of us need to come to repentance and receive forgiveness from God (Mark 1:4). We are not born perfect. We live in New York. So we cannot vote in the Alabama election. However, someone like Judge Moore, who has lived an exemplary Christian life and promoted the Word of God for the past 40 years is someone we would be proud to vote for if we could!

It is our strong desire to get these newsletter messages out to you more frequently next year. You can help us with your donations and prayerful support. Remember what Jesus said, *"...My kingdom is not of this world..."* (John 18:36 NIV). And if you love and serve Christ, you also are not of this world (John 17:6-16). So remember Him who loved us so much as to provide so great a sacrifice for us. And have a wonderful Christmas everyone!

In the love of Christ we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



Gifts From God

By Anne Kaestner

We all like to receive useful gifts. But did you know who is the greatest gift giver of all? It is the Lord Himself (John 3:16). Salvation alone is a gift beyond anything we humans deserve (Romans 5:6-8). However, after salvation, God gives even more gifts to those who love and serve Him (Matthew 7:11). Unlike the clothes, flowers, candy, etcetera, that we mortals give, God's gifts never wear out or become obsolete. They are the most useful gifts of all! As Jesus told His disciples, "*do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV).

People think it's boring to live for Christ. That's the devil's propaganda. Nothing could be further from the truth! Religion is boring! But living for Christ is exciting and exhilarating! Therefore, God gives us certain tools to use to enable us to live for Him in this wicked, perverted world (Genesis 6:5). They come as a part of a package of gifts known as the "Baptism in God's Holy Spirit." John the Baptist spoke of that Baptism when he told the hypocritical religious leaders of his day, "*I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire*" (Matthew 3:11 NIV). John was referring to a closer walk with Christ. The Lord spoke of it often (John 14:15-18, 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7). Christ was referring to the infilling of the Holy Spirit! It is also called a second work of grace. For, without Him, it is nearly impossible to live above sin in this evil, perverted world. Because it is getting worse all the time (1 Peter 5:8 and Revelation 12:12).

Therefore, the Lord sends the Holy Spirit to give those who **truly** love Him an extra anointing. It's what the worshipers in the Upper Room received in Acts 2:2-4. And it's what Paul was talking about in Acts 19:1-6.

Someone once asked me what the Baptism in the Holy Spirit feels like. I told him that it feels like being in love. One woman described it as being a sort of natural high that doesn't require the use of drugs or alcohol. It's a beautiful feeling of total serenity beyond anything this world has to offer (Philippians 4:7 and Colossians 3:15). Along with this baptism, God gives us wonderful gifts. They are outlined by the Apostle Paul. "*To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues*" (1 Corinthians 12:8-10 NIV).

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit was a big part of the early church. However, due to severe persecution and the influence of the Catholic religion, a more structured and controlled form of worship began to emerge. For many centuries Holy Scripture was not available to the average Christian. Only those educated by the Catholic Church were able to read the Bible. Ordinary people were told that they were not capable of understanding it and that only their religious leaders could explain it to them. That doctrine is disputed by the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:20-21 and John in 1 John 2:27, as well as Christ Himself in John 14:24-26. However, Catholic priests began reading the Bible for themselves and finding out that what the Bible told them and what their church taught them was not the same thing. That began the

Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. However, even after the persecution stopped and Protestants were given freedom of religion, certain ceremonial aspects of the Catholic Church remained even among Protestant denominations.

One of those doctrines taught the people that Bible teachings regarding the Baptism in the Holy Spirit were only meant for New Testament Christians and would not apply to subsequent generations. This too, was disputed by Peter, who prophesied that in these, "*...last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days...*" (Acts 2:17-18 NIV). This prophecy came into fruition at the beginning of the twentieth century. It began the Pentecostal denomination. However it would be decades before other religious groups began to accept it. This started in the nineteen seventies with the Charismatic movement. Today it includes many Catholics and Messianic Jews. It became a worldwide movement!

So let's get back to 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and go through these gifts one at a time. The first is the message of wisdom. The Holy Spirit gives a type of sixth sense to those who have accepted His baptism. In the case of wisdom, the church has determined, through experience, that it applies to future events that the person would have

no way of knowing in the natural (1 Corinthians 2:14). It's when you suddenly become aware of something that hasn't happened yet. For example, when I was twelve years old and at summer camp, I went into the woods to pray by myself one day. I had just started praying when I felt the Lord say in my mind that someone was coming. Seconds later another girl showed up and asked me what I was doing.

The next is the gift of knowledge. That's a sudden awareness about something, in the past or present, that you would have no natural way of knowing. For example, a neighbor

who used to live in our old apartment building was rushed to the hospital late one night after suffering a severe asthma attack. The next day my husband and I were driving somewhere in our car when the subject came up. Eric was wondering whether or not she would survive. Somehow I knew the answer. "No. She's already dead," I told him. And she was! Unlike the gift of wisdom, there were no specific words spoken in my head. It was just a sudden awareness of the fact, the gift of knowledge working. Both gifts could come either way.

The next is the gift of faith. Now I don't want you to get confused because there is also a fruit of faith as well (Romans 1:17, 2 Corinthians 5:7, and Galatians 3:11). But the gift of faith is different. It's immediate. Fruit takes a long time to grow. It doesn't come from seedlings, only mature branches. You have to be a part of the Vine of Christ (John 15:1-8) and have experience with Him in order to have the fruit of faith. However, the gift of faith can come to even a new believer who has received the Lord's baptism. Remember, I am talking about Holy Spirit baptism by fire (Matthew 3:11-12), not water baptism! My favorite experience with the gift of faith occurred shortly after I recommitted my life to Christ, when I was in my mid-twenties. I was deeply in debt at the time and had no idea how I would ever get out of it. But, like being aware of a sudden sweet fragrance, I somehow had the knowledge that God would provide a way of getting my bills paid. In the natural, it seemed impossible. Then, after I became engaged to Eric, he paid all my debts back! I always compare it to how Christ paid the debts of His bride, the church



(Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 Peter 1:18-19).

The next is the gift of healing (Mark 6:13, Acts 5:14-15). That doesn't mean telling someone that you're going to pray to get rid of their headache, and it goes away. That's psychosomatic! And it is a popular part of the hypocrisy of the false prophets, of which there are many (Matthew 7:22-23)! A ridiculous doctrine of demons (1 Timothy 4:1-2) started in the 1970's and I am sure it is still around today in some churches. It began with false prophets who wanted people to think that they were holier than they really were (2 Corinthians 11:13-14). They had no spiritual gifts from God. All they had was the ability to deceive gullible churchgoers. So they would pray over someone and when the person didn't get healed they would tell them that it was all their own fault because they didn't have enough faith. In like manner, false prophets were telling their congregations that they were never supposed to say that they were sick. That was called a "bad confession." They were told to claim that God had already healed them, even if they still felt awful. What utter nonsense! But, to my surprise, Christians were actually falling for it!

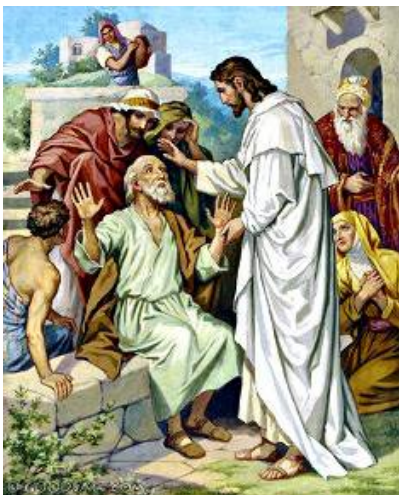
I remember, back in the 1980's, calling up a prayer line on the phone one day because of a physical ailment. The woman on the other end chided me, saying, "Oh no dear! Don't ever say you're sick. That is a bad confession!" It reminds me of the old nursery rhyme about the emperor with no clothes. All the people were told that only fools couldn't see the emperor's suit. So no one wanted to admit that the emperor was undressed. That is until a little child blurted out, "Look, the emperor is naked!" Only then did people begin to see the truth! As Christians, we must have child-like faith (Matthew 21:6, 18:4) in God, not in false prophets! No wonder Paul wrote that in these "...later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars..." (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NIV). These evil doctrines are nothing new. Even the Lord's disciple, Peter, had been deceived by this. It occurred one day after Jesus told His disciples how He would have to suffer and be killed, but rise again. Peter didn't want to hear that. He only wanted to hear good news. So he took Jesus aside and rebuked Him. However, "*Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'*" (Matthew 16:23 NIV). Jesus knew where this lying doctrine was coming from!

Actually, I have not totally received the gift of healing at this time. The only thing that comes close to it occurred many years ago when I had a temporary assignment working at an insurance company. My boss was an African American man from Haiti. He looked like he was in his late thirties or early forties. My first day there, he was deeply troubled about his wife who had been in a severe accident and was in a coma in the hospital. The doctors had told him that she was in a vegetative state due to all the brain damage. He was beside himself with grief. She was a young woman with an infant baby. I felt so bad for him that, during my evening prayer that night, I spent about an hour praying for his wife. I begged God to heal her. Then, the next day, as I walked into the large office building, I heard his voice. It was so loud! I wasn't even in their suite yet. Just the lobby by the entrance way. He was saying, "Praise God! Oh, thank you doctor! Thank God. Praise God. Thank you for calling!"

When I got to his cubicle he told me what the doctor said. The hospital staff had checked on his wife at 11:00 PM the previous night. Nothing had changed. They hadn't done anything different. He said that they couldn't take any credit for it because they didn't understand

it themselves. But when they checked on her at about 7:00 AM the next day, she was totally healed and they were releasing her from the hospital! I only wish that the Lord would heal me of all my physical afflictions. But I'm glad He healed that woman, who needed it desperately!

Now the next one is the gift of miracles. It's the type that Jesus and His apostles did (Matthew 4:24 and Acts 3:1-10). It's a gift that I have not received yet. Jesus, of course, had that gift. It was a big part of His ministry. The Apostles, like Peter, Paul, and John, all had the gift of miracles. But it is a gift that few Christians have today. It means real miracles! It goes beyond praying for the sick and them getting healed. It means miracles like healing of the blind (Matthew 9:27-30), and enabling the crippled to walk again (see Acts 14:8-10)! Most people believe that Jesus performed His miracles on His own power. But He didn't! When Jesus left Heaven to come into this world and pay for our salvation, He left all His glory and power behind in Heaven. He briefly reclaimed it during the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36). But all His miracles were performed through the Holy Spirit! That's why, when the Pharisees accused Him of doing them through the power of the devil (Matthew 12:24), Jesus told them that they were blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32). The good news is that the same Holy Spirit works miracles through His people these days in parts of the world where suffering is going on and Christians receive great Holy Spirit power and live by faith.



The next gift is prophecy. That usually refers to a verbal message given among Spirit filled worshipers. It's when the anointing of the Holy Spirit is so strong that the Lord chooses someone in the group to speak through. It's in the voice of the human chosen. They find themselves suddenly speaking words that come from God. It is usually a message of love and comfort. But sometimes it's a message of warning or prophetic about something that will happen.

Another gift mentioned is the gift of discerning of spirits. That's when your spiritual antenna goes up and you have an awareness of something about a person or situation. I've experienced this gift many times in everyday situations. But one particular instance happened to Eric and me in church one day. The service was over and a young man walked up to us. We recognized him as we had met him before. He was smiling and greeted us with a warm welcome. However, both Eric and I felt a strong sense of hypocrisy about him and we ended the conversation quickly. It was just an awareness of it, a sixth sense. I could compare it to the awareness you might get of a strong odor in the room. No one has to tell you that it is there. You just know it.

The next one is the most controversial of the gifts, tongues. I can understand why people may fear it because Satan is a counterfeiter of the works of God (Matthew 7:22-23 and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). And just as the Holy Spirit can enter into the heart of a redeemed (2 Peter 1:18-19) individual, the devil and his fallen angels (Revelation 12:9) can enter into the heart of an unredeemed person as well! When that occurs, it's called demon possession (Matthew 8:16). Jesus and His apostles used to cast these demons out of people (Matthew 8:28-32). Do you remember how Pharaoh's magicians tried to counterfeit the plagues of Moses (Exodus 8:7)? Paul warned us that in these last days (before the Lord's return) Satan will once again attempt to counterfeit the things of God (2 Timothy 3:8). I've heard men and women muttering to themselves in some evil sounding tongue. There used to be a homeless man in our old neighborhood who would walk around doing that. It would make me nervous too. That is even though I knew where it is coming from. **(Continued On Page 4)**

However, the Lord is not going to give you something evil (Luke 11:13)! God will never force Himself on you. If you don't want this gift you don't have to have it. But thousands of people worldwide do have the gift of Holy Spirit tongues. And we consider it a blessing! Even before Pentecost, Jesus spoke of this gift. He said, "...these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues" (Mark 16:17 NIV). The first time I heard anyone speaking in tongues I was ten years old. My Sunday school teacher was praying softly as she sat next to me during the service. After the prayer, I asked her what language that was and she began to beam from ear to ear as a sweet smile came across her face. She told me, proudly, that it was tongues and that God had given the gift to her. I didn't understand it at the time, but she was such a sweet, loving person, that I didn't fear it.

Paul told us the purpose of this gift. There are times when we want to pray. But we are so overcome with emotion that the right words don't seem to come to mind. When that happens, the Holy Spirit helps us out by expressing our needs to God without words we understand (Romans 8:26-27). Now, there are some teachings pertaining to tongues that I strongly disagree with. The first one is that anyone who speaks in godly tongues must have the Holy Spirit in them. Wrong! And I'm not talking about demon tongues. I'm referring to the anointing of God that comes upon an individual so strongly during a time of worship that they speak in tongues. That does not necessarily mean that the person has the Baptism in the Holy Spirit! My husband once had that experience many years ago. It was during an anointed service and the Spirit was so strong that he spoke a few words in tongues. After church nothing had changed in him. He couldn't speak in tongues anymore at will. He was the same person he had been before. It would be several years later before he actually received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. He spoke in tongues then and was able to do so during times of prayer from then on.

Another bad doctrine pertaining to tongues is that someone can teach you how to speak in them. Only the Holy Spirit can give it to you! My mother is dead now. But, many years ago, I heard her making some sort of gibberish sounds during a church service. I asked her what she was doing and she told me that she was speaking in tongues. That the ladies at her "Aglow" meeting had taught her to do it. I knew it would not have helped the situation if I told her that she was **not** speaking in tongues, just making a fool of herself. Because she would not accept any teaching from me. Nor do I believe that she had ever become Born Again. She also developed a hatred toward me, especially in her later years (Mark 6:4 NIV). That goes to show what bad doctrine can cause!

Another disagreement I have with many in the church, pertaining to tongues, is that as soon as you receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you will immediately speak in tongues. Well, it didn't happen that way to me! I was eleven years old and recently Born Again (see John 3:3) when I first received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit at a summer camp belonging to my church. I had no doubt that I'd received this wonderful anointing because my life changed so much! I felt the inner glow of peace and joy that He brings (Philippians 4:7). And, despite the fact that I was having problems with a bully at the camp, I had a kind of natural high and a humility and serenity in my heart that made it all bearable. However, I didn't receive the gift of

tongues until several days later. I was in church and heard others praying in tongues around me. So I asked God to give me the gift as well. And He did! It was just a few words at the beginning until the whole language began to flow.

The Lord stayed with me in my heart for many years after that. But my parents moved out of their neighborhood in Queens and bought a house on Long Island. I was disappointed that I was not able to attend the church that I had come to love anymore. My parents wanted a church to attend as it aided their social life. And it gave them a feeling of holiness. But I never felt the Holy Spirit among the congregation! I began to hate going to that church. The pastor was sooo boring! Without the Presence of the Holy Spirit, all you get is ceremonial aspects of the church and a mixture of good and bad doctrine. There's nothing exciting about it! I would sit in my seat wondering how much longer the service would drag on! I wanted to again feel the joy of God's Presence in the service. But instead, I began to feel a spirit of hypocrisy instead, which I hated!

Years went by during my teens and the bad examples of my church and the lack of true Christian fellowship began to drag me down spiritually. That led to about seven years of me drifting away from the Lord. I wanted excitement in my life. I was young and healthy and lonely for the kind of love I was not getting from my family. For they resented my faith! Then, when I returned to Christ in my mid-twenties, He once again baptized me in the beauty of His Spirit. The peace, joy, and excitement of my earlier years was returned to me once again. And the same thing happened to me with tongues that occurred when I was a child. They didn't come right away. It took about a week after my renewed Baptism, and some praying about it, before God gave the gift to me again. Most people do receive the gift of tongues when they receive the Baptism. But it's not a guarantee in the Bible! It says, "*all these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines*" (1 Corinthians 12:11 NIV). You can ask for specific gifts once you have His Holy Spirit anointing, but it's up to God which gifts He gives you.



The last gift Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 12:1-10 is the gift of interpretation of tongues. That is a blend of two other gifts, prophecy, and tongues. It usually occurs when a church full of anointed believers are worshipping Christ. Or it could come in the middle of the minister's sermon. It occurs because God wants to be in charge of His flock (John 10:14-16) and He has a specific message for the congregation. If the prophecy is given in the language of the people, there is no need for interpretation. But sometimes it is given in tongues. When that happens someone else in the congregation will be given the ability to translate the prophecy into the language of the flock. That way everyone will understand what God said.

These days, evil has become so pervasive, that it's impossible to ignore. Even if you don't watch television or go to movies, you can see some sleazy billboard in a mall or magazine cover in a doctor's waiting room. And unless you have protection on your computer, disgusting pop-ups can appear instantly. All Christians need the Baptism in God's Holy Spirit today more than ever before! "*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us*" (2 Corinthians 4:6-7 KJV).