

September 13, 2009
"Knowledge and the Spirit", *Daily Disciple*, page 265



Psalm 58:11

"People will say, Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges the earth."

MEDITATION

*"I have said that I had rather enjoy the Spirit, dwelling in me one hour, than to dispute about the mode of its operation a thousand years. What can we, with such limited minds, comprehend of unrevealed things? It is enough for us to believe that we receive the Spirit through faith and obedience, and that the disobedient unbeliever has no scriptural authority to expect it" {Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger*, 1835, page 110).*

SCRIPTURE

⁴I always thank God for you because of his **grace** given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any **spiritual gift** as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.
1 Corinthians 1:4-7

PRAYER

"Lord, Jesus, may I enjoy your Holy Spirit today. May He give me gifts of knowledge and speech as I wait to see you."

Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. Read Psalm 58:11 and discuss the following:
 - a. Is the Holy Spirit a reward for the righteous? If so, in what way?
 - b. Is the Holy Spirit evidence of a just God? How?
2. Why do you suppose our religious heritage (American Restoration Movement, or others call it the Stone-Campbell Movement) has spent a lot of energy disputing about the mode of the Spirit's operation?
3. Notice the above quote by Barton W. Stone was made early in the movement, 1835. Why do you suppose his sentiments did not characterize the majority of our movement soon afterward?

4. Why is it important in our spiritual growth to admit that we have “limited minds” and we cannot comprehend “unrevealed things?”
5. I have always maintained (and glad to see Barton W. Stone concur!) that one of the blessings that distinguishes the Christian from the non-Christian is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. What difference does it make between the two?
6. In the SCRIPTURE for today’s lesson, Paul uses a root word that is translated both “grace” and “spiritual gift.” It is easy to understand “grace” as a free gift, but we often fail to understand that our spiritual gifts, and the gift of the Spirit himself, are free gifts from God. “*The grace given you in Christ Jesus*” is the Holy Spirit. Why should we be thankful of that?
7. Often we mention the indwelling of the Spirit. But rarely do we refer to the “enriching” of the Spirit.” Being in Christ and receiving the gift of the Spirit is the essence and presence of being “enriched.” In classical Greek this word “enriched” was used to talk about the rich. It dropped out usage for centuries and then reappeared in the LXX (Greek Old Testament). See [Genesis 14:23](#) and [Psalm 65:9](#) for its usage and representative contexts. Interestingly, this word is only used by Paul in the New Testament, and only in his Corinthian correspondence. Read the other two verses: [2 Corinthians 6:10](#) & [9:11](#).
 - a. Why is this an important word for the Christian life?
 - b. In what sense are we enriched by the Spirit?
8. Notice that Paul specifically says to his readers that such enriching shows up in two areas: their speaking and their knowledge.
 - a. In what unique ways was this true of the Corinthian church?
 - b. In what general ways is the true of the church for all time?
9. There is an important emphasis in the New Testament during the early days of Christianity of things being confirmed. How was Christ confirmed in Paul’s readers?
10. Look up the following verses and share what is being confirmed. Then discuss why this is such an important concept regarding the Christian life. The word Paul uses is either translated “be strong” or “be confirmed.” The basic idea is one of a stable foundation. In what sense does each verse below give us the idea of a stable foundation?
 - a. [Mark 16:20](#)
 - b. [Romans 15:8](#)
 - c. [1 Corinthians 1:8](#) (note: the NIV translation has “keep you strong.” Literally, it is “will confirm you until the end.”)
 - d. [2 Corinthians 1:21](#)—“stand firm” is translated for “confirmed.”
 - e. [Hebrews 2:3](#)
11. This idea of standing firm and confirmation is so critical when talking about the Spirit. The mental picture we usually have of the Spirit is one of instability, not knowing anything about the Spirit’s role, etc. But for Paul and other New Testament writers a significant role of the Spirit is to provide a solid foundation that confirms our faith. In what way do you believe the Spirit does this?
12. Notice that knowledge and the Spirit according to Paul have one goal: it prepares us as we eagerly wait for Jesus to be revealed. It is amazing that Paul connects eagerness with this future event. It is “*as if that attitude of expectation were the highest posture that can be attained here by the Christian.*” The revealing of Jesus and his coming is central to the Christian hope. Look up and discuss:
 - a. [Galatians 5:5](#)
 - b. [Philippians 3:20, 21](#)