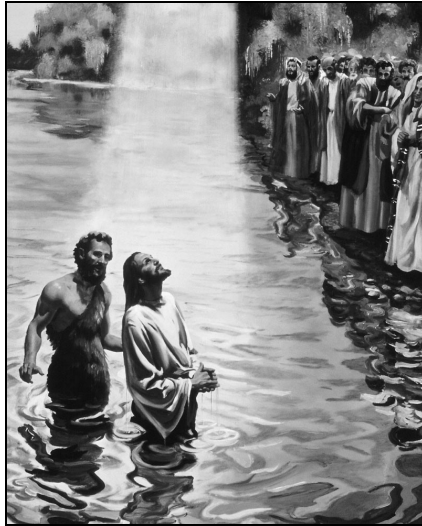
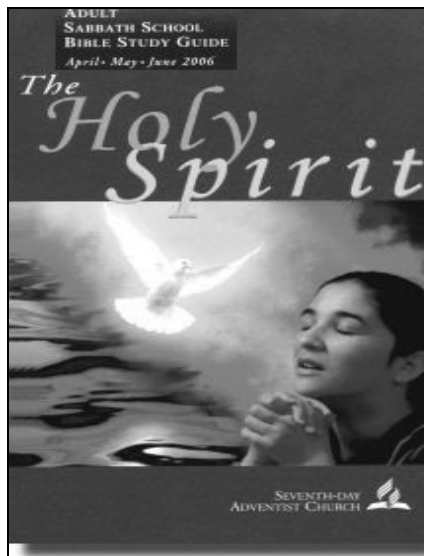


# Sabbath School Bible Study Guide, Alternative Commentary



## Lesson 7



For this weeks lesson we will not do a day by day commentary, but rather an overview of the weeks lesson, focusing mainly on the question, from whom do we receive the gifts of the Spirit?

In this study we will see the gifts of the Spirit came from Christ. “All things Christ received from God, but He took to give.” {DA 21.2}

These “all things” include the gifts of the Spirit. We saw in a previous study the Spirit itself ultimately proceeds from God (John 15:26).

*“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”* Col 2:9

This fullness is the Spirit of God, His very life, given without measure to the Son. John 3:34. And this fullness we also can receive John 1:16, Eph 3:19

Notice the earlier statement quoted (DA 21) how it continues: “All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all.” {DA 21.2}

Note the words “the great source of all”.

This is why Christ said of the comforter “*whom I will send unto you from the Father*” John 15:26

And in DA 671 we read “he Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people.” {DA 671.2}

As we study the gifts of the Spirit, we must remember an important principle. The gifts of the Spirit are the very attributes or characteristics Christ developed in His life, through “a life in harmony with God” thus He was fitted for His public ministry.

Scripture records of His youth “*And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him*” Luke 2:40

He “*increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*” Luke 2:52

Inspiration records “His mind was active and penetrating, with a thoughtfulness and wisdom beyond His years. Yet His character was beautiful in its symmetry. The powers of mind and body developed gradually, in keeping with the laws of childhood.... {DA 68.2}

With deep earnestness the mother of Jesus watched the unfolding of His powers, and beheld the impress of perfection upon His character. With delight she sought to encourage that bright, receptive mind. Through the Holy Spirit she received wisdom to co-operate with the heavenly agencies in the development of this child, who could claim only God as His Father.” {DA 69.1}

One may ask, what has this to do with the gifts of the Spirit?

The apostolic church was founded by Jesus. He is the chief cornerstone. He is the One who strengthens and upholds the body.

This Christ achieves through the gifts of the Spirit. “*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” Eph 4:12, 13

The gifts Christ imparts to the body are the very attributes He developed in His life.

For example one of the gifts of the Spirit is the gift of teaching.

Q – Who was the greatest teacher that ever walked the earth?

A – Jesus Christ.

Q – How did Jesus acquire the gift of teaching?

A –“He studied the life of plants and animals, and the life of man.

From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; He lived to bless others. For this He found resources in nature; new ideas of ways and means flashed into His mind as He studied plant life and animal life. Continually He was seeking to draw from things seen illustrations by which to present the living oracles of God. The parables by which, during His ministry, He loved to teach His lessons of truth show how open His spirit was to the influences of nature, and how He had gathered the spiritual teaching from the surroundings of His daily life.” {DA 70.2}

Here we see how the great teacher’s foundation was laid, and developed from childhood.

Another gift is that of evangelist, and again no one ever evangelized the gospel like Christ.

How did He receive His knowledge?

“His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God's Word.....From the first dawning of intelligence He was constantly growing in spiritual grace and knowledge of truth.” {CG 51.1}

Take note of the gifts of the Spirit and notice how they were exemplified in Christ’s life.

## Gifts of the Spirit

## Life of Christ

Apostles	Christ “ <u>the Apostle and High Priest of our profession</u> ” Heb 3:1
Prophets	Christ is “ <u>that prophet</u> ” Acts 3:22,23
Teachers	“For He (Christ) <u>taught</u> them as one having <u>authority</u> ” Matt 7:29
Evangelists (Preacher of the gospel)	“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages... <u>preaching the</u> <u>gospel</u> ...” Matt 9:35
Discerning spirit	“But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because <u>He knew all men</u> ” John 2:24
Faith	Christ “was <u>faithful</u> to Him that appointed Him” Heb 3:2
Healings	“great multitudes followed Him and He <u>healed them all</u> ” Matt 12:15
Pastors	Christ is “ <u>the good shepherd</u> ” John 10:11

All these gifts including others such as administrations, help, etc... were developed and magnified in Christ’s life. (Miracles and healings excepted, these were primarily through faith in His Father)

Thus through the gifts of His Spirit, Christ empowers and builds up the body.

That the church *“may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ”* Eph 4:15

In the days of Christ the temple service had lost its spiritual significance. The sacred court had become a market place for fraud and extortion. Corrupt priests and dealers enriched themselves at the expense of the people. “Spiritual worship was fast disappearing. No link bound the priests and rulers to their God.” {DA 157.3}

Was God dwelling among His people in a building Christ called *“a den of thieves”*?

It was through the incarnation that God would provide the link with His people. 1 Sam 7:14, Matt 1:23

We know it was through His Son that God dwelt among His people *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us”* John 1:14. In John 2:19, 21 Christ spoke *“of the temple of his body”*

Zechariah prophesied in chapter 6:12 of Christ *“Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord”*

The margin reads *“to branch up from under him”*

This is what the words “branch and grow up” mean “to sprout”, “bring forth”, to “branch out” or “spring up”.

From the moment the Saviour was conceived He was building the temple of the Lord. Luke 1:35. He would grow up “from under him”

In His humanity Jesus was the temple of God.

We noted earlier how at every step, from His youth to manhood Christ *“increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”* Luke 2:52

We saw how Jesus was the greatest prophet, teacher, evangelist, etc, that ever walked the earth.

This perfect life Jesus took to the cross.

Jesus had to first build in His own life His body, the temple of God. Note: All that comprises the church, the gifts of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit etc, all were in the life of Christ! And this complete life is what our Saviour offered at the cross.

What a Saviour, He is truly *“the author and finisher of our faith”*

Our Lord offered in His physical life, all that comprises the church. That He may impart this life to His people, and build His spiritual church!

Keeping this principle in mind, notice how this next passage shines forth in clear light.

*“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” Eph 4:8 – 12*

Notice what the apostle says.

In Vs 8 We are told *“he ascended up on high... and gave gifts unto men.”*

But before He could give gifts unto men, Jesus had to die. This is why Paul states in Vs 9 *“he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth”*

Vs 10 Tells us He (Christ) that “*descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens*”

The word “same” is important. It is not just to record the same Jesus that died is the One who rose and ascended to heaven. But His very life, His character, the same life He lived and sacrificed is the life He is seeking to impart to us.

Notice from inspiration “The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again, and gives to humanity.” {DA 786.4}

And the gifts of the Spirit are a part of that life our Lord laid down and took up again to give to us!

Notice the next Vs “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*” Eph 4:11

It is not someone else called god the holy spirit who gives gifts unto men. The text says “*he* (Jesus) *gave*” the gifts, and only He, because of His perfect life, suffering and death is qualified to do so!

The next verse Eph 4:12 tells us the gifts are given for “*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*”

It is because of His perfect life, suffering and death in our humanity, that He is able to perfect the saints.

And this is all according to the council of peace between the Father and Son.

Notice in Hebrews 2 how Paul describes this plan.

“*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him,*



*for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*” Heb 2:9, 10

Notice “*it became him*”. In order for God to bring many sons to glory (to perfect saints) He must first “*make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings*”

This is what we have been seeing all along. This word “captain” means the head. Christ is the “head” of the body (the saints). Before the Lord could give gifts unto men, for the “*perfecting of the saints*” He must be made perfect through sufferings. Why must He first be made perfect through suffering?

Because Christ gives to the saints (His church), His victories, His experience.

*“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”* Heb 2:18

All the gifts of the Spirit which are needed to sanctify the life, were lived out and perfected in the life of Christ.

This is what 1 Cor.12:12 states: “*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*”

Paul is describing how the church is to function.

The body is one but composed of many members, entrusted with the different gifts (previous verses). And all members with their different gifts work together in unity, in one body.

Then he says “*so also is Christ*”

The church composed of many members with various gifts, working as one body, is compared to Christ.

Because in the life of Christ is all the characteristics that compose the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, that make up the body.

Thus Paul can say *“Now ye are the body of Christ...”* Vs 27

We saw the gifts of the Spirit are given *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* Eph 4: 12

These gifts are needed *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God...”* Eph 4:13

This *“knowledge of the Son of God”* is not only in doctrine. It means experimental knowledge of His love manifested through His self sacrificing life. It means His life lived out in the soul.

This will bring the church *“unto a perfect man”*

How perfect?

*“unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”*

Let us *“henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”* Eph 4:14

Friends, do not be deceived, the gifts of the Spirit are the very characteristics of the life of Christ.

His whole life was lived *“to bless others”*. Everything our Lord learnt, developed, and suffered is for our benefit. That He may impart His life to us, through His Spirit.

*“Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.”* {DA 671.2}

“Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life.” {DA 827.3}

“The influence of the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.” {RH, October 26, 1897 par. 15}

*“Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory”* Zech. 6:13

“None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory.” {DA 37.3}

*“When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”* 2 Thess. 1:10

**Amen**