

Spiritual Gifts: *Power, Love, Sound Mind*

Daniel Borchers

July 28, 2002

PromiseKeepers – Storming the Gates

PromiseKeepers was great. The best part was that I met an old friend of mine, a dear friend, my best friend. You know Him too! His name is Jesus Christ. PromiseKeepers reaffirmed our identity. We are children of God the Father. We are brothers of Jesus Christ. And, Jesus is our Friend.

The event was titled “Storm the Gates” and concluded with the idea that we storm the gates of hell by being “crucified with Christ.” How do we become crucified with Christ? By becoming more like Christ. By putting off the old man and putting on the new man.

Colossians 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Richard will be speaking to us later about a message we received concerning prayer and Bible study. The speaker, Buddy Owens, spoke about intimate prayer and that is what I would like to share with you today.

There are two prayers that I have prayed and God has always answered them in a positive way. Always!

As I am about to enter the lion’s den, or to storm the gates of hell, my prayer goes like this: “Jesus, please cover me with Your blood. Clothe me with Your righteousness.” What I am asking for is God to cleanse me from past sins and to fill me with His righteousness. In short, to take off the old man and put on the new. And every time He has done that.

The first and second and third step into the lion’s den might be difficult, but the next ones become easier, and then there is peace – peace and strength and courage and a certainty of God’s presence and of God’s victory in that situation or circumstance.

By the way, victory is not necessarily actually seeing the gates of hell fall. They will fall in God’s time. Our victory is in stepping out in faith, in speaking the truth, in giving the love, in doing His will, in going forward and taking those steps of faith, and, in the process, engaging God and developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, in whom we have the victory.

The second prayer that God has always answered is also very simple and can be used during a time of emotional or spiritual difficulty. When you feel overwhelmed by circumstances and your emotional response or spiritual state is not what it should be. A simple prayer: “Father, forgive me. Cleanse my heart. Remove what is bad. Increase what is good.” This is just another way of talking about the old and new man.

I’m not giving you magic formulas. Use your own words. Speak from your heart. Our Father in heaven will hear and He will heed. He loves pure hearts and will purify yours as He continually purifies mine. Our Father loves when His children step out in faith. He will give you peace and courage as you storm the gates of hell and He will make your heart a place where He wants to dwell.

You can count on it!

Now we will sing “My Heart, My Home.” Let the words minister to your hearts. Let us all open our hearts to Him and enable Him to make a wonderful home there.

Our Spiritual Gift From God

Yes, it’s me again. Let me assure you that I’m not up here speaking because I love the sound of my voice. I am here because I love God and because I love you and because I love talking to you about our God.

2nd Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

A few months ago we discussed the three supreme gifts – faith, hope and love. Those three gifts can be given and used *independently* of one another. But notice what 2nd Timothy says. Let me read it again.

2nd Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Three in One

We – you and I – have all been given this gift, this spiritual gift. It is a Spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind. All three attributes are ascribed to this *one* gift. It is a *composite* gift. Of course we are speaking of the Holy Spirit in us. Nonetheless, it is a spiritual gift – a three-strand gift – a gift which has three inseparable parts.

We rejoice over the power of His love and we sing that the greatest power in the universe is God’s love. Instinctively, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, we recognize the connection between God’s unlimited love and His unlimited power. The two are one. Yet, even as we try to grasp what that means, the meaning eludes us. Power = Love? This is spiritual mathematics, far beyond the $2 + 2 = 4$ that we *can* comprehend.

2nd Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

This is the Spirit that God has given us!

The Third Strand

The Trinity is a difficult concept to grasp. Here the apostle Paul is telling Timothy about the triune nature of the Holy Spirit within us. The power and the love are joined with a sound mind.

God has given us spiritual gifts to use according to His will to serve His church. But those gifts can be misused. They can be abused. They can be used for selfish, carnal and ungodly purposes.

We know that power corrupts. But God has given us His Spirit of power, love and a sound mind. These three attributes work together.

His power enables and emboldens us to *do* His will. His love provides the proper *motivation*. And His sound mind enables us to exercise *godly wisdom* in *how* we use His power and love.

This threefold spirit of power, love and a sound mind keeps us on the right track. If we hear and heed the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and if we exercise these qualities of the Holy Spirit that God has given to each one of us, then we will avoid the trap of misusing or abusing those other spiritual gifts that God has given us.

God has blessed all of us beyond measure. His spiritual gifts are priceless. May each of us treasure what God has given to us. May we allow His Spirit to dwell in us richly and do His will. And may His Spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind grow daily within us to transform us more fully and perfectly into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Thank you.