**Adult Sunday School**

October 28, 2007

**Th**

Pe

The Gift of God

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

The Son of God is Christ The Gift of God is Christ The Living Water is Christ

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

2Co 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink. The great gift of God is not water, not even peace of soul, but Christ himself, God's "unspeakable gift" [2Co 9:15], "God gave his only begotten Son" [Joh 3:16].

Had she known, (Work to bring about the knowledge of the Son of God) IIPt.3:18

the Savior declares, "Thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

(1) That Christ asks a favor in order to grant a greater one.

(2) The well and the water suggest the thirst of the soul and the waters of life.

Living water. Water of life. The woman thought he meant running water.

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

1. Jesus Christ gives us the grace to use our gifts.
   1. Grace means the strength, wisdom, courage, motivation, love, concern, care, and power—all the favor and blessings of Christ. Whatever is needed to use the gift, Christ gives us.
   2. He measures out the exact amount of grace needed for the maximum use of a gift.

What a glorious truth! What a spark of encouragement!

Everyone of us is gifted by Christ—gifted with a highly specialized gift.

And we have the measure of grace—whatever measure is needed—to use our gifts. Christ pours out His grace upon us, equipping us to carry out our task upon earth.

This is significant, for it means that our gift is the gift of Christ.

It is the very best gift for us.

1Co 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

We should not be displeased with our gift, nor covet to be like someone else and have his gift. Christ has placed us and given us the very best gift for us—if we are truly His, yielded and committed to serve Him.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey" (Matthew 25:15).

God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith" (Romans 12:6).

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (1 Cor. 4:7).

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:4).

But the manifestation [illuminations, gifts] of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" (1 Cor. 12:7).

1. The Gifts are freely received and freely given yet the price is your life.

Mt 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Ro 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Ro 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

2Co 11:7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

Re 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Re 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Men cannot reproduce the gifts, nor make other men gifts.

1. Every believer's gift is Christ-centered. "He gave." It is Christ and Christ alone who gives spiritual gifts to men.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

**Amplified**

**John 4:35** Do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? Look! I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields *and* see how they are already white for harvesting. **36** Already the reaper is getting his wages [he who does the cutting now has his reward], for he is gathering fruit (crop) unto life eternal, so that he who does the planting and he who does the reaping may rejoice together. **37** For in this the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. **38** I sent you to reap a crop for which you have not toiled. Other men have labored and you have stepped in to reap the results of their work.

1. Every believer's gift cost the greatest possible price.
   1. Your life for His
   2. Your life must be given willingly

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Luke 9:23And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25).

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:11).

But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve" (Luke 22:26).

**Amplified II Cor. 9:5-15 5** That is why I thought it necessary to urge these brethren to go to you before I do and make arrangements in advance for this bountiful, promised gift of yours, so that it may be ready, not as an extortion [wrung out of you] but as a generous *and* willing gift. **6** [Remember] this: he who sows sparingly *and* grudgingly will also reap sparingly *and* grudgingly, and he who sows generously [ that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously *and* with blessings. **7** Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind *and* purposed in his heart, not reluctantly *or* sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]. **8** And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always *and* under all circumstances *and* whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. **9** As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice *and* goodness *and* kindness *and* benevolence will go on *and* endure forever! **10** And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [ which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity]. **11** Thus you will be enriched in all things *and* in every way, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God. **12** For the service that the ministering of this fund renders does not only fully supply what is lacking to the saints (God's people), but it also overflows in many [cries of] thanksgiving to God. **13** Because at [your] standing of the test of this ministry, they will glorify God for your loyalty *and* obedience to the Gospel of Christ which you confess, as well as for your generous-hearted liberality to them and to all [the other needy ones]. **14** And they yearn for you while they pray for you, because of the surpassing measure of God's grace (His favor and mercy and spiritual blessing which is shown forth) in you. **15** Now thanks be to God for His Gift, [precious] beyond telling [His indescribable, inexpressible, free Gift]!

Living water *is* alive.

To the Jew, living water was running water that was always flowing and moving along, such as a creek fed by springs or a lake with both an inflow and an outflow. Dead water was stagnant water such as ponds or pools that were always sitting still with no inflow or outflow. However, when Jesus spoke of "living water," He meant much more than living streams and lakes.

1. Living water is "of God."
   1. It is of Him who is living, always has and always will be living.
   2. The water that God gives is the most *alive* water there is. No other water, no matter how alive it may be considered, can compare with the living water that is of God.

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light" ([Psalm 36:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+36%3A9)).

1. Living water is "the gift" of God. The word "gift" means it is freely given, is
   1. *not earned* and is *not deserved*.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price" ([Isaiah 55:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+55%3A1)).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" ([Ephes. 2:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A8-9)).

1. Living water is given by asking for it.
   1. Jesus said: "If thou knewest...thou wouldest have asked."
   2. The woman had never received living water because she *had never known* about it and *had never asked* for it.
   3. It was now available simply by asking for it.
2. living water is from a Person much greater than a religious father. The woman saw clearly that Jesus was making an unusual claim. She did not yet understand what the claim was, but she knew He was getting at something. She noticed He had no leather pouch with which to draw water, so she asked two significant questions.

Joh 4:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

From where did He get this living water?

John 4:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.