



① The Foundation: The Gospel of Grace- Three Gifts

Gift #1 Jesus gives us his PERFECT LIFE - Jesus completely satisfied all the requirements of God's Holy Law. In every possible way He was perfect in his love and life - his character, motives, and behaviors. Think of a command or instruction. He did that for you. He gives His perfect record to sinners like us so we can be accepted by a Holy God. Because of Jesus' perfect life, given to us (imputed righteousness), we are accepted, adopted, and delighted in. Irrespective of our behavior we can hear our Father say those in Christ *"are my children with whom I am well pleased."*

Gift #2 Jesus gives us his PERFECT DEATH - As a ransom for sinners, Jesus' death perfectly paid the just penalty our sins deserved. Our entire debt has been paid in full. We committed crimes against the Holy Law of God. We were guilty and justly condemned. In our place, Jesus endured the punishment on our behalf (substitutionary atonement). Because of Jesus' perfect death we can be sure that "God is not mad at me anymore." Our guilt and shame have been removed. "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

Gift #3 Jesus gives us His HOLY SPIRIT - After His ascension, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in those He rescued. The Bible calls this being "born again," "made new," "new creations," and "a new nature." The Holy Spirit's job is to apply the gifts of God (forgiveness, righteousness, and a new life) to our souls. The Bible urges us not to exhaust ourselves striving to get our behaviors right, but rather to "keep in step with the Spirit" and to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling because God is at work within us to want (desire) and act according to His good purpose." With God's resurrection power at work within them, true Christians can relax from endless self-protection and self-improvement and respond to the spiritual life being produced inside them.

② The Application: What does the Holy Spirit do to facilitate personal growth?

- The Holy Spirit changes our view of us. He graciously and gently exposes the wrong ideas and wrong motives. He gives us an accurate Identity and self-awareness,
- The Holy Spirit changes our minds. The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth about God, grace, ourselves, and others.
- The Holy Spirit changes our convictions. The Holy Spirit works in us to form new convictions. In our "gut" He forms beliefs that are true, beautiful, valuable, and powerful.
- The Holy Spirit changes our emotions. His job is to recreate the character and passions of Jesus in us. Progressively we value, love, hate, and desire the same things that God does.
- The Holy Spirit changes our behaviors. God's Spirit leads us to and empowers new behaviors and habits. The life of Jesus in us includes new behaviors also create new relationships.
- The Holy Spirit gives hope. The Holy Spirit reminds us that God has a plan and a good future in store for us. He is working all of our situations for our good.

Matthew 5:48
Romans 5:10
2 Corinthians 5:21
Galatians 4:4-7
Ephesians 5:2
Philippians 3:9
Philippians 2

Mark 10:45
John 19:30
Romans 8:1-4
Galatians 3:13
Philippians 2:8
Hebrews 9:26
1 Peter 2:24
Isaiah 53:4-6

Ezekiel 36:26-27
Romans 6:4
2 Corinthians 5:17
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 5:22-23
Ephesians 4:22-24
Philippians 2:12-13
Colossians 3:9-12

John 14:26
John 16:8, 13
Romans 8:16
Romans 15:13
1 Cor 2:10-13
2 Corinthians 3:6b
Galatians 4:6
Galatians 5:22-23
Ephesians 5:18-21