

The Gift Of The Holy Spirit Is For Those Who Obey



Foundations (Day 176)
by Derek Prince

In concluding these studies on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, it is appropriate to emphasise once again the close connection between the fullness of the Holy Spirit and obedience. As Peter says, the gift of the Holy Spirit is for those who obey God. Even where God in His grace bestows this gift upon those who have not yet fully met the conditions of His Word, this still leaves no room for carelessness or disobedience.

As Peter preached in the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard his word (see Acts 10). However, it is clear that this demonstration of God's grace was in no sense to be interpreted as a substitute for obedience to God's Word, for we read:

> "He [Peter] commanded them to be baptised." (Acts 10:48)

Even for those who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, the ordinance of baptism in water still remains a commandment of God's Word that may not be set aside.

Above all, in this realm of spiritual gifts we need to be continually on our guard against spiritual pride. The more richly we receive of the gifts of God's grace, the greater is our obligation to be obedient and faithful in the exercise and stewardship of those gifts.

This principle of responsibility for grace received is summed up by Jesus' teaching on stewardship.

> "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48)

The more abundantly we receive of God's gifts and graces through Jesus Christ, the greater becomes our obligation to humility, to consecration and to unfailing obedience.

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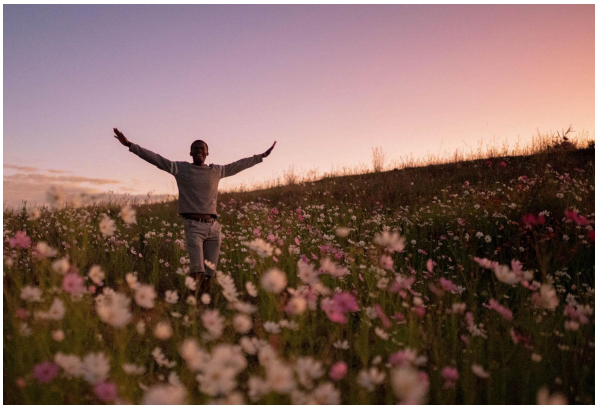

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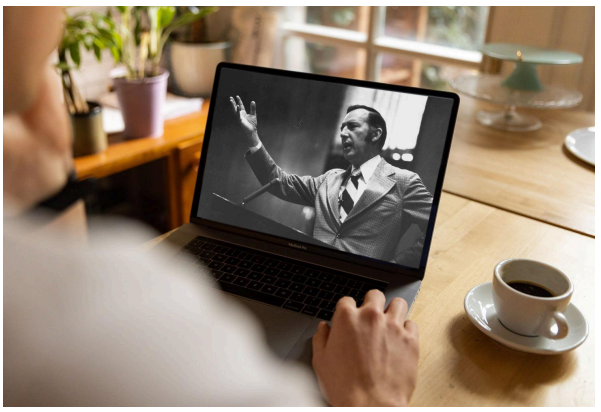

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