“Gifts of the Holy Spirit”
Heb. 2:4

Introduction:
A. All Christians are promised “the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38, 39).
   1. Not all gifts of the Holy Spirit are the same.
   2. Not all Christians were promised miraculous gifts.
B. We need to study and distinguish between the various gifts taught in Bible.

Discussion:
   A. It was given directly from heaven to the Apostles. (Acts 1:4,5; 2:1-5).
      1. It was accompanied by open miraculous demonstration. (Acts 2:1-4).
      2. It confirmed the ascension and reign of Christ (Acts 2:30-33).
      3. It provided them with direct revelation from God. (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-13).
      4. It gave them special powers to confirm that revelation. (Heb. 3:3,4; Mark 16:17,18).
   B. It was given directly from heaven to Cornelius and his house.
      1. It was accompanied open miraculous demonstration. (Acts 10:44,46; 11:15).
      2. It proved that God was no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:47,48; 11:15-18; 15:7-9).
   C. It was not given to save anyone.
      1. Cornelius' house to be saved by words of Peter. (Acts 11:14,15).

II. The Apostolic Imparted Gifts Of The Holy Spirit.
   A. They were imparted by the apostles hands. (Acts 8:14-18; Acts 19:6,7; Rom. 1:11).
   B. They were miraculous in nature (Acts 19:7; 1 Cor. 12).
   C. They were not to be perpetuated throughout the Christian age.
      1. Those receiving them could not impart them. (Acts 8:6, 14, 15,18).
      2. They were for limited time and purpose. (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

III. The General Gift Of The Holy Spirit.
   A. It is promised to all the saved. (Acts 2:38; 5:32).
   B. It sometimes called the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16; Rom. 8:9,11)
   C. The logistics of “how” is a subject of near endless discussion.
      1. Some say it is immediate and personal.
      2. Some say only representative through the word.
      3. Frankly, arguments for or against have strengths and weakness.
   D. We must admit that some things are not as plain as others (2 Pet. 3:15-16).
      1. A good practice is not to interpret the obscure to contradict the plain.
      2. Need to realize danger of putting destructive twist of a passage.
   E. We can suggest some things clearly taught in New Testament.
      1. All three persons of Godhead dwells in Christians. (1 John 4:12-13; 3:24).
      2. It is not necessary to fully understand it all to believe it.
         a. Do not understand all of how my spirit dwells in me, but accept it by faith.
         b. Do not understand all of how the Holy Spirit, Christ, God dwell in us, but accept by faith.
      3. Three possibilities that seem reasonable to me.
         a. “Dwelling” / “abide” a figure that suggests fellowship and control (John 15:4-10).
            (1) God and Christ also dwells in Christians (1 John 4:12; Eph. 3:17).
            (2) Satan dwelled in Pergamos (Rev. 2:13).
            (3) Sin once dwelt in Paul (Rom. 7:17, 20).
            (4) Truth dwells in Christians (2 John 2).
         c. Father, son indwells in body of Christian representatively through Spirit (1 John 3:24; 1 Cor. 6:18-20).
   4. H.S. does not teach, guide, or influence without the word.
      a. The word is the sword (instrument) of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).
      b. Such activity nullify completeness of revelation. (Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
   5. It has useful purpose other than giving us direct divine guidance and revelation.
      a. Holy Spirit works on behalf of Christian in prayers. (Rom. 8:26,27).
      b. Knowing Holy Spirit is in us deters sin. (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

Conclusion:
A. Christians are especially blessing to have Deity in them and they in Deity.
B. Christians need to behave like people in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.