

Born of the Spirit

By Lynn Warner

When someone is born of the Spirit, God gives that person many gifts. Some of the gifts God gives us through being born of the Spirit begin with the power to become children of God, to enter the Kingdom of God, to know God and Jesus Christ, to know and abide in God's love, to be kept from the evil one, to be sanctified in the truth, to be one and perfected in unity, and to be with Jesus forever. All these gifts (and more!) are found in the book of John with more details in the Epistles.

The first gift given to those who receive Jesus is the power or right to become children of God, born of God, as described in John 1:12-13: *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God"* (NASB).

As children, we can enter the Kingdom of God, having been born of water and Spirit, as stated in John 3:5-6: *"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'"*

As children who enter the Kingdom of God, born of the Spirit, we are given eternal life, which is the ability to know God and Jesus Christ. We read this in John 17:1-3: *"Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.'"*

What greater gift can God give, than to be given the right to become children of God and the ability to know God and His Son! Those who receive Jesus also receive joy – the blessing of joy that come because we are His children, loved by Him with the love of the Father in us.

In John 15:8-11, Jesus shows that we must abide in His love to bear fruit. By abiding in His love and producing fruit, His joy is in us: *"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."*

Also, when He prayed in John 17:26, He said, *"And I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."* To know God is to know God's character and to know His love and forgiveness.

Also, those who receive Jesus are to be kept by God from the evil one. We are transferred from the kingdom of darkness (lies, deception, and hatred of God) to God's Kingdom, where we are sanctified in the Truth by the Spirit of Truth. For example, we read in John 17:15-17: *"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*

We read in John 16:13a that we are guided into the Truth by the Spirit of Truth: *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth."* To have truth is a great blessing, especially in this dark time when man is subverting truth, darkness is being called light, and light is being called darkness. Rather than being submerged in confusion, the child of God has clarity and vision.

Another gift we are given is to be in perfect unity. In this world of fragmentation, separation,

and chaos, unity is a great blessing. Jesus prayed for the children of God to be one in John 17:20-23: *“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”*

As God’s children, God’s love is in us, and we are free to love God and love others. We put off anger, bitterness, unforgiveness – all things that cause separation – and put on the love of Christ, which brings peace contentment, and wholeness. Last, we look forward to being with Jesus where He is. A passage many Christians love is John 14:2-3: *“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”*

We desire to be with Jesus. We read in John 17:24 that He desires us to be with Him also: *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”* He desires to be with us and gives us the desire of our hearts.

In summary, when we are born of the Spirit, we receive many gifts given to us by God through the Spirit, and because of Jesus Who was sent to us by God. In this Christmas season, we can meditate on the gifts from God – gifts no money can buy. In this article, we read of being given the power to become the children of God, born of the Spirit, able to know God and His Son Jesus Christ. We are forgiven and loved with God’s own love, which we in turn pour into others. Though we are in the world, we are not of the world, and are kept from the evil one. We are strengthened to know the Truth and to be able to stand in the Truth, even as we see the world rejecting the Truth. Because we have God’s love and Truth, we can live in peace and unity with God and others, even as God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are in unity. And with anticipation, we desire to be with Jesus, where He is, and behold His glory!