

09. The Gift of the Holy Spirit

What does the Bible says concerning God's provision for our future? See, we, as human beings, have basically two problems. All human beings have the same problems, whatever our religion, our culture, our language, our education, our temperament, or anything. We could simplify these problems by putting them into two categories: one is a problem relating to our past - our guilt, our failure, our sins; and the other is, problem relating to the future. How are we going to deal with what comes forth from our nature in the future? Is it going to be a repetition of the same old failures from our past? Do we have to keep on going to God again and again, asking Him to forgive us the same old sins that we have asked for many times in the past? Or, has God made some provisions so that we can overcome in the areas where we failed in the past?

The good news in the Bible is that God has made a provision. He has not only made a provision for our past failures through Christ's death on the cross of Calvary (that was a complete and total taking care of our past failures), but He has also provided for this problem of the possibility of our failing again and again in the same areas in the future by offering us the gift of His Holy Spirit. Now, Jesus said to His disciples, when He was on earth, just before He went up to heaven that, "It is good for you that I go away, because when I go, I will send the Holy Spirit from heaven to dwell in your hearts." The Holy Spirit is the very person of God, the Spirit of God, and this is the gift freely given by God to us, just as much as forgiveness of our sins.

The first day that the Christian message was preached in this world was 2000 years ago, and it is described in Acts 2. It was the Jewish feast of

09. 圣灵的礼物

《圣经》关于神给我们未来的供应是怎样说的？我们作为人类，基本上都有两个问题。全部的人类都有同样的问题，无论我们什么宗教、文化背景、语言、教育程度，无论我们是什么性格。我们的问题都可以归结为两个类别：一个是关于过去，我们的罪恶感和失败，和一切的过犯；另一个就是关于未来，我们如何来面对在未来会出现的那些，由于我们天性使然的问题。我们会像过往一样，不断重复着同样的失败吗？我们需要一次又一次地来到神面前，请求祂宽恕我们已经犯了无数次的、同样的罪吗？抑或是，神给我们预备了什么，可以使我们克服而不再跌倒于那个领域？

《圣经》里的好消息（福音）就是，神为我们预备的供应。祂不单单用基督在十字架上的死，来处理我们过去的失败（基督的死，完全地，处理了我们过去全部的失败），祂还为我们预备了礼物，就是祂的圣灵，来帮助我们未来在相同领域一次又一次的失败。耶稣在地上当祂快要升天的时候，对祂的门徒们说：“我离开，对你们是有益的，因为当我离开了，我会让天国里的圣灵来住进你们的心里。”圣灵是神本身（神的一个位格），是神的灵，如同赦免我们的罪一样，圣灵是神免费给人的礼物。

使徒行传的第 2 章，描述了在两千年前，基督徒的信息第一次在这个世上被传讲。那发生在犹太人的五旬节，很多人来到了耶路撒冷。使徒彼得站起来向众人

Pentecost when many people had come together in Jerusalem. The apostle Peter got up and proclaimed the Gospel message: that Christ had died, that He had risen again from the dead, and then ascended to heaven. And that He has poured out His Holy Spirit that had filled the hearts of those 120 peoples, who were praying that day in Jerusalem. Then Peter said to all the thousands of people who were listening to him (Acts 2:38) these words: Repent (we have considered what that means) and let each one of you be baptized being immersed in water to symbolize the break with the past, the burial of the old man, and the resurrection of being a new man. That is the symbolism of going into the water and coming out in baptism - my old man is dead and is buried and now I am a new man in Christ. And then he said, 'if you do that, you will receive two gifts: one, the forgiveness of your sins (that deals with our past), and second, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' That is God's provision for the future. So, both of our problems are dealt with; our past, as well as our future. We have taken care of the guilt of our past and the provision of strength to overcome when we are faced with temptations and problems in the future.

Now many Christians think that God has only dealt with our past problems. As I said in the last study, you can receive from God only what you have faith for. If you don't believe, you cannot receive. If you don't believe, for example, that God will give you strength to face your problems in the future, you won't receive it. You may desire it, God may also desire to give you that strength, but you still won't receive, if you don't have faith. Every gift of God is received by simple faith. It is not because we deserve it. None of us deserve even the lowest of God's gifts. We don't deserve anything but hellfire. All of us deserve judgment. All of us deserve to burn

传讲福音：基督死了，又从死里复活，然后升入了天国。神将祂的圣灵充满了那天正在耶路撒冷祈祷的120个人。尔后彼得对全部在场的几千个听他讲道的人说了下面的话（使徒行传2章38节）：“你们每个人都要悔改，浸入水中受洗，代表着你与过去的决裂，埋葬那个旧的人，重生出一个新的人。”这是受洗浸入水中尔后再出来的含义——我们那个旧人已经死了并被埋葬，现在开始，我是基督里面的一个新人。尔后他又说：“如果你这样做了，将会得到两个礼物——第一个，是对你一切罪的赦免（处理我们的过去）；第二个，你将领受圣灵作为礼物。“这是神为未来所做的预备。那么，我们的两个问题，过去和将来，都得到了处理。我们过往的罪被处理了，未来将面对诱惑和问题也得到了预备好的力量去应对。

现在有很多基督徒以为神只处理了我们过去的问题。如同我在前面讲到的，你只能从神那得到你有信心的那部分。如果你不信的，就得不到。比如说，如果你不相信神会在未来给你面对困难的勇气，你就将得不到。也许你很想要，神也很想给你这份力量，可只要你没有信心，就无法得到。神给的每份礼物，你都要靠着信心来获得。而且不是我们当之无愧地配得。我们没有任何一个人配得哪怕是神最低的礼物。我们除了地狱的烈火，什么都不配得。我们每个人配得的是审判。因为罪的缘故，我们该受的是在无间的地狱里被永远地火烧。我们犯的罪是故意的，使神蒙羞。神把全人类放在同一个类别，就是罪人，如此一来，祂就可以把怜悯给每一个人。这是神的方式——把我

in hell for eternity because we have sinned. We have sinned deliberately, we have dishonoured God. So God places all humanity - the entire human race under sin so that He can have mercy on everyone. This is God's way - to put us all under sin so that we all are in the same category, so that no one can boast over another, saying, 'I am better than you.' You know how many people there are out in the world, who think they are superior to others?

It is because they haven't seen themselves in God's eyes. It is like I said in another study where the child who gets 20% thinks he is better than the child who gets 5%. And worse than that, the child who gets 20% thinking he is superior to the child who gets 19.5%. How much superior is he really? That is the height foolishness of one man who thinks he is better than another. It is all relative. In God's eyes, we are all failures and He gives us a promotion to the next class freely, i.e. forgiveness. Then He gives us strength to face the problem of our own sinful nature, the problem that we can face living in a world that is still under the curse, and that is through the gift of His Holy Spirit. It is His own presence coming in and dwelling in our hearts, filling our hearts, giving us strength from within.

You know, when Jesus was on earth, He could only encourage people and strengthen them from the outside. He walked with the disciples, He talked with them, but He could only be in one place at a given time. If He was in Galilee, He could not be in Jerusalem; if He was in Jerusalem, He couldn't be in Galilee; if He was in Palestine, He couldn't be in India. That would have been terrible, if it had continued like that forever. Because, then all of us would have to be where Jesus was. Even that wouldn't help us because how many thousands could get near Him in any case? And so, Jesus said

们全部人类都放在同一个类别里（就是“有罪的”），因此，没有任何一个人可以吹嘘“我比你强”。你知道世上有多少人，觉得自己比别人强吗？

这是因为他们还没有从神的角度来审视自己。如同我在前面讲过的，得了 20 分的小孩觉得自己比得了 5 分的小孩强。甚至更糟的是，得了 20 分的孩子觉着自己比得了 19.5 分的孩子强。他强了多少？这和一个人觉得自己比别人好，是一样愚蠢的。全都是相对的。而在神的眼中，我们都是不及格，并且祂给我们免费重修的机会，也就是“宽恕”。尔后祂给了我们力量，去应对我们与生俱来的罪性，来面对我们仍然必须生活在这被诅咒了的世上这一现实，这份力量就是祂的圣灵。这是祂自己亲身来到并进入我们的心，充满我们的心，从里面给我们力量。

你知道吗，当耶稣在世的时候，祂只能从外面鼓励人。祂与门徒同行，祂同他们在一起，但在一个时间点祂只能在一个地方。如果祂在加利利，就不能在耶路撒冷；祂在耶路撒冷，就不能在加利利；如果祂在巴勒斯坦，就不能在印度。如果永远这样的话，就太糟糕了。因为那样的话，我们就必须都在耶稣所在的地方。而且即使那样也帮不了我们，祂身边能站得下几千人呢？因此，耶稣对祂的门徒们说：“我离开其实是更好的，因为如果我离开，我将把我的圣灵送到这，并住进你们的心里，从而带给你们我的存在。”每一个门徒，可以在世界上的任何地方接受圣灵，无论他们在哪，都可以与耶稣同在。

to His disciples that, "It is better if I go away, because if I go away, I will send My Holy Spirit who will come and dwell in your heart and that will bring my presence." All the disciples could receive this Holy Spirit in every part of the world and have the presence of Jesus with them wherever they are.

And even better than that, not just wherever they are, but instead of having Jesus outside of them, they could have Jesus inside of them. You know that is far better. Because with the disciples, even though Jesus was with them for three and a half years, and even though He taught them, encouraged them, challenged them, rebuked them, blessed them in so many ways, yet we see that, at the end of three and a half years, they were still competing with one another to see who would take over the leadership after Jesus died. They were still competing with one another for honour and position. That inward problem could not be dealt even with Jesus' physical presence. Jesus' physical presence only dealt with external problems around them. If there was a storm in the sea He could still it. Or, if there was not enough food to feed them all, He could provide it. Or, if there wasn't enough wine at the wedding, He could change the water into wine. External problems could be dealt with, but the internal problem - which is far more serious - of sin within could not be dealt with as long as Jesus was outside. And that is another reason why it was good that Jesus went away to heaven. Because He sent the Holy Spirit through the third person of the triune God to come and dwell in our hearts, so that the presence and the power of Jesus comes to us through the Holy Spirit within.

Now how do we receive this gift? Exactly the same way we receive the forgiveness of sins. Peter said, "repent, confess your faith in baptism in the name of

更好的是，不止是任何地方都可以有圣灵，而且耶稣在世的时候，是在他们的外面，现在他们可以有耶稣在他们里面了。对于门徒而言，即使当时耶稣与他们同行了一年半，教导了他们再多，鼓励得再多，挑战得再多，训斥得再多，在一年半的末尾，这些门徒仍在那竞争，谁该在耶稣死后得到领导权。他们仍然在彼此竞争荣耀和地位。他们内在的问题，即使耶稣本人在那，都无法解决。耶稣以肉身存在时，只能解决他们外在的问题。比如海上有风暴，祂可以止住。或者，如果食物不够全部的人，祂可以提供。亦或者，如果婚礼上的酒不够了，祂可以把水变成酒。外在的问题都可以解决，但是内在的问题——更严重的问题——内在的罪，无论耶稣肉身在世多久，都无法解决。这也是耶稣离世去天国对我们有好处的另一个原因。因为祂可以让三位一体神的第三个位格，圣灵，来到我们的心里，耶稣的存在和力量，通过圣灵，从里面给我们。

现在的问题是，我们该如何得到这礼物？答案是，就像我们接受对罪的赦免是一样的方法。彼得说：“悔改，奉耶稣基督的名受洗，叫你们的罪得赦，就必须领

Jesus Christ, and you will receive the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). There is no extra condition required. It is not some post-graduate degree. No, it is the beginning of Christian life. Many people have thought that, to receive the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, it is something which has to come many years after we begin the Christian life. No. On the very day that you begin your Christian life, you have to receive forgiveness to sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. You open your heart and receive it. It is like going to a shop where somebody has already paid for a two-volume encyclopaedia for you. If you come home with one volume, and there you discover that you don't have the whole thing, what would you do? When you discover that both volumes are paid for, you go back to the shop and you say, 'well, I am sorry, I didn't take the second volume. That is paid for too.' And you take it, it is free.

So Peter offered forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit to those people who repented. That is what God offers us today. In Hebrews, 4:16, we read: Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, so that we may receive two things: mercy, and grace. Mercy and grace are not the same. Mercy is referring to the forgiveness of our sins, dealing with our past. We have all sinned, we need mercy. Grace is referring to God's power that He can give us to help us to be overcomers in the coming days - it is referring to the future. And it says here in Hebrews, 4:16, that let us come with boldness to God's throne, so we can receive mercy to deal with the past and grace through the Holy Spirit to help us face everything that we can face in the future: temptations, problems, trials, whatever it is. Isn't it wonderfully good news that God has provided for our past as well as our future, and all we need to do

受所赐的圣灵”（使徒行传 2 章 38 节）。这是没有额外要求的。这不像是本科毕业后，要再考试晋级到研究生。不是的，这是基督徒生活的开始。很多人以为，接受圣灵，被圣灵充满，是要在基督徒生活开始后的许多年才能发生的。不是的。从你开始基督徒生活的那一刻，你就要接受罪的赦免和圣灵这个礼物。敞开你的心去接受祂。这就像是去书店，已经有人为你交好了百科全书上下两卷的钱。如果你回家，发现手里只有一卷，你会怎么做？当你发现两卷都交过钱了，你会回到书店说：“对不起，我忘了把已经付好钱的另一卷取走。”尔后你拿到这第二卷，而且不用再交钱的。

因此，彼得告诉悔改的人可以同时得到罪的赦免和圣灵这个礼物。这也是神今天给予我们的。在希伯来书 4 章 16 节我们读到：让我们坦然无惧地来到施恩的宝座前，得到两样东西：怜悯和恩典。“怜悯”和“恩典”是不同的。“怜悯”指的是对我们罪的赦免，处理了过去。“恩典”指的是神能给我们的祂的力量，使我们成为战胜罪的得胜者，针对的是未来。在希伯来书 4 章 16 节说道，让我们坦然无惧地来到神的宝座前，收获用来处理过去的“怜悯”，和帮助我们面对未来所有问题的“恩典”——诱惑、难题、试炼，无论什么。神为我们过去未来做了这样的安排，我们需要的一切都可以从信心得来，难道不该说是极好的吗？

is come in faith?

So I want to invite you right now to come to God boldly - don't hesitate. He invites you - say 'Lord, I believe you have dealt with my past. But today I also want to believe that you will strengthen me to face the future. I want you to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want you to fill my heart with your power, with grace, so that I can face the coming days.' Believe, and it will be yours.

因此，我想要邀请你一起，坦然无惧地来到神面前，不要迟疑。是祂在邀请你，请你说：“主，我相信你已经处理我曾经的一切过犯。但今天，我还要相信你将来给我面对未来的力量。我要你用圣灵来充满我，我要我的心充满你的力量，你的恩典，这样我可以面对未来的日子。”相信，尔后就会成为你的了。