

# Are We Limiting The Blessings God Wants To Pour Out On Us?

**Psalms 13:6** [King James] *“I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*bountiful*” is “*gâmal*” meaning to cherish.

**Psalms 116:7** [King James] *“Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.”*

These are but two of the many scriptures that show how bountiful God desires to deal with us, as He cherishes us as His potential children.

If we accept God’s gifts according to the Giver there would be **no** spiritual poverty in our lives.

We can never desire a spiritual benefit as much as God wants to give it to us.

**God’s willingness to give spiritual gifts is unlimited and His ability to perform what He wills is boundless.**

**Luke 11:9-13** [NIV] *“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

God exceeds all human desires to give to His children.

The Holy Spirit being the greatest gift we can ever receive.

**Luke 1:37** [NIV] *“For nothing is impossible with God.”*

**Since God is infinite, whatever He is or can do must also be without actual or conceivable limits.**

The moment we allow ourselves to think of God having limits, the one of whom we are thinking is **not** God but someone or something less than and different from God.

**To think rightly of God we must conceive of Him as being altogether boundless in His goodness, mercy, love, grace and in whatever else we may correctly attribute to the Deity.**

It is **not** enough that we acknowledge God’s infinite resources, we must believe also that He is infinitely generous to bestow them.

To believe that God has unlimited resources, does **not** put too great a strain on our faith.

But to believe that God is just as unlimiting in His desire to bless us, takes advanced faith and presupposes that there has been divine revelation to that effect which gives validity to our expectations.

This divine revelation is available to all humans, it is contained within the Christian Bible.

Believing all the above, why are we as Christians so spiritually poverty-stricken?

I believe this is because we have **not** learned that God's spiritual gifts, the only ones that are eternal and really matter, are metered out according to the receiver, **not** according to the giver.

Although God is almighty and all wise, God will **not** pour out a great gift into a small receptical.

**To receive spiritual gifts in measure more in keeping with God's bountiful desire to give, five things are necessary.**

## **Faith –**

**Hebrews 11:6** [NIV] *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

We must be convinced that God is kind, generous, good-hearted and ready to bestow His spiritual blessings on us.

**Romans 10:17** [NIV] *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

To have this essential faith we must immerse ourselves in the Christian Bible.

**James 2:14-20** [NIV] *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that **faith without deeds is useless?**”*

Faith must be exercised if it is to be effective.

**Luke 17:5** [NIV] *“The apostles said to the Lord, **“Increase our faith!”**”*

The apostles asked the same question most Christians will ask.

How did Jesus Christ respond to this request?

**Luke 17:7-10** [NIV] *“Suppose one of you had a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, **when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’**”*

God expects us to do more than is commanded of us if we are to increase in faith.

**Matthew 5:41-42** [NIV] *“**If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”*

Jesus Christ illustrates this in His statement referring to “going the second mile.”

## **Capacity –**

Each person differs in their spiritual capacity, but this capacity can be increased if we desire it enough.

This increase in our ability to absorb spiritual thoughts and characteristics is dependent on our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

**The key to all spiritual growth is the Holy Spirit.**

**John 14:15-17** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counsellor** to be with you for ever, the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you.**”*

There are two levels of our possible relationship with the Holy Spirit.

“with you” – this includes revealing the truth to us, [**John 16:13**].

Bringing to our remembrance God’s Word, the Christian Bible, as we need them in our life [**John 14:26**].

Even bringing us to the point of repentance in the first place [**John 16:8**].

This is an educational relationship.

But there is a more advanced and intimate relationship that we can have, if we desire and choose it, with the Holy Spirit.

“will be in you” – this is directing our life from within our own human spirit.

**Romans 8:11-14** [NIV] *“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are **led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**”*

It is **only** those who are led by the Holy Spirit in this way who are already created children of God.

**This demands a total surrender to the will of our Heavenly Father.**

**Matthew 26:36-39** [NIV] *“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “**My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.**”*

This is the example that Jesus Christ left us to follow.

**Hebrews 10:5-7** [NIV] *“Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘**Here I am, it is written about me in the scroll, I have come to do your will, O God.**’”*

The very reason Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world was to fulfil the will of God the Father.

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

It is out of gratitude for what Jesus Christ has done for each of us that we should surrender our whole life to God and allow Him to remodel our very minds.

**Only then will our capacity for receiving spiritual gifts be enlarged.**

## **Receptivity –**

One factor that always limits our ability to receive spiritual gifts is our personal interest in spiritual gifts.

**It is virtually impossible to receive into our minds and human spirit anything in which we have no interest.**

**Matthew 6:31-33** [NIV] *“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Jesus Christ tells us to put first in our thoughts and motivation our entry into the Kingdom of God, that is the created eternal family of God.

**Matthew 13:18-23** [NIV] *“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”*

Note if we allow the concerns for our day-to-day living to take first place in our lives, the effect of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will be choked out of our minds and human spirit.

**Too often worldly interests crowd out heavenly ones and spiritual receptivity is destroyed as a result.**

## **Responsibility –**

The spiritual gifts of God are given to us to use.

When they are not used they atrophy, that is, waste away through imperfect nourishment.

The parable of the talents should be a warning to all Christians [**Matthew 25:14-30**].

Note that the warning parable is linked with the parable of the foolish virgins [cleansed Christians] who lacked the influence of the Holy Spirit, depicted by the oil in their lamps [**Matthew 25:1-13**].

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7** [NIV] *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

We are to use the spiritual gifts we receive from God for the benefit of all other Christians and non-Christians.

A selfish attitude, such as personal pride in the spiritual gifts we receive, can destroy their usefulness for others.

We all, as Christians, have a serious responsibility in this matter of our sharing the spiritual gifts we have received from God with other human beings.

## **Gratitude –**

It is impossible to be too grateful to God, but it might be good to try to be.

**Colossians 2:6-7** [NIV] *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**”*

Our lives and prayers should be abounding with thankfulness to our bountiful Creator God.

**Colossians 4:2** [NIV] *“**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.**”*

Devoted to thankfulness.

**Revelation 7:11-12** [King James] *“**And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**”*

All creatures who are in the presence of God, include thankfulness as part of their worship of their Creator God.

Thankfulness should be a major part of our prayers and worship of our Creator God.

In His great wisdom our Heavenly Father does **not** usually give a second gift until we properly praise and thank Him for the first.

Also, only after we use our gift for the benefit of all other human beings, will God give us any additional spiritual gifts.