

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Power to Give

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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We have looked at the *arche*, *exousia*, *ischus*, and the power of God and *dunamis* relative to *exousia*. We have explored God's mighty power, and *kratos*. Now we will move on to the *didomi* power of God. The root meaning of this Greek word translates as "the power to give."

Strong's #1325: *didomi* (pronounced did'-o-mee)

a prolonged form of a primary verb (which is used as an alternative in most of the tenses); to give (used in a very wide application, properly, or by implication, literally or figuratively; greatly modified by the connection):--adventure, bestow, bring forth, commit, deliver (up), give, grant, hinder, make, minister, number, offer, have power, put, receive, set, shew, smite (+ with the hand), strike (+ with the palm of the hand), suffer, take, utter, yield.

This word is so extensive that we must remember the context of the passage of Scripture and the grammar of the verse in which it is used. Here's just a sampling:

Thayer's Greek Lexicon: *didomi* (did'-oh-mee)

- 1) to give
- 2) to bestow a gift
- 3) to supply, furnish, necessary things
- 4) to give over, deliver, to give over to one's care, entrust
- 5) to give what is due or obligatory, to pay: wages or reward
- 6) to cause to come forth, i.e. as the sea, death and Hell are said to give up the dead who have been engulfed or received by them
- 7) to commission

This word is used 415 times in the NT. Let's look at some of those pertaining to God.

Matthew 7:11: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" NKJV

Matthew 9:8: "and glorified God, which had given such power unto men."

Matthew 10:1: "*him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits,"

Matthew 10:8: "freely ye have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:19: "how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in"
Matthew 12:39: "and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign"
Matthew 13:11 "and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries, but to them it is not given."

Matthew 16:19-24: And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savor not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:19-24.

Matthew 20:28: "but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"
Matthew 21:23 "And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?"
Matthew 21:42,43: "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Acts 11:17, 18: "Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift...also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

Acts 13:20, 21: "And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and...a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Kish,"

Acts 14:3: "of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done"

Acts 17:25: "as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath,"

Romans 5:5: "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." NKJV

Romans 12:6: "according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according..."

Romans 14:12: "then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 15:5: "of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one

toward another"

1 Corinthians 1:4: "for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus"

2 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 8:16; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:21

God can also give vengeance. 2 Thess. 1:8. He gives power as He wills. Revelation 9:3, 5.

2 Thessalonians 1:8: "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God,"

This word is used some 49 times in the Book of Revelation. Revelation was given by God to unveil what was soon to take place. All things come from God who gives as both Creator of all and Redeemer of some. He has mercy on whom He will have mercy. He gives grace to the humble. We must walk carefully. Every believer will give account at the Judgment Seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10. This judgment for believers is not to say one can lose salvation, but to separate away the deeds of wood, hay, and stubble. May it be that we come forth as gold and live our lives acceptably to God's glory.

God the Father gave Jesus: John 3:16.

For God so loved the world, that is the cosmos, that He gave His only begotten, His one and unique Son, that whosoever believes, is believing, in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This power to give reveals to us the character of love as a gift and not a mere disposition. There is the power of action, not just of feeling, in the God-kind of love. God's love gave Jesus a specific mandate, a specific work to be accomplished while on earth. The love of God reached out to man to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the dead. God's love compelled Jesus to give His life a ransom for many and to lay down His life for the salvation of those given to Him by the Father.

Jesus declared in John 6:37 that all that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. Jesus' personality or the benefits of hanging around Him didn't draw the disciples to Him. It was the supernatural power of God that gave men as disciples to Jesus. Many turned away with the first hard saying of Jesus. They came for the picnics, not for the Person. Those who received the power of God chose to follow Him. They received the *didomi* power of God to give their lives to follow Jesus. John 17:7. The love of God gave men the power to become disciples of Christ.

Jesus' death reveals the force of this "giving" love. Jesus gave His life voluntarily, suffering for the sins of others; He had no personal sin. He came as God in flesh, God incarnate, as Surety of the Covenant of Grace, as Mediator of the New Covenant in His Blood, as sin-bearer, as curse-bearer, as bearer of the wrath of God, humbling Himself, taking the full force of His will and placing it in submission to the Father's will, fulfilling all righteousness. For Himself? Only in the sense that He did it for others' benefit and was pleased to be the sacrifice for sin for those given to Him by the Father.

This "giving," this giving love brings boldness of conviction, courage, determination, such that Jesus will not lose one. Some call Jesus "the Hound of Heaven." Some call Him "the Sheriff of the Skies."

This power comes from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of Christ. It is this *didomi* power that enables us to overcome our timidity and fears in the face of evil and devils, and to boldly, but not rudely, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and the truth of the Word of God to others. "Through the power of the Holy Spirit we will be compelled to give to others the life we have received from God." (Fuschia Pickett)

Giving is a lifestyle. People can be givers or they can be takers. Many today are out to see what they can get others to give to them, what the government will give to them. They don't want to work; they want other to work and then give them stuff free. Jesus said that He was working and His Father was working, right up to the very moment. There are all kinds of work and whatever we do is to be done to the glory of the Lord. We were created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

So what are "takers" to do? Eternal life is a free gift flowing from God's grace. The Holy Spirit is the life-producer, the life-maker. When someone is born again, that person is to receive the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit transforms lives. He conforms the believer into the image of Jesus Christ. He gives grace to obey through faith which works by love. A person cannot merit eternal life and doesn't deserve it, but having it, a person can live a life of deep gratitude for eternal life and all else the Living God desires to do in our transfer from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

Ephesians 4: 17-32 Live in the Light

¹⁷This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

²⁵Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³²And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. KJV

Finally, most people's minds immediately think about a message on giving as being about money. But the way of life is free from the love of money. The true God changes us inside out. It's about character. It's about integrity and the bent of the heart. God wants us to give graciously, generously, gladly, and as the Holy Spirit guides. We all need hope, encouragement, the message of the Gospel of Christ, kindness, and

forgiveness. God's kindness leads to repentance. Nearly all people have had experiences that can make one either bitter or better. God wastes nothing; He works all things together for good and for His purposes.

Remember the Lord your God. Amen.

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