

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Impartation

Introduction

Jesus made some astounding statements about the principles of impartation.

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (Matthew 10:40-41 NASB)

Jesus used the word “receives” eight times in these two verses showing us that the primary aspect of impartation is on the side of the one who is receiving.

All that we know of God and His purposes have been imparted, given to us through Jesus. However, the principles of impartation seem a little vague to us and many have attempted to twist Jesus' words to enforce some form of bogus authority or hierarchy.

Impartation Defined

Dictionary.com, an online dictionary, defines “to impart” this way:

Impart: verb (used with object)

1. to make known; tell; relate; disclose
2. to give; bestow; communicate
3. to grant a part or share of; give.

The simplest definition is “giving and receiving” as seen from Jesus' words. However, much more is also included.

Thayer's Greek Definitions gives this as the meaning of the Greek word translated as “receives”:

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to take with the hand
 - 1a) to take hold of, take up
- 2) to take up, receive

- 2a) used of a place receiving one
- 2b) to receive or grant access to, a visitor, not to refuse intercourse or friendship
 - 2b1) to receive hospitality
 - 2b2) to receive into one's family to bring up or educate
- 2c) of the thing offered in speaking, teaching, instructing
 - 2c1) to receive favorably, give ear to, embrace, make one's own, approve, not to reject
- 2d) to receive. i.e. to take upon one's self, sustain, bear, endure
- 3) to receive, get
 - 3a) to learn

This fuller meaning adds new dimensions to the idea of receiving a prophet or a righteous man in the name of a prophet of righteous man. The act of receiving imparts some of the reward of the prophet or righteous man; that is, some of what the prophet or righteous man has attained in the Lord is passed to the one who receives him.

Direct and Indirect

There are two avenues by which the things of the Lord are imparted to us: direct and indirect. Direct impartation is straight from the Lord through the Holy Spirit. When we say that we are taught of the Spirit, this is direct impartation. Few of us have any problems with direct impartation. As a matter of fact, we much prefer this avenue of receiving from the Lord. However, the Lord frequently uses indirect impartation which will come through other body members. The Lord purposely doesn't impart everything to us directly because He wants us to learn that we do not stand alone but need each other as member of the Body. As Paul said no member can say to another "I have no need of you" [*1 Cor. 12:21*]

Impartation is an issue of life. Jesus said that He came that we might have life and life more abundantly [*John 10:10*]. This life is in Jesus and is the same essence of life that is in the Father.

"For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; (John 5:26 NASB)

When Jesus said, **"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."** (*Matthew 10:40 NASB*) He was saying that when receiving is done properly there is an impartation of the life of the Lord and of the Father. Jesus is speaking of the flow of Life from one to another. When we receive the Son we actually receive the substance of the Father too. We seem to have so little understanding of this.

When Jesus speaks of a prophet's (or righteous man's) reward, He is identifying a living grace, the holy results of God's dealings in another's life. It is the reward of their sufferings, and we can receive that reward simply by recognizing God's work in another's life, by receiving them and receiving a measure of their gift through their ministry. Thus we obtain in a relatively short time what perhaps took them a lifetime to attain. For example, when the Lord told Moses, "lay your hand" on Joshua and "put some of your authority on him" [*Num. 27:15-23*], the result was that Joshua walked in new authority. However, Joshua did not attain new authority on his own, it was imparted to him through Moses.

Submitting ourselves to receive from others does not make us less. On the contrary it makes us more, it expands us. We receive their reward without losing our uniqueness. For example, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's spirit, but he never copied Elijah's personality or mannerisms. If you find yourself copying a leader's mannerisms or style, you are focused on the wrong objective. It's the work of Christ in their spirit, not their personality, that we seek to have imparted.

Examples

There are a number of Scriptures that speak of impartation. Paul said this to the Romans:

For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; ([Romans 1:11 NASB](#))

It seems from his wordage that Paul didn't know what spiritual gift he was to impart but that he needed to see them so that he could do it.

Another example is what Paul said to Timothy:

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. ([1 Timothy 4:14 NASB](#))

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ([2 Timothy 1:6 NASB](#))

There was a spiritual gift imparted to Timothy through the laying on of hands by the presbytery (elders) which apparently included Paul. This impartation was confirmed by prophetic utterance.

Paul also spoke of imparting the Gospel and even their own lives:

Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. ([1 Thessalonians 2:8 NASB](#))

Avenues of Impartation

The Lord has given us a number of avenues by which we receive from Him:

1. We receive from the Lord through the Scriptures (*Matt. 22:29; 2 Tim. 3:16–17*).
2. We receive by hearing and obeying what the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts (*Heb. 4:7, 12*).
3. We receive through nature and His creation (*Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20*).

All these are gifts through which the Spirit of God can build us up and communicate to our hearts. However, there is another means of training and impartation that has been neglected by many of us.

The Bible tells us that “when [Christ] ascended on high ... He gave gifts to men” (*Eph. 4:8*). The specific gifts mentioned are of transformed men. “He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers” (*Eph. 4:11*). Bible scholars

refer to these individuals as “gift ministries,” for each of them, to the degree they genuinely are conformed to aspects of the nature of Christ, are gifts from the Lord to His people. Their God appointed task is the “equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ” (v. 12). In other words, their job is to train and impart.

The gift ministries are only as effective as the measure by which they are received. We are entering a season as His people where the emphasis of the Spirit will be on receiving what He desires to impart. Let us meditate on Jesus' words:

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.
"He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (Matthew 10:40-41 NASB)

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