

# Gifts. Look What Jesus Did!

## Introduction

---

This week, the word of God came to us from His servant and our Associate Pastor, Bobby Johnson. He directed our attention to St John 15:9-17 in his sermon called "Gifts. Look what Jesus did"! This scripture is part of the final instructions that Jesus gave to the disciples the night before He was crucified. It follows the passage about the vine and the branches, but it goes even further. Instead of talking about abiding in each other or loving each other, it talks about serving each other, which goes hand in hand with loving each other. In fact, one interesting thing about this scripture is that Jesus actually commands that we love one another. Many people struggle with this concept, wondering how can love be commanded? It's a feeling, either you have it or you don't. This kind of thinking reveals a very serious misconception of love. Unfortunately, many of us are victims of Hollywood and popular culture in this respect. We think of love as a feeling, when actually it is much more.

When Jesus speaks of it here, love is so much more than a feeling. He says we are to love, as I have loved you. His love is demonstrated through His action, through His obedience, through His willingness to lay down His life for us. If Jesus could die on a cross for us, what part of our lives can we give up for others? We live in a world that teaches that we shouldn't have to give up anything, that we can have it all. But the very foundation of love is sacrifice.

The message went on to point out that to some extent, we all enjoy receiving gifts. They make us feel appreciated and loved. But the gift of the Holy Ghost was the greatest tangible gift that God has given us. The Holy Ghost is the source of our power, He makes intercession for us with groanings when we can't find the words to pray, and He empowers us to do what we would not be able to do otherwise. What a gift! One that lives in us and gives us power. Power to walk right, power to talk right and power to love one another even as we love ourselves.

## Getting Started

---

Read **St. John 15:9-17** and answer the following:

1. What love comparison does Jesus make in **John 15:9**?



2. Why is this comparison significant? What does it say about His love for us? **John 15:9**
3. What is Jesus' command in verse 12? What does it mean to love one another? How can we love someone we are not drawn to? What role do feelings play in loving others? **John 15:12**

### Let's Get Personal

---

1. Have you received the gift of the Holy Ghost? What evidence do you see of His performance in your life?
2. Write down a specific experience of something the Holy Ghost empowered you to do, something you could not have done on your own.

### Take The Next Step

---

This week's assignment is that same as last week's, take the time to do the following:

1. **Pray about your experiences and what you are trying to learn.** Ask your Father in Heaven to teach you what He wants you to know. Ask Him to help you become more capable of effective, righteous action. And seek His help to become what He wants you to become.
2. **Act on the impressions you receive.** If you pray with real intent, the Holy Ghost will prompt you with insights and with assignments from the Lord. When you act on them, the Holy Ghost will bless you with spiritual gifts and will magnify your capacity.
3. **Write those experiences down!** Record what you receive at the Lord's hand and what you learn through the power of the Holy Ghost.

*Have a great week!*

