

Today's Scripture: **Romans 5:1-6.**

"One of the perverse contradictions of our time is that so much effort has been expended to make life carefree and enjoyable and yet still, for very many, all that life seems to offer is the grinding sense of being utterly lost, an overpowering conviction that there is no way forward and no way out." **Mark Thompson**; chapter on "Luther on Despair" in *The Consolations of Theology*

The Giving of Holy Spirit Confirms our Hope

I. The Way the Spirit is Received Confirms Our Hope

We are justified by his grace as a **gift**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 3:24)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible **gift**! (2Cor. 9:15)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God. (Eph. 2:8)

2. The Way the Spirit is Given Confirms Our Hope

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and **pour** out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." (Rev. 16:1)

3. The Way the Spirit Reveals God Confirms Our Hope

The love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. (John 17:26)

“That is to say, the Father loves us, because in Christ He has chosen us before the foundation of the world. He who loves the only begotten, certainly loves also Christ’s members which, through his instrumentality, he engrafted into Christ by adoption” **Augustine** sermon on John 17:20-23

"This sense of the love of God never exists in the human heart till communicated by the Holy Spirit." **Robert Haldane**, "Commentary on Romans"

"Though sinners should hear ten thousand times of the love of God in the gift of His Son, they are never properly affected by it, till the Holy Spirit enters into their hearts..." **Robert Haldane**, "Commentary on Romans"

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — (John 1:12)

Answer this question: Does the God who lavishly provides you with his own presence, his Holy Spirit, working things in your lives you could never do for yourselves, does he do these things because of your strenuous moral striving *or* because you trust him to do them in you? (Gal 3:5) **THE MESSAGE** PARAPHRASE

