

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

July 3, 2020

The Spirit of Christ

There are many “voices” which declare many “necessary things” if you are to be received by God. These include baptisms, sacraments, confessions, speaking in tongues, church membership, doctrinal purities, etc. Yet, all these things fall considerably short of the “necessary thing” which Paul preached.

Paul was bold and absolute when he wrote, *“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”* Romans 8:9. The word of God is clear: If a person does not have the *“Spirit of Christ,”* they do not know God, and they do not belong to God. Without the Spirit of Christ abiding in our hearts, we may be religious, but our religion is not of God.

Paul makes a powerful statement concerning what happens when Christ enters a heart. He wrote, *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* Galatians 4:6. When the Spirit of God’s Son enters a heart, Christ in them immediately begins to cry out to the Father above. An unquenchable thirst for Heavenly things takes hold of the person into whom Christ has come. This calling to the Father is not initiated by the person, but by Christ who is within them. This yearning for the things of God is one of the greatest evidences that a person

has been born of God. The first sign of a healthy birth is a hungry baby.

The indwelling of the Spirit of Christ is so real that Paul uses it as the confirmation of who is a child of God. He said, *“Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* II Corinthians 13:5. When Jesus Christ abides in a person, they are acutely aware of His presence in them.

In Romans, Paul tells us more about what happens when the Spirit of Christ enters a person. He writes, *“And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”* Romans 8:10. The word *“is”* was added by the translators in place of an untranslated Greek word which means *“in fact”* and speaks of *“a concession.”* Paul concedes that when the Spirit of Christ enters a person, the natural body is still *“in fact dead”* as pertaining to doing the works of God. It is important to see that Paul did not say the body is *“sinful”* but that *“the body is dead because of sin.”* Because of this *“deadness”* our body is unable to do the works of God. This *“deadness”* came upon all of us because of Adam’s sin.

While conceding this *“deadness”* of the body, Paul tells us what has in fact changed with the entrance of Christ. He says, *“...but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”* When we receive the Spirit of Christ we are *“made righteous.”* Romans 5:19. Our sin is taken away and righteousness becomes our nature. Christ makes us alive through bringing righteousness into our heart and nature.

The solution Paul gives for the *“deadness”* of the body is through the receiving of another Spirit in

addition to the Spirit of Christ. He says, "**But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**" Romans 8:11. The words "**shall also quicken**" tell us there is a second quickening which happens "**if**" the Spirit of God dwells in us. This is a reference to "the Holy Ghost" Acts 2:4, also referred to as "*the Holy Spirit*" Luke 11:13, "*the Spirit of Holiness*" Romans 5:2, "*the Spirit of God*" Matthew 3:16, "*the Comforter*" John 14:26, and "the Spirit of the Father" Matthew 10:20. Paul tells us that just as the Spirit of Christ makes us alive within, the Spirit of God will make our mortal body alive to do the works of God. We sometimes call this being "*anointed*" to do God's works.

No one receives "*the Holy Ghost*" who has not first received "*the Spirit of Christ,*" although the "*Spirit of God*" sometimes comes immediately after. When the Spirit of Christ comes into the heart of a person "*crying Abba, Father,*" He is calling for the Spirit of the Father to come also. This expectation of being filled with God's Spirit is why Paul speaks to those who have the Spirit of Christ, saying, "**But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you...**" The Spirit of Christ in you makes you "*dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God*" Romans 6:11, even if your body is presently "*dead*" to the works of God because the Spirit of the Father has not yet come to dwell in you. I know this denies much modern theology, but it is what God has said in the testimony of the scripture.