

The Grace of God



"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us..." (Titus 2:11-12).

Oct. 28, 2007 (Vol. 7)

IF ANY DOES NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST...

dwh

Romans 8:9 says, "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." What does it mean to be "have the Spirit of Christ"? This is important to understand, because if we "have not the Spirit of Christ" then we "are not His"!

Romans 8 begins by identifying how we can be free from condemnation. Verse 1 reads, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." Being "in Christ" is what brings about freedom from sin and from the condemnation that follows sin. Being "in Christ" begins with and is maintained by obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26; 6:3-4, 16-18).

Paul adds in Romans 8:2, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death." That is right, the Spirit revealed a law which is connected with life in Christ. The Spirit's miraculous work centered in revealing the Truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13). Thus, the result of His work was this law which makes free from sin through Jesus Christ. This law is also known as "the gospel" and "the faith" (Rom. 1:16-17).

So, how is it that the Spirit of Christ can be in us? Some gravitate toward the miraculous concept of a personal indwelling, but in this context there is no mention of miraculous matters. Rather, through the law of the Spirit of life (8:2) we are able to take upon us the "mind of the Spirit" (8:4-6). In other words, our minds become conformed to the things revealed by the Spirit of God, and by means of this we are able to

walk after the Spirit, be in subjection to the law of God, mind the things of the Spirit, and be pleasing to God. In contrast, those who mind the things of the flesh, can do none of these things. Thus, having "the Spirit of Christ" means being dead to sin, but alive to the teachings and guidance of the Spirit (8:10, 12-14). It also means that "Christ is in you" (8:10). So, what is the evidence of having the Spirit of Christ in us?

We have already glimpsed at the initial evidence of Christ's Spirit being in us, which is the obedience of faith needed to become a Christian (Rom. 1:5; 16:26; 6:3-4, 16-18). These Holy Spirit inspired passages tell us that Paul's mission as an apostle was "unto the obedience of faith among all nations". Specifically, we are to have faith (Rom. 1:16), put away sin from our lives by doing the things that God has revealed are right (Rom. 1:17), we are to be baptized into Christ in order to contact His sacrificial death (Rom. 6:3-4), and to confess Jesus as the Son of God with our mouth (Rom. 10:9). One who is unwilling to subject themselves to these Divinely revealed Truths does not yet have the Spirit of Christ in himself.

We should also consider the other evidences of the Spirit being in us, such as the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). Many times people will look at just these items and say that because they feel joy, love & peace, etc. - that this means they are children of God. But, while these are a part of the evidence, they are not the whole. We must consider the fact that many claim to have joy, peace, love, etc. who do not even claim to be Christians. So, the absence of these proves more than their presence; though their presence is essential.

Consider also 1 John 4:2-3, "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God: and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and now it is in the world already." Does simple confession that "Jesus has come in the flesh" automatically make one "of God"? Certainly one who is a Christian would say this, rather than the opposite. And one

who says the opposite cannot be a true Christian nor have the Spirit of Christ. But is it possible that some who confess Christ do not truly have the Spirit of Christ? Yes, for demons cried out this very thing in Luke 4:41. And even Satan is able to disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). So, we see that while we must agree with the revealed Truth in order to have the Spirit of Christ in us, just agreeing with the Truth in **some** areas is not proof of having the Spirit of the Lord.

John summarizes it this way, "They are of the world: therefore speak they as of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." (1 John 4:5-6) The inspired apostle said that there is a way that the world speaks and an audience to whom it appeals. We can contrast this spirit of error, those who hear not the inspired messengers of God, with those who hear God's word and agree with what God has revealed. Sometimes, the spirit of error can create a good counterfeit. Sometimes we can be ignorant of deceived. But, if we love the Lord and His Truth, then the Lord has promised to teach us when we are deficient (Phil. 3:15-16).

As Jesus said, "I told you, and ye believe not: the works that I do in my Father's name, these bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep. **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

and I give unto them eternal life..." (John 10:25-28). Do you have the Spirit of Christ in you?

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Sawyer Sims, Jean Gambrell (back), Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard, Wesley Geer, Mag Bumbalough, Mary Cox (Surgery Nov. 7th), Monie Petty, Dave Poteet (NHC 230), Marilyn Poteet-Langford (Home), Robert & Betty England, Joe Smith, Thelma Klein, Nathan Hill, DeLeesa Price, Michelle Austin, Lydia Poe, Larry Bumbalough, Jake Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Ed & Carolyn Williams, Kenley Streeval. Matthew Taylor (leukemia), Joyce Simmons Wagner, Lorene Myers (Rece's Grandmother).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Radio Program** - Every Sun. 2pm, AM 1050 WSMT
- **Home Bible Study** - Sat. Oct. 27th.
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Oct. 28th.
- **GM** - Ron Daly, April 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday @ 9am, 10am & 6pm
Wednesday @ 7pm

<http://frontiernet.net/~nscoc>
nscoc@frontiernet.net

North Sparta church of Christ

359 North Spring St.
Sparta TN 38583
(931) 836-3321

Place
Stamp
Here

Speaking As The Oracles Of God (1 Pet. 4:11)