

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS PT 1

Central Scripture:

2 Corinthians 3:17 – "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

I. INTRODUCTION

- Context: Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church
- Importance of understanding the Spirit of the Lord and liberty
- Contemporary translation highlights: The Lord and Spirit are one; the Spirit sets us free

II. BACKGROUND ON THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

- Location and cultural setting: Corinth as a wealthy, diverse, and morally complex trade city
- Challenges faced:
 - Division and factions among believers
 - Theological disagreements about resurrection and spiritual gifts
 - Social disparities between the wealthy and poor
 - Immorality and disputes over spiritual expressions like speaking in tongues

III. PAUL'S MESSAGE ABOUT THE SPIRIT AND LIBERTY

- The Spirit brings freedom, not to do anything we want, but freedom from sin and bondage
- The Spirit uncovers and transforms, unlike the old covenant with Moses and the law which brought death
- Believers as living letters written by the Spirit, showing the Lord's glory visibly

IV. PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATIONS AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- Importance of protecting the spiritual health of the church community
- The necessity of allowing God's Spirit full residence in our hearts—not just partial acceptance

- The process of sanctification: daily growth and becoming more like Jesus
- Examples from daily life showing the need for God's Spirit to guide attitudes and behaviors

V. THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE AND ITS EFFECT

- The Spirit shines through believers, making them a reflection of the glory of God
- This transformation is gradual— "from glory to glory"
- The Spirit calls for a clean heart and life willing to be changed
- Contrast between superficial religiosity and genuine spiritual freedom

VI. CALL TO ACTION

- Invitation to fully surrender to God, giving Him control ("the keys to your house")
- Encouragement to let go of bitterness, unforgiveness, addiction, and other burdens
- Assurance that God alone can bring true freedom and healing
- An appeal for personal repentance and acceptance of the Spirit's work

VII. CONCLUSION AND LOOKING AHEAD

- Reminder: the Spirit doesn't dwell in buildings, but in people
- Preview of upcoming teachings on what the Spirit brings
- Encouragement to seek the liberty and life found only where the Spirit of the Lord is