

Christian Students @ SAC

Bible Study - Spring 2022

Week 15

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

Chapter 8

THE HOLY SPIRIT

(3)

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 1:18; 2 Cor. 4:7

Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rom. 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

1 Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

The Spirit Indwelling

We move on now to the second aspect of the gift of the Holy Spirit, which, as we shall see in our next chapter, is more particularly the subject of Romans 8. It is that which we have spoken of as the Spirit indwelling. “if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...” (Romans 8:9). “If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...” (Romans 8:11).

As with the Spirit outpoured, so with the Spirit indwelling, if we are to know in experience that which is ours in fact, our first need is of divine revelation. When we see Christ as Lord objectively—that is, exalted to the throne in heaven—then we shall experience the power of the Spirit upon us. When we see Christ as Lord subjectively—that is, as effective Ruler within our lives—then we shall know the power of the Spirit within us.

In his letter to the Corinthian Christians Paul wrote: “*Do you not know* that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16). For others he prayed for enlightenment of heart, “...that *you may know*” (Ephesians 1:18). A knowledge of divine facts was the need of the Christians then, and it is no less the need of Christians today. We need the eyes of our understanding opened to know that God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, has taken up His abode in our hearts. In the person of the Spirit, God is present, and Christ is no less truly present too. Thus if the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts we have the Father and the Son abiding in us. That is no mere theory or doctrine, but a blessed reality. We may perhaps have

realized that the Spirit is actually within our hearts, but have we realized that He is a Person? Have we understood that to have the Spirit within us it to have the living God within?

The Treasure In The Vessel

Do you know, my friends, that the Spirit within you is the very God? Oh that our eyes were opened to see the greatness of God's gift! Oh that we might realize the vastness of the resources within our own hearts! I could shout with joy as I think, "The Spirit who dwells within me is no mere influence, but a living Person; He is the very God. The infinite God is within my heart!" I am at a loss to convey to you the blessedness of this discovery, that the Holy Spirit dwelling within my heart is a Person. I can only repeat: "He is a Person!" and repeat it again: "He is a Person!" and repeat it yet again: "He is a Person!" Oh, my friends, I would gladly repeat it to you a hundred times—*The Spirit of God within me is a Person!* I am only an earthen vessel, but in that earthen vessel I carry a treasure of unspeakable worth, even the Lord of glory.

All the worry and anxiety of God's children would end if their eyes were opened to see the greatness of the treasure hid in their hearts. Do you know, there are resources enough in your own heart to meet the demand of every circumstance in which you will ever find yourself? Do you know there is power enough there to move the city in which you live? Do you know there is power enough to shake the universe? Let me tell you once more—I say it with the utmost reverence: You who have been born again of the Spirit of God—you carry God in your heart!

All the carelessness of the children of God would cease, too, if they realized the greatness of the treasure deposited within them. If you have only ten dollars in your pocket you can march cheerfully along the street, talking lightly as you go, and swinging your stick in the air. It matters little if you lose your money, for there is not much at stake. But if you carry a thousand dollars in your pocket, the position is vastly different, and your whole demeanor will be different too. There will be great gladness in your heart, but no careless jaunting along the road; and once in a while you will slow down your pace and slipping your hand into your pocket, you will quietly finger your treasure again, and then with joyful solemnity continue on your way.

In Old Testament times there were hundreds of tents in the camp of Israel, but there was one tent quite different from all the rest. In the common tents you could do just as you pleased—eat or fast, work or rest, be joyful or sober, noisy or silent. But that other tent was a tent that commanded reverence and awe. You might move in and out of the common tents talking noisily and laughing cheerfully, but as soon as you neared that special tent you instinctively walked more quietly, and when you stood right before it you bowed your head in solemn silence. No one could touch it freely. If man or beast dared to do so, death was the sure penalty. What was so very special about it? *It was the temple of the living God.* There was little unusual about the tent itself, for it was outwardly of very ordinary material, but the great God had chosen to make it His abode.

Do you realize what happened at your conversion? God came into your heart and made it His temple. In Solomon's days God dwelt in a temple made of stone: today He dwells in a temple composed of living believers. When we really *see* that God has made our hearts His dwelling place, what a deep reverence will come over our lives! All lightness, all foolishness will end, and all self-pleasing too, when we know that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within us. Has it really hit home to you that wherever you go you carry with you the Holy Spirit of God? You do not just carry your Bible with you, or even much good teaching about God, but God Himself.

The reason why many Christians do not experience the power of the Spirit, though He actually dwells in their hearts, is that they lack reverence. And they lack reverence because they have not had their eyes opened to the fact of His presence. The fact is there, but they have not seen it. Why is it that some of God's children live victorious lives while others live in a state of constant defeat? The difference is not accounted for by the presence or absence of the Spirit (for He dwells in the heart of every child of God) but by this, that some recognize His indwelling and others do not. True revelation of the fact of the Spirit's indwelling will revolutionize the life of any Christian.

Questions

1. Share something that you were enlightened with from the reading and / or a personal experience.