



The Spirit is Life!

Every day, we must battle with the ever-present reminder of a past life, life gone by. When you wake up, what's the first thing you see in the mirror? Your face, your body. When you look down, what do you see? Your feet, your hands. When you utter your first words of the day, what do you hear? Your voice. When you sit down to eat your first meal, with what do you smell? Your nose. No matter where you turn, or what you do, you are constantly reminded of your body, your flesh. I suppose that's okay if you are not born again, but as a Christian, it's the last thing you want to be reminded of. Why? Because, as a Christian, you are supposed to be spiritually minded. Why? Because the spirit



of God in Christ in you is life!

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Romans 8: 8-10

please God. Does this mean that "you" cannot please God? If you live according to the flesh, yes. That is, if your mindset and worship is centered in the flesh, then you cannot please God. We all are "in the flesh," so to speak, but that's because we are human beings. We have bodies. This phrase, "in the flesh," means more than just flesh if you are born again of God's spirit.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9

What a startling truth! *People in the flesh cannot*

This is how you become born again. You must do exactly what

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this verse tells you to do. Once done, you are given a wonderful gift from heaven. The gift of holy spirit. It is precisely at this time you become capable of being “in the spirit” as compared to being “in the flesh.” Now, that’s awesome! Being in the spirit has to do with two things: what God did for you, and what you do after you receive His gift. Being in the spirit can only happen after the spirit of God dwells in you.

When you are born again, you are “pleasing” to God. When you live according to the spirit within you, you act pleasing to God. ***God made you pleasing with His spirit in you; you act pleasing when you obey God’s Word.***

If you do not have the spirit of God in you, you cannot walk in the spirit, and you cannot live in the spirit. You can only walk according to the flesh and you can

only live via things of the flesh. If you do not have the spirit of God in Christ in you, you are not part of God’s eternal plan. You are none of His. But, if Christ be in you, referring to the spirit of God in Christ in you, something remarkable happens. Your body is dead because of sin, but you are made alive by that spirit in you because of righteousness.

Sin and righteousness are two things that you had and have no control over. That may come as a startling truth to some, but it is true if you understand the biblical meaning of sin and of righteousness.

Sin refers to what Adam and Eve did when they disobeyed God and walked away from Him. Righteousness refers to what God did through Jesus Christ for you. In either case, you had absolutely no control over sin or righteousness! What does this mean to you in a practical sense? Can you sin? Yes,

you can, but can you do Adam’s sin? No! Once you received the gift of holy spirit, you have the ability to fully realize the death that Adam caused because of his sin. God recognizes this. That’s why He declared that the body is dead because of sin. You can’t do anything to please Him with your body. Can you act righteous? Maybe, but you can’t create the righteousness of Christ in you by any man-made actions. That’s a fact! Once you received the gift of holy spirit, you can fully realize the life that Christ caused because of his obedience to God’s Word and the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Practically, these two words, sin and righteousness, refer to two different states. You are born into the sin state. You are born again into the righteousness state.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Romans 8:14

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What does all of this come down to? It comes down to one simple fact. If you allow God to lead you via the spirit of God in you, you are living according to His will. You are living as a son of God should live. God wants you to live like a son of God. There are many different aspects to this Christian walk. One highly significant aspect is in communication with God.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:26-28

God can talk with us and we can talk with him. Now, that's fantastic! You may not know how to pray, or what to say when you pray, but when you pray in the spirit, the spirit does know how to pray and what to say. God has given you this wonderful ability. There are many times when you simply do not know what to say at all, but you know that you should pray. That's when the spirit helps you out. You can pray for any other saint, Christian, and be assured that that person's needs are being taken to the Father.

Another beautiful aspect of the Christian walk is in knowing that you are truly God's kid and are cared for by God. As you learn to walk according to the spirit of God, you also begin to realize the benefits of Christianity. All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. *That*

sounds like the start of a very good day, a very good week, and even a very good Year. How about putting more emphasis on the spiritual walk this New Year? The flesh will be with you throughout your life, but you don't need to focus on it any more. Become a spiritually minded Christian with the spirit of God in Christ in you!

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown