

OUR SPIRIT AND GOD'S SPIRIT

Romans 8:15 says, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." This passage is crucial to our understanding of what it means to be a Christian. God is Spirit and our spirit must be in agreement if we are to be Christians, or the children of God.

Upon the ascension of Christ, back to His Father in heaven where He was seated at the right hand of God, Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Jn. 13:16; Heb. 1:3). Acts, chapter one shows the fulfillment of Jesus promise (Lk. 24:49) beginning with the gathering of all the apostles in Jerusalem after the ascension (1:9). Chapter 2 then gives record of the Holy Spirit falling upon the apostles which not only allowed them to speak in tongues and work other miracles, but to be led into all the truth. We can now be assured that the remainder of the New Testament is a completion of the truth that Jesus spoke of. As the apostles went from place to place preaching and teaching the word there were no mistakes made, because they were being instructed by the Holy Spirit.

We can now read how to become a Christian, how to remain faithful as a Christian, and of the wonderful joys that await us in the heavenly realm because of the inspired writings of the New Testament. Therefore, as Paul stated in Rom. 8:16, our spirit (the things we think, do, and believe) must be in agreement with God's Spirit to be called the children of God.

As we look back at our lives we can see our own history of religious thought and activity. We can remember going to Sunday School as a small child, attending worship (hopefully with our parents), and then taking part in many youth activities as we entered our teen years. Now as we are older, we take on new responsibilities and roles in church activities. Those programs we once participated in, we help to organize, sponsor and direct.

But what is important is that within all of these things have we conformed our beliefs (and therefore our actions) after the New Testament pattern? Is our spirit in agreement with God's Spirit in participating in our particular church worship and activities?

There are many people today who claim a wide variety of religious experiences which they say made them Christians. There are many different forms of worship conducted every Sunday. We have various denominations that scatter the globe. And all of us by our many ways, thoughts, and actions are claiming to be going to the same place; heaven.

Again, the point is that all truth has been given us by the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Therefore, as we labor here to inherit an eternal rest "over-there" we must be sure that our spirit is in agreement with God Spirit to be called the children of God. God is Spirit, through the Bible, will not tell one individual to do one thing and another to do something else. The apostle Paul said in Romans 8:14, "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the Sons of God."

The best of all possible Positive Spiritual Attitudes (PSA) is achieved by knowing that our spirit (life) is in tune with God's Spirit. For it is within this "narrow road" that we can find eternal life.