

The Spirit That Dwells in You!

- 1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 2 For the law of the **Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
- 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,
- 4 so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- 5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
- 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,
- 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,
- 8 and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.
- 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God** dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him.
- 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
- 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- 12 So then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
- 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body, you will live.
- 14 For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received *the Spirit of adoption* as sons by whom we cry out, “Abba! Father!”
- 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,
- 17 and if children, also heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

"The Spirit of adoption, as opposed to the spirit of bondage, is the Spirit of light and of liberty, of consolation and of joy. He glorifies Christ in the believer's view, and sheds divine love abroad in his heart. He brings the promises to his remembrance, and enables him to plead them at the throne of grace. He elevates the affections to heavenly things, and seals him, as an heir of the kingdom, to the day of redemption. Such are the privileges of God's adopted sons, in the vouchsafement of which Grace reigns. "What a mercy might we esteem it, not to be confounded before the God of heaven! What a favour, to obtain the least indulgent regard from the King eternal! What an honour, to be admitted into his family, to occupy the place, and to bear the character of his meanest servant! But, to be his adopted children, who is the Fountain of all bliss; and his espoused bride, who is the Sovereign of all worlds; to have him for our everlasting Father, who is the Former of all things; and him for our Husband, who is the Object of angelic worship, are blessings divinely rich indeed! That sinful mortals, who may justly say to corruption, Thou art our father, and to the worm, thou art our sister; should be permitted to say to the infinite God, 'Thou art our portion: All that thou hast, and all that thou art are ours, to render us completely happy and eternally blessed;' is an astonishing, delightful, transporting thought! These are blessings, than which none greater can be conceived; none more glorious can be enjoyed. Let the grandees of the earth, and the sons of the mighty, boast of their high birth and large revenues; their pompous titles and splendid retinues; their delicate fare and costly array; still the poorest peasant that believes in Christ, is incomparably superior to them all. What, though they shine in silk and embroidery, or glitter in gold and jewels; though their names be adorned with the highest epithets that men can bestow, while a profusion of worldly riches is poured into their lap: yet they must soon lie down in the dust, on a level with the meanest of mortals. The worm shall quickly cover them, and their memory shall rot. But your name, O weakest of christians! your new name is everlasting. However neglected or despised among men, it shall stand for ever fair in the book of life. Though you are not distinguished as a person of eminence, while you proceed on your pilgrimage, and receive not the acclamations of the people, but walk in the vale of life; yet you are high in the estimation of heaven, nor destitute of the sublimest honours. Your praise is not of men but of God. He knows the way that you take, and commands the angels to consider you as the object of their regard. Though you cannot boast of illustrious ancestors, or of noble blood; yet, being born from above, the blood royal of heaven runs in your veins. Though not a favorite of your temporal sovereign; yet, like a prince, you have power with the God of Israel. Though ever so poor as to this world, the unsearchable riches of Christ are all your own. Though you have not a numerous train of attendants, and though your mansion be a cobwebbed cottage; yet the holy angels are your guard, and minister to your good: while the God of glory not only condescends to come under your lowly roof, but even to dwell with you. Yours is the honourable character; yours is the happy state. This is felicity which all the wealth of the Indies cannot procure. This is honour, which all the crowned heads in the world cannot confer. The Lord of hosts hath purposed to stain the pride of all other glory, but this honour shall never be laid in the dust.* What a shade it casts on every secular distinction, when forced to feel how very fleeting it is! How encouraging to reflect on the durable and exalted happiness of the sons of God! Christianity! it is thine to ennoble the human mind, and to make it really great. Grace! it is thine to raise the poor from the dunghill, and the needy out of the dust. Thine it is, to number them among the princes of heaven, and to seat them on thrones of glory."

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