

Dear Fellow Redeemed by the crucified, risen, and ascended Lord Jesus,  
Last Sunday we were reminded by Paul's words to the Colossians that our real life is hidden with Christ in God. But if our real and eternal life is hidden in God, how do we know that this life is ours right now as we walk this earth? How do we know that our ascended Lord Jesus is really present with us when we can't see or touch Him? This is the work of the Holy Spirit!

The hearts of the first N.T. disciples were filled with sorrow when they heard that Jesus would be leaving this earth and returning to His Father in heaven. But Jesus answered their sorrow in a surprising way: **"I tell you the truth,"** He said, **"It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper, will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."** (Jn. 15:7)

But how could this "Helper" help? – By His inner presence! This Helper would make believers more certain of their life in Christ than our Lord's physical presence ever could! This Helper is **"the Spirit of Truth."** In John 14 Jesus tells His disciples that the **"world cannot receive"** this Spirit, **"because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but YOU know Him, for He dwells beside you and will be IN you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."**

## **WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF PENTECOST DOING FOR YOU?**

### **I.**

The Christian missionary, Earl Stanley Jones, went to India in the early 1900's. He tells the story of a young Dutch boy who had come to India seeking inner peace in the meditations and rituals of the Eastern religions. The boy spent 15 days and nights on a mountain top, fasting, meditating, and staring at the snow-covered Himalayan peaks.

The boy hoped that the white purity of those mountain snows would enter him and quiet his guilty conscience. But there was nothing in the snow, his meditations, or his fasting that could take away his feeling of guilt. We are told that after 15 days he opened a N.T. Bible he had been given. The first words his eyes fell upon were these words from our text: **"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in**

## **Christ Jesus.”**

These are the wonderful words of the Holy Spirit recorded by the apostle Paul. They remind us of the cross of Jesus and that through Him God has completed our justification – declaring us righteous on account of His Son.

Whenever we consider our daily sins, we may be moved by the Devil to draw the wrong conclusion. He may suggest to us that even though we are declared righteous by the life and death of Christ, we may still suffer some condemnation for our sins, because we are so far from doing God’s will perfectly. Or, Satan may tempt us in time of great affliction to think that Christ may not be with us at all because of our sins!

But the Holy Spirit declares with great emphasis that “condemnation of any kind is out of the question for those who are in Christ Jesus.” WE may rightly look upon ourselves as worthy of condemnation. WE should recognize the sins of our flesh whenever they occur and seek forgiveness in the blood of Jesus. But here we are assured with powerful words that GOD does not see us as we see our sinful selves!

He looks upon us as those who are completely spiritual, with no sinful flesh to make us unacceptable in His sight! On those who possess a living faith in Jesus, who do not willfully live their lives according to the flesh, no sentence of condemnation rests!

## **II.**

Why is that? Paul tells: “Because the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed us from the law of the sin and the death!” When we were born into this world we all were by nature under the complete control (or “law”) of “**the sin and the death.**” The sin-power dominated our thoughts, words, and works, so that we could not keep God’s holy Law. We were in bondage to the sin-power, which would deliver us to the power of eternal death!

But the Spirit of Christ came at Pentecost to bring sinners to faith in Christ through the power of His Word. Through faith in the Gospel of Christ the Spirit “**frees**” us from the control of sin and death! He connects us to the death Christ died FOR US, so that we may now “**present ourselves as alive from the dead,**” like the risen Christ! We are freed to serve our God rather than the power of sin! (Rom. 6)

### III.

In the next two verses of our text Paul says that we are enabled to walk in a new and spiritual life. But this is not done by any power in the Law. Many religious people will tell you that what a person needs to feel right before God is to “get serious about committing himself to keeping the commandments of God and following His principles for life.” But the Holy Spirit directs Paul to write something else in v. 3! He says that **“what the Law could NOT do, . . . God did.”** The “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” of the Law only stir up the power of sin in us!

Now there’s nothing wrong with the Law of God. **“The Law is holy . . . just and good”** (Rom. 7:12) , Paul says in the previous chapter. But now he adds that **“the Law was weak because of the flesh.”** (V. 3) To get an idea of what this means, picture what happens when heavy rains make the farmer’s field too wet and muddy to plow and plant his crops.

Farmers in the Midwest have huge, powerful tractors. They are like the Law of God in their glory. But these tractors can’t accomplish anything in muddy fields. These fields make the good and powerful tractors weak! Likewise the muddy depravity of our own sinful nature makes it impossible for the Law to save us or even us to do good – we are **“dead in sin”!** (Eph. 2:1)

But our Lord Christ had no sin! God’s love and mercy sent His Son into the world as a real man in order to bear the sins of the whole world in His own flesh. Jesus came **“in the likeness of sinful flesh”** and God **“condemn sin in the flesh of His Son”** – our Holy Substitute!

Now sin no longer has the right to force us to disobey the Law of our God. Instead, by the power of the GOSPEL of forgiveness working in us by faith, God helps us to willingly do the Law of God – to deny the flesh and to live in love according to the Spirit!

When you become fearful that your sins of weakness show that you do not possess the hidden spiritual and eternal life in Christ, ask forgiveness in His name. And then rest assured that **“there is NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”** For your heavenly Father does not regard you in terms of your fleshly sins of weakness, but only in terms of the new spiritual life that clings to Jesus as strengthened by His Spirit.

This is the new life of the Spirit which moves you children to gladly obey and respect your parents when you do . This is the new life which moves you who are married to willingly love and serve your spouses no matter how often they sins against you.

Our sinful flesh still opposes the commandments of our God. But how are we EVER kept from adulterous thoughts, fornication, cursing or cheating our neighbor? Why are we EVER content with what we have? Why are we EVER patient with one another? Why do we EVER help in time of need, and so on? Because the Spirit is helping US to willingly love and do according to the commandments of our heavenly Father.

Even as we continue to mourn our sins in this fleshly body of death, let us see and rejoice in the evidence of our new life in the Spirit! The Spirit sent by Christ has set us down to a feast of life IN CHRIST!

There is no dread head of death over the dining room door, no sword of the Law over our heads. There is no condemnation because of sin. For **“the law of the Spirit life in Christ has made us free from the law of the sin and the death.”** This is what the Spirit of Pentecost is still doing for you and for me! Amen.