

The Holy Spirit dwelling in us

To review what I said last time, I told you that the 'thoughts of the flesh' are like a fixed mindset that does not accept the gospel of Jesus' grace, like the legalists of the time. The result of this carnal mind eventually leads to death. On the contrary, 'thoughts of the Holy Spirit' is to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ with a soft heart. It is to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God Almighty, and to live in the world of grace. The first Christians preached the gospel to the Gentiles with the "thought of the Holy Spirit," and the gospel was preached to the whole world. The "thought of the Holy Spirit" eventually gave life to many people.

Today I would like to think together about the Holy Spirit living in us.

Verse 8: "Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."

Those who are "in the realm of the flesh" are those who do the "thoughts of the flesh," which of course cannot please God. Those who please God are those who have 'the thoughts of the Holy Spirit'. Ezekiel 11:19 "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh." The Holy Spirit removes the hard things like a stone in our hearts, such as fixed ideas, and gives us a soft heart. The Holy Spirit enables us to accept the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, believing in Jesus should not become one's righteousness. **Everything we believe is a perfect grace that is not our own deed.**

Verse 9: "You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

The "Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit," lives in everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. Other religions teach that you can meet to God by making efforts, suffering, doing good, and finally improving your virtue. But that doesn't mean that human efforts can reach God without fail. The Bible says that none of us can reach God (Romans3:23). In his last interview, Jakucho who is the famous Buddhist priest in Japan said, "If there is a paradise, I will see you there." Even those who have raised their virtue do not know for sure if there is a paradise or not. Even a respected religious person like Jakucho had his limitations.

**However, if we only believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit Himself will come and live in our bodies as sinners.** From the day we believed in Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, packed up and moved into our minds and bodies. Therefore, as **2 Corinthians 6:16 says, we are the temple of the living God.** This is an amazing fact and a great blessing. When the king

of this world comes to our home, it will be the report of the world's media. Something this important is happening to our bodies and mind. And the Holy Spirit controls our thoughts and actions.

Verse 10, "But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness."

What does it mean when the Holy Spirit moves in and lives in us? Our sinful bodies have died to sin. You gave an example in Romans 7 of a woman who had died to Mr. Law and remarried Mr. Grace. Through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, legalism, the judgment of the law, which condemns sin, is no longer in effect, and we are free to live in the world of grace. This is our spirit living by righteousness.

We are weak and sinful while we are alive, but we are considered righteous and justified. This grace is as seen in Job 1:1, which says, "Job is blameless and upright," and **throughout Job's entire life, God insisted that Job was righteous**. Even though he lost his entire fortune, his entire family, and became terribly ill, Job was a righteous man whom God recognized. **In this way, God says "right" to us who believe in Jesus for the rest of our lives.**

Our bodies have died from the law, and we have reported our deaths to the law and the flesh. Conversely, our bodies and spirits have undergone spiritual wonders through faith in Jesus. Our spirits have been born again by the Holy Spirit and have a birth certificate to heaven. I would like to think a little more with you here. What exactly does "the spirit lives" mean? It means to be born again. The lives of those who truly believe in Jesus Christ are changed. This is because the Holy Spirit is working in them. Some people change suddenly like Paul, others take time, but they always change into holiness. **We could say that the difference between being a Christian and not being a Christian yet is the difference between receiving the Holy Spirit or not.** There is no middle ground. It is a question of whether or not. **Today, let us all believe in Jesus, receive the Holy Spirit, and register our birth certificate in heaven!** If you want to be baptized, please offer it to the church.

Verse 11: "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."

We confess the Apostles' Creed each week. When I was little, I could not understand the part "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary". However, through studying the Bible, I came to understand that the Holy Spirit is the Trinity God Himself who creates new life. The Holy Spirit also resurrected Jesus Christ who died on the cross. **The Holy Spirit is the one who creates something out of nothing and life out of death.**

In time, Jesus Christ will come again to complete the Kingdom of God on earth. At that time, the Holy Spirit will resurrect our mortal bodies. The Holy Spirit who dwells in us will transform our bodies into glorious images. Right now, we are struggling with our own problems and sins that we cannot solve. There are always family problems as well. Japanese society has also seen an increase in robberies, and now it seems not a safe place. The world is becoming a battlefield where great sacrifices are being made. The whole world is experiencing natural disasters due to extreme global warming. However, there will come a time for us when this body that is supposed to die, this world, will be transformed into a perfect and glorious appearance. The world will then be a world overflowing with life.

1 Thessalonians 4:14: "For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." Because of this hope of resurrection, we can always rejoice. Because we have the hope of the resurrection, we believe that the present world is temporary. After we die, the eternal world will unfold. We endure the persecutions and tribulations of this world in order to live with this spiritual value.

Verse 12: "Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation – but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it." How then should we live? We have an "obligation, duty" that we must fulfill. The New Translation translates it as "responsibility. We are the Holy Temple where the Holy Spirit dwells with us through faith in Jesus Christ. The "temple" can be understood as "the church. In Colossians 1:18 says that Christ is the head of the church. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, so we should not live a sinful life in the flesh. We should properly fulfill our responsibility to the Holy God who lives in us.

Verse 13: "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

Again, if you live according to the flesh, you will die. The "flesh" is the nature that causes us to sin. Each person has different weaknesses. Some are very patient and gentle, but fearful of others and easily controlled. Some are very directive, but control and take advantage of others. Some people can't get over their tantrums and hurt the people around them. Some people attend church but can't fix their bad habits. There may be problems with addictions, such as alcoholism, or adultery and affair.

If we live in the "flesh," which is the nature of sin, we ourselves, our spouses, children, families, and society will die. It is our choice to follow the flesh or the Holy Spirit. We desire to live righteously, overcome sin by the power of the Holy Spirit, repent, and live a new and holy life every day.

John 16:8, "When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment."

**The Holy Spirit tells us what sin is.** In these days, we are sometimes put on trial if we teach about sin which is what the Bible says, so it is difficult to teach about sin even in the church. However, I believe that the Holy Spirit teaches each one of us what sin is. For the Holy Spirit teaches us about sin personally, we become sensitive to it. Since we believe in Jesus, we feel remorse in our conscience when we care about hating or unforgiving others, or even when we tell a little lie. If we remain in sin, we are separated from the Holy God and cannot have fellowship with Him.

The Rev. R.T. Kendall, retired pastor of Westminster Chapel in England, explained the Holy Spirit's sensitivity to sin in this way. The Holy Spirit is like Dove in the forest; Dove is not like Pigeon living in a city park; Dove is as white as soap and as pure as a bride; Dove is said to be startled by the slightest sound and to fly away. Like Dove, the Holy Spirit is surprised and saddened when we do something angry, hateful, or ethically immoral to someone.

This is similar to marriage, where a husband and wife live together, but problems such as infidelity or personality differences in the other person can cause divorce. In human marriages, we also make an effort to adjust to each other. In this way, the Holy Spirit is pleased with our faith and lives with us even though we are still sinners. Since the Holy Spirit, who is the perfect God, lives with us who are imperfect and still in the process of sanctification, our duty is to effort making an environment where the Holy Spirit is comfortable and to work to have a good relationship with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must follow the Spirit and cease the works of the body. As soon as we notice sin, we should repent of it early.

**The Holy Spirit also teaches us about "God's righteousness" and "judgment.** We who are Christians and those who do not yet believe will all stand before God to be judged when we die. Those who believe in Jesus will be declared "righteous" and "blameless. And they will have eternal life. At this time, the "world" that does not believe in Jesus admits their error, but because they do not believe in Him, they are not declared righteous. The consequences are serious. Today, let us all believe in Jesus Christ and be forgiven of our sins and receive eternal life.

Let's pray together.

Beloved Heavenly Father! Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit by believing in Jesus Christ. What seems like a miracle that the Holy Spirit dwells with us is happening spiritually. I pray that we will wake up and live a life that pleases the Holy Spirit. We thank you and pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.