

November 29, 2009
"THE HOLY SPIRIT", Daily Disciple, page 342



PSALM

- ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope is in you.
- ²² Redeem Israel, O God,
from all their troubles!

(Psalm 25:20-22)

MEDITATION

The Spirit of the Father, flows through the Son into every member of his spiritual body. Though humans may, and do possess this Spirit, if one be a Christian, yet we do not call it the human spirit, but the Spirit of God in us; the Spirit received by faith. When we receive this Spirit we are made "partakers of the divine nature." This is the Spirit that groans and prays, as it did in the great head of the body the son of God.

(Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger*, 1835; page 166)

SCRIPTURE

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And 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 through his Spirit, who lives in you.

(Romans 8:9-11)

PRAYER

"God of love, fill me with your Spirit, so I may have life this day. You have given me of yourself, dear God. May I share in your very life. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. This devotional message focuses on blessings that God gives, both the indwelling of His Spirit and the very life that Spirit imparts.
2. Read Psalm 25 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What would you say the major theme of this Psalm is?
 - b. In the verses from Psalm 25 that were selected for our study, the expression "Holy Spirit" does not occur.
 - c. What connections can you make from this selection to the Holy Spirit?
 - d. The Old Testament does not have a full-blown theology of the Holy Spirit.
 - e. The most often repeated phrase in the Old Testament is "Spirit of God." Look up the following passages and discuss what implications they hold for our understanding the nature of God and the nature of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) Genesis 1:2
 - 2) Genesis 6:3
 - 3) Exodus 31:3
 - 4) Exodus 35:31
 - 5) Isaiah 11:2
3. In Barton W. Stone's meditation, he points out that for the Christian he/she possesses more than the human spirit. When we become a Christian, does the Spirit of God replace the human spirit? Or, does the Holy Spirit reside in us along with our human spirit? What difference does it make?
4. In your Christian life do you have the keen awareness that every day you are a "partaker of the divine nature?" If so, what does this imply for you?
5. Read all of Romans 8.
6. This entire chapter has an impressive list of all the things that the Spirit of God does for the Christian.
 - a. Now go back through the chapter and underline the things that the Spirit does.
 - b. What blessings are directly related to the activity of the Spirit?
7. In our Scripture reading (Romans 8:9-11) Paul affirms to his readers that they are not controlled by the sinful nature.
 - a. Do you ever feel controlled by your sinful nature?
 - b. Paul is saying that the opposite is true for the Christian. They are controlled by the Holy Spirit. How does this happen?
 - c. Does this take away our freedom of choice?
 - d. How powerful is this Spirit living in us? What did he do for Jesus?
8. The Holy Spirit living in us is the source of life, both physical and spiritual.
 - a. We are so tempted to see life in secular terms, being lived day in and day only by our own designs and strength.
 - b. How can we be more aware of the Spirit living in us?
9. Have everyone in your group share distinct blessings they are aware of because of the fact that the Holy Spirit is living in each person.
10. Close the lesson out with a discussion of verses 1 and 2 of Romans chapter 8.
11. Is it possible to live the Christian life without a sense of condemnation?
12. What has the Spirit of life done for us? Do you think we really believe this? How would our Christian lives be different if down deep we accepted this truth?