

II

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

BRETHREN—TO LEARN FROM THE WORD IS TO LEARN BY THE SPIRIT

There are so many different doctrines and dogmas, which various leaders and denominations proclaim as the truth, that one can become overwhelmed by it all. But this is not our Lord's will for us. God is not the author of confusion. All those who are one in Christ have an anointing from God, and we as Christians need not depend on any man to know the truth.

You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

—I John 2:20 NASV

All truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit, and confirmed to our heart by God's word. God's word is the truth which is unveiled by the Spirit. They are one, and our Lord has ordained they work in harmony in our lives. We are not to extol the one and neglect the other.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

—Psalm 119:105 KJV

It is good to know God's word, and be instructed by it. We have been saved by the word of God, the good news, through which the seeds of righteousness and holiness are planted. Through the word we learn of Christ, the living Word of God come down from heaven, and by which we know how to live righteously within the will of God.

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

—John 6:63 KJV

It is good we have the Holy Spirit, and know Him. He is our teacher, and the giver of life. He is the living water of God which allows us to grow. It is the Spirit that leads us into all righteousness, holiness, and good works.

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

—Ezekiel 36:27 NASV

Through God's word and His Spirit we are conformed to the image of Christ. As we with pure hearts submit ourselves to their work in us, we shall see the Light of Christ. Then we shall grow into what the Lord has for us, and bear much fruit unto the Glory of God.

It is good that we know the Scriptures. But it is the Spirit that illuminates the Scriptures to us. It is written in the prophets that we shall be taught of God. John 6:45. The word is our map to the path we are to walk, and the Spirit leads the way. They are

both essential to know the Lord, His will, and His way. There is a similitude of their purpose and their work, and they are always in absolute agreement.

Knowledge alone is not enough, and it is not to be an end in and of itself. Knowledge is perfected in truth and the wisdom of God which is revealed to us by the Spirit. In truth and wisdom we rightfully see in the knowledge of God.

Our house of knowledge is to be laid on a foundation of truth, with pillars of the wisdom of God for discernment, and windows of revelation from His Spirit. The door of our house of knowledge is Jesus Christ, through whom we have access into the counsel of our Lord.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom
and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The
spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

—Isaiah 11:2 NASV

Jesus Christ was the perfect incarnation and revelation of the living Word of God come to earth. He came and enlightened us as to the truth, and the Word of God. For He is the Truth, and the Word of God. Jesus elucidated the heart and will of God for our lives. He is the light of our understanding, and the door through whom we enter into the wisdom and knowledge of God.

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the
Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the
Father, He will bear witness of Me. —John 15:26 NASV

The Holy Spirit, which Jesus breathed on His disciples, is also referred to in Scripture as the Spirit of Jesus, and the Spirit of Christ. In the Old Testament He is known as God's Spirit, or the Spirit of the Lord. However, the Holy Spirit is God! The third member, or personage, of the trinity. He is one with Christ, as well as the Father. They are of one mind, one heart, one purpose, and one nature.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. —John 1:1 KJV

Although the Scriptures are a true reflection of the Word of God, they are not a perfect representation of the Word of God in it's fullness. Only Jesus Christ is that. He was the living Word of God come to us, and the embodiment of all truth. And only His Spirit can lead us into all truth, and reveal all wisdom and knowledge to us.

We know the Father through the Son, and we know the Son through the Spirit, and the word of God.

The Word is a living thing. More than that which is written on lifeless parchment. The Lord wishes to write His Word on your hearts.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide
you into all truth. —John 16:13 KJV

The reason there is such a wide divergence of opinion on what the Scriptures say, and what they mean, is that man is hopelessly flawed, and he does not rely on the Spirit of Truth for the revelation of the truth. For there is only one truth. And God has not given us the spirit of many truths. No. The Spirit of Truth!

Open your heart, and listen to the Spirit of Truth. Open the eyes of your heart so you may see the truth, and know the wisdom of God.

One must be born again to see the Kingdom of God, and to know the truth. Only those born of God shall see the truth. Those in Christ alone shall see the way and know the will of the Father.

Therefore Children of God: meditate on the Scriptures, and seek out the Lord in prayer with a lowly mind and humble heart, always relying on the Spirit of the Lord to speak to you.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give unto you the spirit of revelation in the knowledge of
him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye
may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches
of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

—Ephesians 1:17-18 KJV

Our purpose in the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge is to know our Lord Jesus Christ and His calling. The goal of our learning love, so we may understand His way, and live the life of a servant. To ascend to His life of love, being consecrated unto His purpose for us, and fulfill our Lord's will.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

—Luke 11:28 KJV

As we prayerfully meditate on Scripture in submission to the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and in the fear of the Lord, our eyes are opened to the revelation of the truth of God's Holy word. When the word of God is planted in our hearts, and in our minds, the Spirit works to bring it to life within us. As we are the temple of the Lord, we need to be filled with the word and the Spirit, that we may be directed to Christ. The Spirit and the word point us to Christ, just as Christ pointed us to the Father.

Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your
own selves. —James 1:22 KJV

We are to search the Holy Scriptures and learn the whole counsel of the word, submitting ourselves with contrite hearts and broken spirits to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Come not with unbelief, but with the faith of a child. Come as a child, not as those who say they know the Lord, but lie and have not the truth within them. The ones who are ever learning, never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. II Timothy 3:7. Those who in the vanity of their minds think to apprehend God by committing to memory the Scriptures, yet do not entrust their hearts and their lives unto the Lord. The Lord knows the reasoning of man, and how foolish, vain and futile it is. I Corinthians 3:20. The wisdom of man is as nothing to God.

To this one will I look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

—Isaiah 66:2 NASV

It is essential that you know the whole counsel of God's word, and submit to it in the fear of the Lord, to apprehend the truth and wisdom of God and be in His will!

We are teachable when we come to the Lord with a lowly heart, and a humble unassuming mind. When we are poor in spirit we shall be blessed with the sweet wisdom and glorious knowledge of the Lord.

Teach me to do Thy will, For Thou art my God; Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

—Psalms 143:10 NASV

To do the will of our Lord we must learn the word of God. Then we will be able see the truth and be led by the Spirit of the Lord. When we consecrate ourselves to the Lordship of Christ and His commandments the word of God shall live in our heart, and become manifest in our life.

The one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. —Galatians 6:8 NASV

Life is from the Spirit. The Holy Spirit of promise. We live in Him. And as we live in Him, we also walk in Him. Galatians 5:25. To do so, we need to always be in the Spirit. We need to listen to Him. We need to seek Him, and all He has for us. For to be in the Spirit, and be submitted to God, is to be in the Lord's will.

All God's children desire to know Him, and draw closer to Christ. Ever nearer to Thee O Lord we cry. Can there be any better way than through God's Spirit? Shall we deny the sovereign work of the Spirit in our lives?

Truly I say to you: one must be born of the Holy Spirit, the living water of God, to enter into the Kingdom of God. John 3:5. Wherein, it is written: he who believes on Jesus Christ, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. —Romans 8:14 KJV

We who are of Christ live by the Holy Spirit. We are to walk and love in the Spirit. We are to listen to the Holy Spirit so He can speak to us, and lead us. Then we are able to allow God to work in us and through us, to the glory of our Lord and the fulfillment of His will.

...And they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. —John 10:16 NASV

Our reliance on the Holy Spirit is the necessity of good works. For God alone is good. There is nothing good whatsoever that dwells in us, and we can not do anything good without God. All good things come from God. And He wants to pour out all his blessings upon us.

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. —Acts 1:8 NASV

Pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon you, and do not quench the Spirit, but seek to have the full measure of all that your heavenly Father has for you in the Spirit, and in all you do. I entreat you to allow the Spirit to pour out upon you streams of blessings from heaven.

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you.
—1 Timothy 4:14 NASV

We are to seek the spiritual gifts of God to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10. Our Lord wishes to bestow upon us gifts for the effectual working of the body. Each of us as Christians are different representations and reflections of Christ and His nature by the gifts that He gives us.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
—Galatians 5:25 KJV

It is absolutely essential to live and walk in the Holy Spirit to be in the will of our Lord God! It is primary to our life in Christ. To serve our Lord we must do so in His Spirit.

The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
—Romans 5:5 NASV

We know love is by the Spirit, as is God's love. And it is necessary that we have His love in us in order to fulfill the will of God. The love of God which works in us and through us to accomplish His will is a work of His Holy Spirit, and is not of ourselves. Whether it is the love of God or our love for God, I am fully persuaded that all love is from God, for God is love.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. —Galatians 5:22-23 NASV

Abandon yourselves to Christ, and be conformed to Him by His Spirit. Walk according to God's word that you may have a holy walk before the Lord. Keep yourselves accountable to the whole counsel of God's Holy word in the fear of the Lord, so that you do not stray from the truth. Live in the Spirit. Pray for the Spirit to come upon you to be in communion with the Lord, and receive the fullness of His blessings. Walk in the Spirit and serve the Lord of heaven. Through these things we abide in God's will, and therein give our lives as a worship and an offering unto our Lord, to the praise of His glory.

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that

worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.
—John 4:23-24 KJV