

OUR NEED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:9

Introduction: As *John 3:16* opens with salvation to "whosoever", *Romans 8:9* is just as broad and explicit in closing the door. THERE IS NO EXCEPTION and every person falls under its declaration.

When man (Adam) was in his original state of holiness he needed neither a savior to work out redemption for him nor the Holy Spirit to apply that redemption to him.

But now, as a fallen person (creature), man stands in need of both. A redeemer is necessary for him so he may be brought back to God and the Holy Spirit is necessary that he, man, may come to God aright and find acceptance but only through Jesus Christ.

We were born with all that is necessary (natural endowments) to account us as rational, average human beings and yet the Scriptures tell us still cannot be Christ's while on the other hand, indwelt by the Holy Spirit will prove that we belong to Jesus Christ.

Complicated? That's why it is so necessary to possess the Holy Spirit in order to be accepted by the Lord Jesus Christ and God, the Father.

I. ALL OUR FACULTIES (BEING) ARE IMPAIRED BY SIN

1. Clearly, we are not the same as our ancestor, Adam.
 - His mind was in perfect accord with God's.
 - His will was God's will.
 - Every thought he has was that of glory to God.
 - His body was fitted to aid his soul in all its operation.
 - The goodness of God was seen and tasted by Adam in everything.
 - To admire God in everything, to adore Him for everything, to glorify Him by everything was the constant attitude of Adam (man).

2. What are we like today?
 - We are altogether departed from God. Every part of us, body and soul has become depraved. There remains not even a trace of the moral image of God.
 - Our understanding is blinded and we turn away from that which we dislike.
 - God's law is deemed by us as unnecessarily strict.
 - God's gospel is treated as foolish fables.
 - It is a stumbling block to the self-righteous.
 - It is mere foolishness to the conceited.
 - In general, in our hearts, we are opposed to the Gospel (mankind in general).
 - There is no pleasure in communication with God. Prayer and praise are burdens rather than delight. Instead of walking with God as Adam, we flee from Him and hide ourselves as if God were an enemy.
 - *1 Corinthians 9:8; Romans 3:10-18; Genesis 6:5; Ephesians 2:2-3; Titus 3:3*

3. Our own personal experience shows the truth.
 - Have we always delighted ourselves in God?
 - Has it been the joy of our hearts to draw near to Him in prayer and praise?
 - Have we sought after His love and grace?

- Have we not pursued everything in this world with a deeper interest than the things of God?
- Upon being reproved for seeking worldly gain above Godly things, have we not rebelled against God's word and will? (*Exodus 5:2*)
- Who among us or among mankind whose body and soul have always been under God's absolute control?
- Does not a battle rage within our very beings?
- Can Jesus Christ receive us and accept us and call us His own while we are in such a state?

II. JESUS CHRIST CANNOT RECEIVE US UNLESS A CHANGE TAKES PLACE

1. ***Romans 8:29; John 3:16*** - God wants to save mankind.
 - How can man be accepted by the Holy God? What about the Savior's death?
 - ***1 Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 21:27*** - How can an unrenewed person stand accepted by God?
2. An unregenerated person couldn't be happy in the presence of God if he/she were admitted.
 - How could so corrupt a person endure the presence of such a Holy God?
 - How could one so full of enmity against God find happiness in His presence?
 - ***2 Corinthians 6:14-15***
3. If Jesus Christ will not void God's promises, if Jesus Christ will not negate His own death, if Jesus Christ will not dishonor the office of the Holy Spirit, if Jesus Christ will not lift up to His glory those who have no like, no capacity for the enjoyment of it - what shall become of them?
4. If we (believers) belong to Jesus Christ, if Jesus Christ would have pleasure in us, if God would ever recognize us as His own, then we must be renewed, made pure, made perfect.
5. SO, here's the question: "How can this changer be effected, how can this change take place?"

III. ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN BRING ABOUT THIS NEEDED CHANGE

1. This needed change does not come by baptism nor the Lord's Supper.
2. Can we, by our own efforts, form salvation?
3. ***2 Corinthians 5:17*** - A new creation must happen and we cannot re-create ourselves.
4. Can we bring ourselves to hate every kind and degree of sin, to loath and abhor ourselves because of our own corruption?
5. Can we bring ourselves to love God supremely and delight ourselves in prayer, praise and worship?
6. Can we form our soul after the likeness of Jesus Christ?
7. Without the renovating influences of the Holy Spirit, we can never become one of God's accepted and saved Children.

8. *Luke 24:45; 2 Corinthians 4:16*

9. No other power than the Holy Spirit can ever bring us to the Savior (*text*).

10. All of this is God's planning, His decision.

CONCLUSION:

1. If anybody think him/herself not so fallen as we have just seen, re-examine and compare your life to God's Word.
2. If there is anyone here who thinks he/she can restore him/herself to God's image by his/her own power, prove it.
3. Is there anybody here who thinks he/she has no need of such a transformation? Take a look at God's Word and find that obstacle for God calls it "lostness."
4. Is the Word of God true or not? If it is true, then is it not madness to waste time? It will be too late when you stand before God.
5. *"...Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you..."*
Matthew 7:7