

2 CORINTHIANS 5:4-5

THE SPIRIT GIVES

INTRO:

In these verses we see Paul's absolute confidence in what he sees to be the end of his physical, earthly life. He is more than certain of his mortality being replaced by immortality.

His body to come is far greater, filled with the life of God to a measure far exceeding any depth he has known here. He knows he will receive a fullness of which here he held only a token, a pledge, a guarantee, an earnest, a down payment of that which was to come.

He is absolutely confident and certain that at the end of his earthly journey there awaits him glorious things, far exceeding what he has experienced here.

Peter had the same view of this life.

- **(2 Peter 1:13, 14)**
- **1 Peter. 1:3-5; Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**
- **The real essential "us" was not created for this world, but for the world to come.**
- **This earthly momentary life is our training ground. How we live in this life sets in motion our life in the world to come.**
- **God has proven this to us by sending into our hearts His Spirit as a foretaste of glory to come. The glory that shall be.**
 - **Christ in you the hope of glory. Co. 1:27**
- **The giving of the Spirit here is to be foretaste of the full life of the Spirit to come.**
- **Flesh and blood cannot inherit the heavenly life. 1 Cor. 15:50**
- **These verses begin with the phrase, we know." What did Paul know?**
 - **He knew he had a Father in heaven who called him and had reserved for him a home. This he knew for he had received the promise of the Father that cried within him, "abba Father," and brought to his soul the witness of adoption, and son-ship.**
 - **He knew his Elder Brother had gone ahead to prepare a place for him for He, the elder Brother is the Forerunner.**

- He knew also that he had within his soul the witness of the life of God in the Holy Spirit. He had received the guarantee of that much greater thing that was to come. He knew!!

READ 2 COR. 5:1-..

- **PREPARED:** To work out, to achieve, to affect to produce, to fit. (**VS. 5**)
- God has prepared us, wrought us, for this transformation by the work of the Spirit in redemption, justification, sanctification which are the qualifications of glorification. This is the Spirits' work.
 - Rom. 8:19-21; For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

THE SPIRIT GIVES.....

1.) THE SPIRIT GIVES CONFIDENCE:

- **VS. 6 & 8** Paul was confident of his acceptance with God and his glorious, far surpassing house to come.
 - John 14:2, In My Father's house are many mansions I go to prepare.
- Confidence of salvation. He has given us, in the Spirit, the earnest, a witness:
 - **1 John 5:10, 12,**
- Confidence He will never leave us.
 - JN. 14:16; And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever
- Someday the indwelling Spirit would leave Paul's body behind, but He take Paul with Him into the fullness of the presence of God.
- The Holy Spirit of God shall never leave the saint; not even in death, He is taking us with Him, for Christ has promised it.

2.) THE SPIRIT GIVES AN EARNEST:

- **Earnest:** The pledge, down payment, an guarantee, a foretaste of what is to come.
- In modern Greek this word is used for an engagement ring. An thus the Church waits to be brought to its wedding feast.
- Called here the "earnest of the Spirit," and in another place the earnest of our inheritance. (Eph. 1:14)
- This God given earnest of the Spirit is not just a pledge of something to come, but an actual part of the thing promised, the blessing coming.

- The Spirit in measure: **John 3:34**
- He has given His children the foretaste of the coming fullness of which this present measure of the Spirit is but the earnest of the coming fullness.
 - 2 Cor. 1:21, 22, ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
- God has purposed us for this change. We are His workmanship. Eph. 2:10.
- The Spirit is given as a pledge, down payment, that the remainder shall be imparted in due time.
- This earnest of the Spirit, being given to the soul by God, is to the soul a ground for the strongest assurance that the promised blessing shall in due time be given in all His fullness.
- The Israelites and the cluster of grapes of Eschol, this was a foretaste, a pledge of what was held instore for them in the promised land.
- Having tasted then the first fruits let us believe God for the full harvest.
 - Eph. 1:13, 14; In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- God has given the Christian this earnest of the Spirit as a promise and an allowance against His placing of the Treasure in an dissolving earthen frail vessel.
- There is more in this life, and infinite more in the life to come.

3.) THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE: (Zoe, life as God has it)

- **SWALLOWED UP:** to be completely absorbed. To cease to be as I am now, a great whirlpool, to drown.
 - Heb. 11:29; By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned
- Paul is looking forward, earnestly desiring that day, when everything about him ceases to be in decay and instead of perishing all is made eternally alive, alive by the fullness of the Spirit. Swallowed up.
- Everything of the Spirit is alive, life, eternal life.
- The principal of the Spirit is life giving, holy life, Christ-like life.
- And we shall be swallowed up in this.
 - **Rev. 22:1,**
 - **EX. 47:1-9**
- Real life is having this mortality swallowed up in Life.
- Real life is when we depart this earthy tent and are escorted by the Spirit of God to the Father, to the "place that Jesus said," "I go to prepare a

place for you," and there to be clothed with immortality, this corruptible putting on incorruption.

- When we pass from this temporary experience, when our mortality and life has been swallowed up in God's life, our life principal will be of a new source.
- We will live unlike the human body which finds its life in the blood, but then we will find that life generates from and in the Spirit and the Spirit is our life Carrier. The Spirit gives life.
- The Holy Spirit of God, the third Person of the Trinity being our life principal, having transformed us to the fullness of the image of Christ, second Person of the Trinity, and then living out the perfect will of God the Father, the first Person of the Holy Trinity. This is heaven.
- Think of it, to be swallowed up in the life of God...

4.) THE SPIRIT GIVES DIRECTION/DESIRE:

- The willingness and contentment to have this tent dissolved and to be clothed with a heavenly tent comes from the indwelling Spirit of God.
- The natural man is not interested in the things of God and in fact he is incapable of appreciating the things of God, the eternal things, the glories that await the saints of God.
- He is not able or willing to comprehend or appreciate.
- But the man or woman who has been given by God the pledge, earnest of the Holy Spirit can, for the Spirit reveals the eternal realities to his soul.
 - **1 Cor. 2:6-14**
- Is there within me a similar longing in my heart like Paul, to have this mortal with all its weaknesses, struggles, and trials, to be swallowed up in life, life of the Spirit?
- Is there a voice in my soul of one crying in this wilderness, this way, this way, there is more? ISA. 55, Jn. 7, Prov. My son give Me your heart.
- The Spirit of God calling and communing with our spirits, deep calling onto deep. (PS. 42:7)

CONCLUSION:

- The life we live is it a life that lives out the life of Christ?.
- Charles Simeon exhorts all to examine the state of his own soul. Trust not your emotions to confirm your salvation, but examine if Christ is formed in you... So examine carefully lest one dreams of heaven and awakes in hell.