

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I John 3:24 “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, *by the Spirit whom He has given us.*” 4:13 “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because *He has given us of His Spirit.*” 5:10a “He who believes in the Son of God has *the witness in himself....*”

Quote: The indwelling Holy Spirit is the vital difference that distinguishes those whose trust is in Christ alone from the sincerely religious person who agrees with some facts in the Bible. Just as the presence of invisible wind is evident by its effects that are seen and felt, the presence of God’s Holy Spirit is evident by His effect upon the life of a Christian.

The Holy Spirit, dwelling within a heart made new by grace alone through “repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ,”¹ serves as Teacher, Comforter and Guide to confirm and to constrain us through the Word, to convict us of sin, to console us in misery and to consecrate us in service. The fact that First John is written to believers to encourage them in the faith lets us know that doubt, discouragement and sometimes disillusionment will “dog” us. Yet, those who are truly abiding in Christ persevere with the enabling and encouragement of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may *abide with you forever*—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”²

Paul asked the Corinthian believers, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”³ Elsewhere, Paul talks of living in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, walking after the Spirit, and sowing to the Spirit.⁴ He wrote, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but *the Spirit who is from God*, that we might know the things that have

been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”⁵ The term, “natural man,” applies every person prior to God graciously making him or her a new spiritual creation in Christ.⁶ Without the Holy Spirit dwelling within a person’s heart, he will not desire, nor understand the things of God. In fact, “the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”⁷

Paul wrote to Christians in Rome, “So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, *if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.* Now *if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.* And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus

Joy through the Spirit’s witness

from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but *if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* For *as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”⁸ The indwelling Holy Spirit is the Agent of change that will provide peace, produce fruit and promote godliness in thought, word and deed.⁹ Without the “sense” of His presence, there can be no true assurance and joy.

1 John 14:16; Acts 20:21 2 John 14:16-17 3 I Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20 4 Galatians 5:16, 25; Romans 8:1, 14 5 I Cor. 2: 12-14 6 II Cor. 5:17; Ephesians 2:10 and 4:23-24 Colossians 3:10 7 I Cor. 1:18-31 8 Romans 8:8-17 9 Psalm 51; I Peter 1:2; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:30