

Seeing and Knowing the Mingled Spirit

The New Testament speaks clearly and emphatically of the divine Spirit—the eternal Spirit of God—and of the human spirit—the spirit of man placed in human-kind by God in the act of creation. In the action of regeneration the human spirit is born of the divine Spirit with the eternal life of God. The Spirit, who regenerated us, witnesses along with our spirit, which has been regenerated by the Spirit, that we are children of God. However, the Spirit is not only with our spirit; the divine Spirit and the human spirit have also become one spirit. The Lord, with whom we have been joined as one spirit, is Christ in resurrection, Christ as the life-giving Spirit. Because we are one spirit with the Lord, our spirit has been mingled with the divine Spirit to become the mingled spirit. The key to the entire Christian life is Christ who dwells in our spirit, as the life-giving Spirit, and who mingles Himself with our spirit so that the two spirits are one mingled spirit.

If we do not know Him and experience Him as the Spirit and if we do not know and exercise our regenerated human spirit, the life we live, regardless of how good, pious, and even scriptural it may be, is not the Christian life presented in the New Testament by Paul, who received mercy from the Lord to be a pattern to all the believers. Paul lived by the Spirit, walked by the Spirit, and walked according to the spirit, and he presented the reality of the mingled spirit in his Epistles to the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Ephesians.

The Mingled Spirit in Romans

Countless readers of Romans have failed to see that the subject of this book is the complete gospel of God, a gospel that includes everything from condemnation and justification to the Body of Christ and the local churches. However, even among those who have been enlightened in this regard, very few have paid adequate attention to the truth that the divine Spirit and the human spirit have been mingled together in the believers to become a mingled spirit.

This key opens to the children of God the vast, infinite realm of the kingdom of God, bringing them into the experience of salvation in life, reigning in life, walking in newness of life, serving in newness of spirit, living the grafted life in the organic union, and experiencing the dispensing of the Triune God as life into their tripartite

being. Furthermore, this key activates the operation of the law of the Spirit of life, which conforms the children of God to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God for the corporate expression of God. Apart from living and walking in the mingled spirit, we cannot live the normal Christian life, we cannot practice the genuine church life, and we cannot build up the Body of Christ. When we live and walk in the spirit—the mingled spirit—we live as sons of God, we function and serve in the church, and we contribute to the building up of the Body of Christ.

The Mingled Spirit in Ephesians

Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians contains a great revelation of the economy of God, His divine plan according to His heart's desire, to dispense His unsearchable riches into His chosen and redeemed people so that they may become the reality of the Body of Christ for the glory of Christ, the fullness of Christ, the radiant expression of Christ. The mingled spirit is so vitally important to the Body life that it is mentioned in each chapter of the book of Ephesians for our experience of the reality of the Body of Christ.

In chapter 1 Paul prays that we would be given a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of God. We need a spirit of wisdom in order to be infused with God's understanding and knowing of Christ, and we need a spirit of revelation to see Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ. It is only in our mingled spirit that we can receive a divine revelation of Christ, the One who is both the Head of the Body and the Body of the Head.

In chapter 2 Paul speaks of our being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit. God is the Dweller, and our spirit is His dwelling place. Our mingled spirit is where the building up of the church takes place.

In chapter 3 Paul prays to the Father that we would be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man so that Christ could make His home in our hearts. Our inner man is our regenerated spirit, which has been indwelt and mingled with the Spirit of life. Although Christ as the Spirit dwells in our spirit, He wants to spread from our spirit into all the parts of our heart, making His home in our hearts for the building up of the Body of Christ.

In chapter 4 we are charged to put off the old man by being renewed in the spirit of our mind. To be renewed in the spirit of our mind is to allow our mingled spirit to spread into our mind so that our mind is governed, possessed, occupied, taken over, controlled, and subdued by our mingled spirit. This eliminates old concepts concerning the things of our old human life and makes us new according to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the enlightening of the Holy Spirit. The shining of the word of God brings us into the experience and enjoyment of Christ as the life-giving Spirit, who is mingled with our spirit, for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Chapter 5 speaks of being filled in spirit. Instead of being drunk with the wine of this world, we need to be filled with the new wine of Christ as the life-giving Spirit for our enjoyment. By not grieving and not quenching the Spirit, we will give the Lord a free way within us

to the things of man according to the mind of Christ and with the love of Christ. And finally, just as the operation of the divine life will reach our physical body, Paul lastly speaks in chapters 15 and 16 of the power of the life in our mingled spirit to raise our physical body into the realm of resurrection.

The majority of Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians involves the operation of the divine life in the mingled spirit upon the sanctification and transformation of the soul, not simply because this is the part of our being that is most in need of the divine life but because the reality of the fellowship of the Body of Christ is produced and sustained by hearts that shepherd and care for the flock of God with the love of Christ according to the mind of Christ. Without the operation of the divine life in our soul, the temple of God will be destroyed, because we will stumble the saints by living according to deceived and vain

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to dispense Himself into our tripartite being, to live through us for His magnification, and to work through us so that He may build Himself into others for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 6 charges us to pray at every time in spirit by receiving the word of God by means of all prayer. When we exercise our mingled spirit to pray over and with God's word, we enjoy the sanctifying and beautifying Spirit, the negative elements in our being are washed away, and we put on the whole armor of God to fight for the interests of His Body on this earth.

The Mingled Spirit in 1 Corinthians

The problems that Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians indicate his intent to teach about the mingled spirit. He specifically structured 1 Corinthians according to the operation of the mingled spirit on the tripartite nature of man, because every part of the Corinthians' tripartite being had been affected by their deviation from the operation of the life-giving Spirit in their mingled spirit. Just as the operation of the divine life begins in our human spirit, which has been mingled with the Spirit through regeneration, Paul begins his Epistle by emphasizing in chapters 1 through 4 the function of the mingled spirit for both our living and service. And just as the operation of the divine life spreads from our mingled spirit into the functions of our soul, Paul shows the Corinthians in chapters 5 through 14 that the operation of the divine life has the capacity to produce persons who know and respond

hearts. First Corinthians ultimately reveals the importance of the mingled spirit for the believers' entrance into the reality of the fellowship of the Body.

Not Neglecting the Mingled Spirit

One of the most profound truths in the Scriptures, and the deepest mystery revealed in the New Testament, is the truth concerning the mingled spirit—the wonderful reality that the divine Spirit is mingled with the regenerated human spirit to become one spirit. The fulfillment of God's eternal purpose requires that the believers in Christ live and have their being in the mingled spirit. This fulfillment is hindered by the tragic neglect of the mingled spirit.

Despite this neglect, God is working in His economy to build up the Body of Christ, and as His work continues, the mingling of divinity with humanity within the believers will gradually increase. This mingling will deepen and expand until our entire tripartite being is mingled with the Triune God. This will usher in the consummation of the mingling that begins in the mingled spirit—the fulfillment of God's intention to mingle Himself with humanity to build up the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem as His corporate expression in humanity. For eternity the Triune God will dwell in us, and we will dwell in the Triune God. **AFC**

by the Editors