



A WORLDLY SPIRIT

[The Christian] has received, “not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who is from God...” (1 Corinthians 2:12)

The night before laying down His life for His people, the Lord Jesus took great effort to teach His disciples about the impassable gulf between GOD’s Kingdom and the earthly kingdom of this world. [John 14:17, 19, 30; John 15:18-25; John 16:7-11, 20, 28, 33; John 17:6, 9-23]

One great characteristic of Christ’s disciples is that they are to be in the world, but not of the world just as Christ was [John 17:14]. A Christian is someone that GOD has created new -- giving them a new human spirit and then placing the Holy Spirit within them forever [Ezekiel 36:25-27]. The Holy Spirit helps the Christian live pleasing to GOD -- to understand, trust and obey HIS Word (the Scriptures) and to do the works of GOD [Ephesians 2:10].

A Christian is one who has received eternal life, which means they have received the gift of GOD’s life in them [John 17:3]. The Christian does not become a god, rather GOD the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the Christian. [In 1 Corinthians 3:16, the Apostle Paul when addressing fellow believers states: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”]

GOD’s Word commands Christians to be filled with the Spirit and to walk/live by the Spirit. This is how the Christian is able to love GOD with a whole heart, love others more than self, and love not the world. However, many Christians are not filled with the Holy Spirit and are not walking by the Holy Spirit because the world consumes too much in their lives. Our love for the things of this world robs our new spirit’s desire to be wholly united to GOD. Jesus told us in John 14:17 that the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit because it doesn’t see Him or know Him. In 1 John 2:16, the Apostle John summed up all that is in the world like this --

- ⇒ The Lust of the Flesh [Overindulgence in things that please the flesh like Food, Drink, Sleep, Ease, Comfort, etc...]
- ⇒ The Lust of the Eyes [Superficial things that please our eyes like Beauty, Possessions, Entertainment, etc...]
- ⇒ The Boastful Pride of Life [Self-Exaltation; Self-Righteousness; Self-Reliance; etc...]

None of these things are from GOD our Father, but they are from the world and they are all temporal!

So, if the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit, the question for we who profess to be Christians is this:
Is my spirit *filled* with the world or with the Holy Spirit?

Some evidences that I may have a worldly spirit are:

- I don’t seek GOD daily in HIS Word and in prayer to be near HIM, to know HIS heart, and to please HIM – but I will be quick to come to HIM with my list of needs and wants.
- I will be unaware of my own sin against GOD, hence, I will see no need for personal repentance.
- I am not actively making disciples; and I am not a witness of Christ – both in word and in the way I live. My house and my car may have Christian décor, but do my actions and my words glorify GOD *both inside* and outside my home? Would GOD be pleased with what I allow my eyes and ears to watch, read or listen to?

So, I ask *myself* and all Christians, does the world rule too much in your life? Remember, the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit. He will not *fill* us if we are filled with the world. It’s time for us *all* to cry out to GOD in repentance, turn away from the things of this world, and ask HIM to take full possession of HIS holy temple as our Life, Light and Strength to do HIS will, HIS work, HIS way for HIS glory!



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