

Message Two

CHRIST—THE LIVING WORD AND THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

Scripture Reading: John 1:1, 14, 18; 6:63; 14:16-18; 1 John 1:1; Rom. 8:9-10; 2 Cor. 3:17; Eph. 6:17-18

- I. The four Gospels are a full record, picture, and revelation of the Lord Jesus as the expression of God, the living Word of God for us to “read,” see, and understand—John 1:1, 14, 18:**
- A. While Christ was with His disciples, the disciples heard Him, beheld Him, and handled Him; every day they “read” the living Word—1 John 1:1.
 - B. The four gospels show us who this person is and what kind of person He is: the King with all authority, a slave serving God and us, a perfect man as our Savior, and God incarnate who came to impart life to us—Matt. 28:18; Mark 10:45; Luke 2:27-28; John 1:1, 14; 10:10b.
 - C. Through His death and resurrection Christ as the Word became the Spirit; He became the Spirit to be not only among them but in them—John 14:16-18.
- II. In the Acts and the Epistles Christ is the Spirit as our enjoyment—Rom. 8:9-10; 2 Cor. 3:17:**
- A. In Acts Christ was not only in the disciples but even one with them—Acts 9:4.
 - B. Many verses in the Epistles show us that Christ as the Spirit lives in us:
 - 1. The Spirit mentioned in Romans 8 is nothing less or different than Christ Himself; Christ as the Spirit is living in every saved person—vv. 9-10.
 - 2. We have a human spirit and Christ as the Spirit is in our spirit so that we can be one spirit with Him—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 3. Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians all show us that Christ is in us—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:16-17; Phil. 1:19; Col. 1:27.
 - C. Each of the seven epistles in Revelation 2 and 3 begins with, “These things says,” referring to the Lord Himself, but the end of every epistle says, “...hear what the Spirit says to the churches;” by this we can see that “He” is “the Spirit,” and “the Spirit” is “He”—Rev. 2:1, 7.
- III. Christ came to be enjoyed by us firstly as the Word and eventually as the Spirit:**
- A. As the Word, Christ is in the stage of revelation, expression, and explanation, and as the Spirit He is in the stage of enjoyment and experience—John 20:22; 1 Cor. 12:3, 13.
 - B. We have to enjoy Christ by realizing Him as the Spirit; therefore, we must not exercise only our mind to understand Him; we have to exercise our spirit to contact Him in our spirit—1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:22:
 - 1. The unique way to exercise our spirit is to pray; as we exercise our spirit in prayer, our aim should be to contact the Lord, not first to pray for certain people or things—Eph. 6:18.
 - 2. We should come to the Lord with a spirit fully open, worshipping Him, praising Him, and thanking Him; then we shall know what to pray for, and we shall have much to utter to the Lord in prayer—John 15:7.
- IV. In the New Testament the Spirit and the Word are one; we should not separate the Holy Spirit whom we have within us from the holy word which we have in our hands; these two are one divine reality—John 6:63; Eph. 6:17.**

***Focus:** Christ as the Word became flesh to express God, and then in resurrection He became the Spirit for our enjoyment and experience; therefore, we should exercise our spirit to contact Christ as the Spirit through prayer.*