

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:13**

Chapter 21- The Gift of God's Spirit

197 The Gift of God's Spirit- Part 4

WAOY Tuesday 06/10/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Gift of God's Spirit". So, let's read **1John 4:13** again together:

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Now I have been showing you how John is constantly showing us that Salvation is unlike anything that Man is in charge of. Everything that Man is in charge of is flexible; it is unstable, unpredictable, and it is very, very temporary. But unlike Man- what God does is stable; it is permanent; it is true and it is eternal.

John teaches here and many other places that Salvation is *not* of Man. Salvation does not *originate* with Man. Salvation originates with God. Salvation comes from God and does not come from Man. I know we have all been taught that Salvation is the result of what *we* do- but the Bible doesn't teach that, beloved. Many of us were taught that we must take the first step toward God and then God will take the rest- but the Bible teaches that God has to take *all* the steps or no one would ever be saved.

God is Sovereign, dear friends, and it is that Omnipotent Sovereignty that saves the soul of wretched, sinful Man. Man *cannot* save himself- but God can. And when God saves the soul of an individual- everybody will know it. The life of a wicked sinner who is saved is so radically and dramatically transformed that everyone around that person will see the change. Over 235 years ago- John Newton- a man who bought and sold human beings for a living wrote these words about how radical the change is that God's Grace makes in the life of a sinner:

“I once was lost but now I’m found
Was blind but now I see!”

So the Apostle John teaches here in this verse something that we must also teach- that Salvation is not arbitrary; it is not haphazard or fragile; and neither is Salvation conditional. No, John teaches here the very same thing that Jesus taught about Salvation- that it is eternal. John says here in verse 13 that we have the ability to know whether or not God Almighty abides in us- that we can be certain of the fact that of all the places in the Universe that God could have made His Home- Almighty God chose to place His Name and His Power and His Presence and His Spirit inside the heart of Man.

In fact, John says that it is precisely because God has given us of His Spirit that we now know for sure that God dwells in us. Now as I say that- we must remember, beloved, that God never dwelt inside any man prior to Jesus bringing in the New and the Superior Covenant that replaced the First or the Old Covenant.

You see, the Old Covenant or the First Covenant was made between God and Man- and the result of that Covenant was that Man did not hold up his end of the deal because of his sin and Man broke that first Covenant with God. The first Covenant was *inferior* for a number of reasons. The first Covenant was made between Almighty God and frail sinful Man. It was sealed with the blood of animals. It had a ministry comprised of sinful high priests. It had an earthly tabernacle and temporary vessels.

But the Second or the New Covenant is far superior to the Old because this Covenant was made between God the Father and Jesus the Son- so it will never be broken. This Covenant was sealed with the precious Blood of the Lamb of God- Jesus Christ and has a High Priest Who never sinned one time. And in this New and Better Covenant- God takes sinful filthy Man and makes Him the temple of the Holy Ghost- let’s read **2 Corinthians 6:14-18:**

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the

temple of the living God; just as God said, "***I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.***"

17 "Therefore, ***COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,***" says the Lord. "***AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;*** And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Now this statement by the Apostle Paul here in **2Corinthians** is based upon the prophecy of Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 31:31**—so let's turn to that prophecy and read that great Promise together:

31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Now notice several very important things about Jeremiah's prophecy here. First of all notice that God promises that He is going to make a *new* Covenant with His people. Now why does God want to make a new Covenant with His people when He already had a Covenant in force with them? Was there something *wrong* with the Covenant that God had already made? No. What God does is always perfect and holy and true.

But if nothing was wrong with the already *existing* Covenant- then *why* does Jeremiah say that God is going to make a *new* one? Because while it is true that there is nothing wrong with God's Covenant or Gods' Law- there *is* something wrong with *us*. Listen, God's first Covenant was holy; God's Law that He gave to Moses is

perfect and holy and just and true- there is absolutely nothing wrong with God's Law or God's Covenant. So don't ever be guilty of ever saying that God's Law is bad or that God's Law does not matter to us today. God's Law matters a great deal.

But what we *can* say and what we *must* say is that because we are sinful; because we are fallen; because we are depraved creatures who sin naturally- as a natural outflow of our natures- unless and until God does something internal to us *first*- no one on earth can keep God's Law and no one on earth can keep God's First Covenant and no one on earth besides Jesus ever did.

You see, dear friends somehow, we have the notion that *some* people kept God's Law under the Old Covenant while others did not. We get the idea that Moses and the others who were saved- were saved because they kept God's Law while all the "bad people" went to hell because they broke God's Law and that is simply not true.

Moses broke God's Law every day of his life. Moses was not saved because he kept God's Law. Moses was saved by Grace through Faith just like *we* are saved by Grace through Faith. Moses was a wretched sinner who transgressed against God every single day of his life- just like we do. Moses was lost- just like we were and Moses came to God the very same way that we do- because God did a Sovereign Work of Grace and Mercy inside Moses *first*- before Moses ever cared one whit about God.

God called Moses- Moses did not call God. God chose Moses – Moses did not choose God. God saved Moses- Moses did not save himself through his good works or by keeping the Law.

So what is wrong with the Old Covenant and what is wrong with the Law is *us*. *We* are what is wrong- because it isn't that if we just tried harder we could obey God perfectly- no, we are sinful human beings who are born in sin and shaped in iniquity and we *cannot* keep God's Law *perfectly*.

So God told Jeremiah to say that the day was coming when God would make a *new* Covenant with His people. And this New Covenant was not going to be like the Old Covenant. This New Covenant was *not* going to be based on our performance on how well we kept God's Law- but God was going to do something fantastic that had never been done before. Listen to what Jeremiah said God as going to do in verse 33:

... I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

God said that He is going to put His Own Law in our inward parts- in the heart of sinful man. And God is going to write that Law on our hearts. Never before had this happened. God's Law was *always external*- written on tables on stone-. But here- God said that He was going to do a new thing and put that external eternal Law that was completely foreign to Man and He was going to put it inside of Man.

Now under the provisions of the First or the Old Covenant- this simply could not be done. So God had to institute an infinitely *superior* New Covenant that was based upon infinitely *superior* Promises and was administered by an infinitely superior High Priest- Jesus Christ- Who offered an infinitely superior Sacrifice- Himself.

So, one of the things that makes the New Covenant so much better than the Old- is *not* because we operate under a *different* Law- No, we operate under the very *same* Law. But what makes the New Covenant superior to the Old is that God changes *us*.

So God didn't change His Law- He changed *us* and He took out of us a stony heart and He gave us a heart of flesh. So that means that God sovereignly and supernaturally goes *inside* the human being and doesn't just make some improvements- no, God radically and completely *re-creates* us and makes us a brand new creation. And that is what we call being "born again". And God does this- *sovereignly*- without any action or cooperation on our part at all. And God does this in us *first-before* we ever make one move toward God; before we ask Him; and before we even want it. In fact, it is this regeneration that allows us to come to God in repentance and trust in the first place- because before God makes this change in us- we don't care anything about God.

And *this* is what the Spirit of God does in us. He writes God's Law on our hearts and He changes us to such a degree that He actually *causes* us to love what we onetime hated and to hate what we onetime loved. And this miracle is called, "Regeneration" or "being born again" and it is a sovereign Act of God's Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit giving us the new Divine Nature so that we may be convicted of our sins and have the desire to be saved and to love and serve God after we are saved.

And it is important to know that this sovereign Act of God is *not* the result of us "giving our hearts to God" or "accepting Jesus into our

hearts” as so many teach today. Those concepts are not taught anywhere in the Bible and I have no idea why people teach it.

No, it is this sovereign Act of God the Holy Spirit that gives us both the desire and the power to repent and trust in Jesus. So God must move toward lost sinners first, dear friends, because the Fall of Adam left us in such a horrible condition- that left to ourselves- we would *never* willingly come to Jesus.

So God has to supernaturally revive us; He has to sovereignly give us new spiritual life or we would never be saved. And it is God’s Spirit Who gives us that life- all by Himself.

So John is talking about all of this when he tells us here in verse 13 that we know that God dwells in us because God has given us of His Spirit. So in this verse- John is not referring to something that happens to us *after* we are saved- no, no, John is talking about what *caused* us to be saved in the first place.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.