

16. COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN HOLINESS

ACCEPTANCE - HOLINESS - PRIVILEGES (THE 3 GREAT PURCHASED BLESSINGS)

Now we are to examine how we hold communion with Christ in holiness, as well as righteousness. We do not have the power to initiate this communion, and we find that the Lord Jesus has already undertaken certain works to be able for this to happen.

1. Intercession by the Lord Jesus to the Father is the first of the works undertaken by our Master to open the way of our communion with Him in holiness. Christ intercedes with the Father on the strength of His mediatorial work that would give the Holy Spirit to His people. The Holy Spirit was promised as the surety of this new covenant that Jesus came to establish. JER 32:39-40. As our appointed mediator by God the Father, Jesus both paid for our sin and procured the promise of eternal life. In this covenant, the Lord Jesus is to have the pre-eminence in all things COL 1:18. All the promises and benefits of the covenant were purchased by Christ.

That is why it is said that Christ intercedes with the Father on our behalf for the promised Spirit. The Spirit is the fruit of the Father's love. That which Jesus asks the Father to give us, is that which Christ purchased for us, being promised to Him on the condition that He undertook to do the will of God - see PSM 2:8. As one of the chief works of the Holy Spirit is our sanctification - made holy - it is through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts that we have communion with Christ in Holiness (Sanctification).

2. The second work of Christ necessary to bring us to holiness, is the receiving of the Spirit from the Father and sending Him into the hearts of His Saints, there to live in His place, and to do all things for them, which He Himself has to do in them. Faith looks to the continual work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (To lead, to guide, to comfort, to teach, to impart wisdom), to impart the Spiritual gifts God has ordained for us as individuals.
3. The third work of Christ necessary to bring us to holiness is that by His Spirit He imparts to us, a new gracious Spiritual life, or principle, created and bestowed on the soul by which the soul is changed in all its faculties and desires. That is why we are described as being renewed, the old has passed away - the new has come - the rebirth.

The soul is now enabled to obey and receive the divine truth according to the mind of God. As the mind has been illuminated by the Spirit, it is able to understand Spiritual things. This new life has been purchased for us by Christ and is communicated to us by Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God the Father vests all these graces in Christ, as the result of Christ's promised completed work that the Father gave Him to do, and He, the Christ, agreed to undertake. Christ now having been vested with these graces, gives the Holy Spirit the right to take these graces and give them to us. On passing on the grace of fellowship to us, we only have a passive role in accepting them, as we do not have the power to respond. We are quickened to life. We are enlightened. We receive wisdom from on High.

Once we have been enlivened, we are able to respond in communion of holiness in Christ Jesus. This is done by our faith in Christ. As Egypt looked to Joseph, the keeper of the granaries of Pharaoh, so we look to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Saints see that, in themselves, they are still exceedingly defiled. To have a sight of the defilement of sin in ourselves, is greater Spiritual insight than only to have a sense of the guilt of sin. An awareness of sin's defilement only comes from an insight into the purity and holiness of God. We are called to continually examine ourselves in the light of these truths. It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin. Believers exercise their faith by thinking much about these things.

In the Old Testament, the blood of the sacrificial animal was shed as the symbolic supreme sacrifice of a life for sin. Then the priest would take some of that blood, and sprinkle various objects with hyssop dipped in that blood, (the altar, persons etc.) as a symbolic purging of sin from that person.

Believers are to see the blood of Christ, as the blood of sprinkling. There is not only the shedding of the blood of Christ for the remission of sin, but there is also the sprinkling of blood for cleansing and purification **HEB 12:24**

The cleansing power of the sprinkled blood of Christ, lies in the promises. By faith we see the blood of Christ enshrined in the promise ready to be sprinkled on the soul for its purification. This is how the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin **1 JN 1:7**. Only as the soul receives the promises by faith, is the blood actually sprinkled and the soul purified. It is therefore to Christ that we look for the giving of the Spirit and all graces necessary for sanctification and holiness. Christ is to sprinkle His blood upon sinful souls.

It is by this means that we become partakers of His grace. This is our communion with Christ. Man in his natural state, concentrates on self. Trying to build up a picture of goodness wrought by his own efforts. It cannot succeed as we have been enlightened by Christ that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and that we can do nothing without Christ.

But those who have been born again, begin to realise and understand the need to look to Christ alone.

There are no words available in any language, to describe adequately the attributes of God in His Glory, love, and Kindness to us.