

Devotional Thoughts :: Living by the Spirit in the Inner Man of the Heart**Living by the Spirit in the Inner Man of the Heart - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2019/6/27 11:35**

I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16 NLT)

The strength of the Lord's people is none other than the strength of the Holy Spirit in the inward man. Right at the very center of the being, deeper than thought or reason, deeper than emotion or feeling, deeper than all that which comprises the more outward man which, under given circumstances, may prove weak and incapable of standing up to the situation. In the variations of our soul life, the changes of our moods, our ideas, our attitudes, our feelings, our minds; deeper down there is that strength which does not let us go. That is the true nature of spirituality. It is not the tremendously forceful conviction of our intellects or the mighty power of our wills. When these cannot stand up to conditions of intense spiritual antagonism, opposition or perplexity, there is that more inward thing, right in the inward man, which is of God - the Holy Spirit: -"Strengthened with might by His Spirit into the inward man."

Test that out and the result is that when the mind is bewildered by the perplexity of a situation, and the arguments are all in the direction that a mistake has been made, a wrong course has been taken, everything is false - when all the feelings are churned up, disturbed, anxious, fearful, or when there are no feelings at all, they are simply petrified by the position - when circumstances are all arguing in the opposite direction of that which we, in the purest moments of our fellowship with God determined upon. The world around us - and very closely around us, even within the sphere of our own natural life, our own soul life - is an inexplicable mystery. Then spirituality is proved by that inward strength which abides: that standing when you cannot go forward; that holding when you can do nothing; that remaining when all the forces are seeking to sweep you off your feet. That represents a measure of spirituality. That is the true nature of the child of God. The opposite is to be carried away by argument, reasoning, appearance, circumstance, and all such things. That proves a lack of true spirituality. In a sentence, true spirituality is not to live on the outside; it is to live with God right down deep in the inner part of your own being, where He, the Spirit, is.

By T. Austin-Sparks from: Filled Unto All the Fullness of God - Chapter 11

Re: Living by the Spirit in the Inner Man of the Heart, on: 2019/7/24 10:18

"...'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NASB

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing..." John 6:63 NASB

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 NASB

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 NASB

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6 NASB

Quote:
-----Then spirituality is proved by that inward strength which abides...In a sentence, true spirituality is not to live on the outside; it is to live with God right down deep in the inner part of your own being, where He, the Spirit, is.

We cannot rely upon our own strength - to any degree or in any area of our lives - should we expect to become truly spiritual disciples of the Lord Jesus. Picking up our crosses, dying to self every day, and losing our own lives in every way,

we must allow Christ's life and strength to replace ours.

Oh, the amazingly pervasive power and peace which comes to those who are willing to believe upon Christ to let the Spirit lead and empower in all things! I testify with a clear conscience and thankful heart, Mike and any others who may have ears to hear, to the way the Living God has led me to find true spirituality in His Son and Spirit over the years I have known and followed Him. Never relying upon my human strength, I have come to know and abide in the power He provides, within, to sustain and guide me in His ways.

I exhort any who genuinely desire to be found alive in Christ to learn the difficult, painful, "self-shattering" truth of walking strictly by the Spirit of God, always remembering this reality: "...if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Romans 8:13-14 NASB

If I may be of any encouragement or help, please feel free to reach out...

The grace and strength of His Spirit be with all who love and obey our Lord with pure hearts.