

# THE HOLY SPIRIT WRITES GOD'S LAW UPON THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF HIS PEOPLE: -

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**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this article.

In the New Covenant the Lord has promised to write his Law within the hearts and minds of his people.

Jeremiah 31:33 & 34: - "But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Hebrews 8:10 - 12: - "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts;** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

## GOD'S LAW IN THE NEW COVENANT: -

In the following New Testament passage, the apostle Paul teaches us that the Ten Commandment Law gives us the knowledge of our sins; and then he calls this Law "holy" and "spiritual".

Romans 7:7 & 12 - 14: - "What shall we say then? [is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. ... Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.** Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. **For we know that the law is spiritual:** but I am carnal, sold under sin."

**NOTE:** - We know that Paul is referring to the Ten Commandment Law in this passage from his quoting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment in VS. 7 - "Thou shalt not covet" - See Exodus 20:17.



The fact that in Jeremiah 31:34 & Hebrews 8:12 the Lord has promised to remember our sins no more in the New Covenant, coupled together with Paul's New Testament teaching above, that it is the Law of Ten Commandments which gives us a knowledge of our sins, establishes the truth that it is the holy and spiritual Law of Ten Commandments that the Lord promises to write within the hearts and minds of his people in the New Covenant.

In the New Covenant the Spirit of the Living God writes God's Law upon the fleshy tables of our hearts. The Spirit is the Instrument for writing God's holy, spiritual Law within our hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3: - "[Forasmuch as ye are] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, **written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God;** not in tables of stone, **but in fleshy tables of the heart.**"

Paul refers to the ministration of the New Covenant as “the ministration of the spirit”, and “the ministration of righteousness”.

2 Corinthians 3:7 - 9: - “But if the ministration of death, written [and] engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which [glory] was to be done away: **How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?** For if the ministration of condemnation [be] glory, **much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.**”

The Spirit is life because of righteousness; that is, because it produces righteousness within the lives of those who walk after the Spirit.

Romans 8:10: - “And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; **but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.**”

☞ As the New Covenant is called the “the ministration of the spirit”, and “the ministration of righteousness”, this brings us to consider the Biblical truth that

### **GOD’S COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS: -**

In the following prophecy concerning Christ, Jesus stated that God’s Law was within his heart; and then a few lines later he stated, that he had not hid God’s righteousness within his heart. This passage clearly identifies God’s Righteousness as being his Law.

Psalms 40:7 - 10: - “Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book [it is] written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, **thy law [is] within my heart.** I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. **I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart;** I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.”

In fact the Psalmist has written that all of God’s Commandments **ARE** righteousness.

Psalms 119:172: - “My tongue shall speak of thy word: **for all thy commandments [are] righteousness.**”

It comes as no surprise therefore, that those people, who have God’s Law within their hearts, know righteousness.

Isaiah 51:7: - “Hearken unto me, **ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart [is] my law;** fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.”

Is it any wonder that the Psalmist describes a righteous person as someone who has God’s Law within his or her heart?

Psalms 37:30 & 31: - “The mouth of **the righteous** speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. **The law of his God [is] in his heart;** none of his steps shall slide.”

In fact, the gospel writer Luke has given us a definite and unambiguous New Testament description of a righteous couple – the parents of John the Baptist, who fulfill perfectly the Psalmist’s and Isaiah’s description of a righteous person. They both were righteous before God being blameless Commandment-keepers.

Luke 1:5 & 6: - “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named **Zacharias**, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] **Elisabeth.** **And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**”

We have a number of concrete Biblical examples of people who were filled with the Holy Spirit and who were Commandment-keepers. We already know from Luke 1:5 & 6 above that John the Baptist's parents, Zacharias and Elisabeth were both righteous Commandment-keepers before the Lord. And we find that they were filled with the Holy Spirit at different times.

Luke 1:41: - "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; **and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.**"

Luke 1:67: - "**And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost**, and prophesied, saying,"

Of course the most powerful example we have is found within the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he proclaimed that he had kept his Father's Commandments.

Luke 4:1: - "And **Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost** returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness."

John 15:10: - "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as **I have kept my Father's commandments**, and abide in his love."

☞ It is pretty plain from the proceeding Scriptures that the experiences of having the Spirit of God and of keeping the Law of God are not mutually exclusive. In reality they go hand in hand. Therefore the Spirit of God will write God's holy, spiritual Law of righteousness within the hearts and minds of his people in the New Covenant. This leads us to consider: -

### WALKING AFTER THE SPIRIT: -

Paul exhorts us to walk in the Spirit, so that we will not fulfill or perform the lusts of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16: - "[This] I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**"

Those who are **IN** Christ are walking after the Spirit of God, and they will have the righteousness of God's Law fulfilled within their lives.

Romans 8:1 - 4: - "[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Those who are abiding in Christ keep his Commandments. We can know that Christ is abiding in us, by his giving to us the gift of the Holy Spirit. John has clearly linked together obedience to the Commandments of God, abiding in Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit in this passage.

1 John 3:24: - "**And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**"

Those who walk after the Spirit of God set their minds upon the things of the Spirit. This would naturally include that they would set their minds upon the spiritual Law of God. This would be the fulfillment of the New Covenant promise of Hebrews 8:10 - "I will put my laws into their mind". And those who are thus spiritually minded will have life and peace.

Romans 8:5 & 6: - "For they that are after the flesh **do mind**<sup>1</sup> the things of the flesh; **but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.** For to be carnally minded [is] death; **but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.**"

God's peace is for those who love his Law and who keep his Commandments.

Psalms 119:165: - "**Great peace have they which love thy law:** and nothing shall offend them."

Proverbs 3:1 & 2: - "**My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.**"

Isaiah 48:17 & 18: - "**Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I [am] the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way [that] thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.**"

If we are in Christ we have crucified or put to death the lusts of the flesh.

Galatians 5:24: - "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

If we sow of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we shall eventually reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:8: - "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; **but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.**"

**NOTE:** - Sowing of the Spirit from what we have already seen in Romans 8:1 - 4 & 1 John 3:24 means to be keeping the Commandments and Law of God.

### THE CARNAL OR FLESHY MIND IS DEATH: -

The carnal or fleshy mind **IS** death. Why is it death? Because it cannot and will not be subject to or obedient to the holy, spiritual Law of God.

Romans 8:6 & 7: - "**For to be carnally minded [is] death;** but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. **Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject<sup>2</sup> to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**"

Romans 8:12 & 13: - "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**"

**NOTE:** - In VS. 13 we find that the Spirit of God is the Instrument by which we can put to death the deeds of the body – that is, the deeds of the carnal or fleshy mind.

And if the person of the carnal mind will not be subject to or obedient to the Law of God, they must be transgressing God's holy and spiritual Law, which is defined by John as being SIN, and which Paul informs us will earn the wages of death. Such is the teachings of the apostles of Christ in the New Testament Scriptures.

1 John 3:4: - "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**"

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek word that is translated as "do mind" in Romans 8:5 is the word "phroneo" – See Strong's Concordance, Greek, No. 5426. It is defined as "set one's mind on, be intent on" – A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by Walter Bauer, page 866.

<sup>2</sup> The Greek verb that is translated as "subject" in Romans 8:7 is the verb "hupotasso" – See Strong's Concordance; Greek, No. 5293. It is defined as "subject oneself, be subjected or subordinated, obey." IBID., pages 847 & 848.

Romans 6:23: - **“For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**  
**THE WORKS OF THE FLESH WILL BAR US FROM INHERITING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: -**

In the following passage in the epistle to the Galatians, Paul gives a list of some of the works or deeds of the flesh.  
Galatians 5:19 - 21: - **“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”**

**NOTE:** - Paul is **NOT** giving us a complete or entire list of all the works or deeds of the flesh in this passage as some Christians believe. This fact is outlined for us in VS. 21 by his use of the expression – “and such like”, meaning, “and such like works”.

We also notice that Paul had previously told the Galatians that those persons who committed such deeds would not inherit the kingdom of God. They will have no part in the kingdom of God. Paul also told the Corinthian and the Ephesian Churches the same truth, only using slightly different expressions to describe those disobedient people who will not inherit the kingdom of God. He called them **“the unrighteous”** to the Corinthians; and **“the children of disobedience”** to the Ephesians. It is their deeds or actions of the flesh that will keep these disobedient people from inheriting the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9 & 10: - **“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”**

Ephesians 5:5 & 6: - **“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”**

☞ If you read carefully the three lists of deeds and nouns outlined by Paul in Galatians 5, 1 Corinthians 6 & Ephesians 5, he is describing sins that are in reality all transgressions of the Law of Ten Commandments. Just a few examples will demonstrate this truth: -

- Adultery;
- Hatred which God considers to be Murder – See 1 John 3:15;
- Murder;
- Idolaters;
- Thieves;
- Covetous.

☞ The works or deeds of the flesh in reality are SIN, which is the transgression of the Law of God. These deeds will keep us out of the Kingdom of God. When Paul exhorts believers to **“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”** in Galatians 5:16, he is in reality exhorting them to walk after the Spirit by keeping the Commandments of God, which is the message he has recorded for us in Romans 8:1-4, and what John recorded for us in 1 John 3:24.

**IT IS DOING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER’S WILL THAT WILL PROVIDE AN ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD: -**

Matthew 7:21 - 23: - **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”**

**JESUS TAUGHT THAT ENTERING INTO AND INHERITING ETERNAL LIFE WAS FOUNDED UPON THE KEEPING OF GOD’S COMMANDMENTS: -**

Matthew 19:16 - 19: - “And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: **but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.** He saith unto him, Which? **Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”**

Mark 10:17 - 19: - “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God. **Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.”**

**THE OVERCOMER SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF GOD: -**

Revelation 21:7: - **“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”**

**COMMANDMENT-KEEPERS SHALL FIND AN ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD: -**

Revelation 22:14: - **“Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”**

**ACTS 5:32: - “AND WE ARE HIS WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS; AND [SO IS] ALSO THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM GOD HATH GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM.”**