

Romans 8:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Analysis

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you—The strong adversative de ("but") marks the contrast: the Roman believers are not en sarki (in the flesh) but en pneumati (in the Spirit). This is positional truth, not perfectionist claim—they still struggle with sin (7:14-25) but are no longer defined by it. The condition eiper ("if so be") is assumed true; Paul addresses genuine believers, assuming the Spirit's indwelling.

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his (ei de tis pneuma Christou ouk echei, houtos ouk estin autou)—This is the acid test of Christian identity. Ouk estin autou means "is not his," doesn't belong to Christ. The Spirit's indwelling is not an optional upgrade for elite Christians but the defining mark of all believers. Note the interchangeable titles: "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ"—evidence of Trinitarian theology. No Spirit, no salvation; genuine conversion always includes the Spirit's regenerating presence.

Historical Context

The early church faced questions about whether the Spirit's reception was immediate at conversion or a subsequent "second blessing." Paul's teaching is clear: the Spirit's indwelling is simultaneous with faith (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14). Later Pentecostal theology distinguished between indwelling

and empowering, but Romans 8:9 makes Spirit-possession the non-negotiable mark of belonging to Christ.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What specific evidences of the Spirit's indwelling should be present in every believer's life?
2. How does this verse address those who claim Christian identity without life-transformation?
3. What's the relationship between "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ"—what does this reveal about the Trinity?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς δέ οὐκ ἐστὲ ἐν σαρκὶ ἀλλ' ἐν πνεῦμα
ye But none are in the flesh but in that the Spirit
G5210 G1161 G3756 G2075 G1722 G4561 G235 G1722 G4151

εἴπερ πνεῦμα θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν εἰ δέ τις
if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you But τις
G1512 G4151 G2316 G3611 G1722 G5213 G1487 G1161 G5100

πνεῦμα Χριστοῦ οὐκ ἔχει οὗτος οὐκ ἔστιν αὐτοῦ
that the Spirit of Christ none have he none is of his
G4151 G5547 G3756 G2192 G3778 G3756 G2076 G846

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 4:6 (Spirit): And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (Spirit): Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

2 Timothy 1:14 (Spirit): That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (Spirit): What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

John 14:17 (Spirit): Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Romans 8:11 (Spirit): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

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

Ephesians 1:13 (Spirit): In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Romans 8:2 (Spirit): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Ephesians 2:22 (Spirit): In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.