

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 pneumatī* (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

ὕμεῖς	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	dwelt	in	you	G1487	But	G5100
G1512	G4151	G2316	G3611	G1722	G5213		G1161	
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.