

**"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"**

- a. What promises? 2 Corinthians 6:16B-18. These promises communicate how intimately personal God the Father is with you who are in Christ.

I will dwell IN YOU, I will walk IN YOU, I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; I will be a Father to you, and you shall be MY SONS and DAUGHTERS, saith the Lord Almighty!

Christian, YOU HAVE these promises, they are a present reality, they should be comforting and strengthening to your faith in Christ! TO KNOW that God dwells in you and walks in you. You're lovingly endeared to God! There is a ONENESS and UNION between you and God that the world knows nothing of!

God dwells in you: Romans 8:6-11, Ephesians 3:14-19, 1 John 4:12,15

God walks in us/ or among us: Genesis 5:22-24, 6:9, Deuteronomy 23:14, Matthew 28:20, Revelation 2:1

You, Christian, are INCLUDED in "these promises"; Paul also wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:16 that you are the temple of the living God.

1 Corinthians 3:16: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are"

**These are God's precious and present promises to YOU, Christian, YOU HAVE them dearly beloved:**

But remember what we read last time in Amos 3:3:

"Can two walk together except they be agreed"? How can it be that you are a Christian, but you don't walk with God?

This is why Paul pleaded with the Church @ Corinth to open their hearts to him, let me and Barnabas and Titus in; but it seems at this point, (that some of them) had not done so. 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

Paul was concerned that their hearts were "still straitened" toward he, and his gospel co-laborers; they had not opened their hearts and affections to them and to the truth that they preached.

But here was the real problem, their hearts WERE OPEN and enlarged toward "some" that were not good for them; those who marched to a different drum and different gospel, who bowed to a different king. Hence, Paul's warning about "the unequal yoke": 2 Corinthians 6:14-16A

- i. And then add in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I WILL RECEIVE YOU, and I will be a Father unto you, and ye

shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"

**Back to the promises which we have as children of God:**

"God hath said": I will dwell in them and WALK IN THEM! If that is true of you and me, (and it MUST be if YOU are in Christ), if God dwells in you, you MUST NOT be unequally yoked together with unbelievers?

This does not mean that CANNOT be "a friend to sinners" so that you might influence them by the gospel and lead them to Christ, NO! But you and I must be very careful that our associations in the world do not lead us to be influenced away from Christ and into sin! Or that we would corrupt our godliness and holiness and become ungodly and unholy!

YOUR most intimate friendships and closest associations are to be with the people of God! Acts 2:44

God saved us from our sins, (not in our sins to continue to sin), God saved us from the world, and from the god of this world and from his wicked influence! Your Christian life must be deliberate and intentional!

This is why Paul commanded the Church @ Corinth, AND US, in (V17) to COME OUT from among them, and be ye separate, etc.

Psalms 106:34-36, 1 Corinthians 5:6, 15:33, 2 Peter 2:6-8

When you DO come out from among them and separate yourselves from the world, "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty".

BUT isn't God always our Father, we who are in Christ? YES! But if you stray from Him (for example), as the prodigal did from his father, you are the one that departed, but He is still there.

When children are disobedient to their fathers, they are rebelling against their father's parental care. When the prodigal departed from his father, his father could not act the part of a father to him. When the prodigal returned, his father was there waiting, and their communion was renewed and restored. But his father never ceased to be his father.

**KNOWING that there are "dangers in the world" to us as Christians, that threaten our relationship with our Father and our walk with Christ, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit"**

You don't go out and work in the yard, get sweaty and dirty, and then afterward, go inside and put on your PJ's and get ready for bed...NO!

You bathe yourself; you wash off all the dirt, grime, and sweat before you change your clothes. Your personal hygiene, and the need for you to cleanse yourself every day ought to be instructive TO YOU on how you need to cleanse yourself SPIRITUALLY EVERY DAY! I remember after Hurricane Katrina, we couldn't bathe for days, and what made it worse, we had no changes of clothes... for (as I recall) 7 days!

As repulsive as that was, it should be even more abhorrent to us to continue in our Christian lives without daily/frequent spiritual cleansing, confessing, and forsaking our sins, washing ourselves with the Word!

Romans 12:1-2, James 2:21-25, 4:8-10, Ephesians 5:1-7, 25-27, 1 John 3:1-3, (if time, Psalm 51:1-10)

You know how some people are very diligent to wash their hands? We ought to be very diligent in the cleansing and purifying of our minds and hearts from the filth that we pick up in the world each day.

### **"Perfecting holiness in the fear of God"**

In your Christian life, you are TO ALWAYS have heaven in your sights; you are ALWAYS to be looking to and anticipating that "otherworld" and your permanent home where there will be no more sin or wickedness, and no wicked one and tempter of the saints, but only holiness and righteousness.

With that in mind, EVERY one of you (me) who are CHRISTIANS ought to be heartily seeking holiness NOW, in this earthly life. You should be seeking to be "as holy and separate from sin" as you can, by God's grace and help you should be preparing for eternal life in heaven... where there will be NO SIN! This is what God has called every one of us to as we wait for His return!

2 Peter 3:10-14, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7, Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:13-16

### **In closing: If you're in Christ, you are the temple of God, God dwells in you!**

You have this promise NOW: God hath said: I will dwell IN YOU, I will walk IN YOU, I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; I will be a Father to you, and you shall be MY SONS and DAUGHTERS, saith the Lord Almighty!

What precious promises these are; we ought to cherish them, embrace them, and cultivate them in our lives: HOW?

"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"

This is what God has called you to be in your Christian life!

ii. Gospel appeal to the lost!