

# Bible Reading

II Corinthians 3:6-18  
Hebrews 9:14-15  
Romans 8:2  
John 14:16-17

Mark 15:38  
Romans 8:15  
Romans 8:29

# Review Questions

According to II Corinthians 3:6, what does the Law (“the letter”) do and what does the Spirit do?

Read Hebrews 9:14-15. What took place to establish a new testament that would provide for the redemption of our sins and an eternal inheritance?

From John 14:16-17, who abides within every believer forever?

According to II Corinthians 3:14-17, how are we set free from the blindness of religion?

Romans 8:15 teaches that believers have received a Spirit of adoption, not of fear. What does this mean?

Lesson 5

# The Spirit of Liberty

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” II Corinthians 3:17

When liberty is traced to its source, we find it comes from God Himself. In our nation’s founding, our forefathers stood boldly against the world’s mightiest military and waged war to secure liberty. What explanation can be given for their incredible zeal and sacrifice? It is more than a natural explanation; it is a supernatural one.

In our country’s beginning, the voices of Bible believers echoed strong, proclaiming that liberty is from God, and that governments which do not recognize and protect liberty must be righteously opposed. These believers, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, stirred the heart of a nation to secure God-given liberty. The principle from the Word of God proved to be true. “...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (II Corinthians 3:17).

God’s Word speaks of a spiritual liberty that exceeds even the value of our national liberty. This freedom is supernaturally provided by God’s Spirit, and it is secured and kept by His Spirit. Let us look into the Scriptures and discover more about the liberty we have received by the Spirit of God.

Notes

*There is a liberty that only comes by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*God’s Word speaks of a spiritual liberty that exceeds even the value of our national liberty.*

Notes

### **The Spirit Gives Life.**

In II Corinthians 3, we are taught concerning the superiority of the new testament, or new “covenant.” The Bible says in II Corinthians 3:6, “*Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*” The “letter” refers to the Law of Moses. That was the old, or former, testament. The Law could never bring life; it only brought the sentence of death.

*The Law brought the sentence of death, but the Spirit has given us life!*

II Corinthians 3:7-11 shows the contrast between the glory of the Law and the greater glory of Christ. Read Hebrews 9:14-15 and note that Christ’s death on the cross for our sins established a new testament. This new covenant does not bring death but eternal life.

Romans 8:2 states, “*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*” All who come by faith in Christ enter into the new covenant between the Father and Son. They are set free from sin and death and given eternal life by the Holy Spirit.

### **The Spirit Removes the Veil.**

The Bible teaches that everyone who has been born again by faith in Christ is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17). When the Spirit makes His abode within the believer at the moment of salvation, He brings an amazing freedom that cannot be experienced without His presence.

Read II Corinthians 3:12-16 and notice the emphasis upon the “*vail.*” The Scripture says that, “*even unto this day,*” those who try to attain righteousness by the Law, have a

veil “*upon their heart.*” They are spiritually blinded to the truth. However, if they “*turn to the Lord,*” then “*the veil shall be taken away.*” This is what happens when we turn to Christ, placing our faith in Him, not in our own works.

Verse seventeen affirms, “*...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*” Religion is bondage. Religion says, “You must do more. You must measure up.” But when we come to faith in Christ, the Spirit of the Lord sets us free from the bondage and blindness of religion. The veil is taken away. We now see clearly that righteousness and eternal life is not found by what we “do.” It is found in what Christ has “done” in His death, burial, and resurrection.

*Simple faith in Christ is liberating!*

### **The Spirit Changes the Believer.**

II Corinthians 3:18 gives an amazing picture. Under the Law, no one could look upon God’s glory. In Christ, we are now free to look upon our Lord and see Him in all His fulness! When Christ died for us, the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom (Mark 15:38), showing that man now has access to God through Christ. Romans 8:15 teaches that we have not received the spirit of fear but the Spirit of adoption. We are free to enter into the presence of our Father.

What happens when we exercise this freedom that we have been given? The Bible says that we “*...are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*” The Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ.

*As a child of God, you have been set free to become everything the Lord saved you to be.*

Notes