

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN SECOND CORINTHIANS**

Message Three

Speaking by the Spirit of Faith

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 4:10-13; Rom. 10:14, 17; 1 Cor. 6:17

- I. “Having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, ‘I believed, therefore I spoke,’ we also believe, therefore we also speak”—2 Cor. 4:13.**
- II. Speaking by the spirit of faith in our daily, practical life is a great and crucial point.**
- III. The phrase *spirit of faith* places the *spirit* in apposition to *faith*—v. 13:**
 - A. Faith is of the spirit; therefore, the spirit of faith is faith.
 - B. The faith in us becomes the spirit by which we speak—Gal. 3:2, 8.
 - C. By the spirit of faith we may speak the Word.
- IV. The source of faith is the Word—Rom. 10:17:**
 - A. The more we get into the Word, the more we will have faith, and this is the spirit.
 - B. Here there is a cycle: the Word produces faith, faith is the spirit, and by this spirit we speak the Word—vv. 6, 8.
 - C. Faith comes out of hearing, and hearing comes through the word of Christ; this implies that believing is through the word and is due to the word—vv. 14, 17.
 - D. Now by such a spirit we may speak the Word that is the source of our faith—2 Cor. 4:13; Rom. 10:14, 17.
- V. The spirit of faith is the mingling of the Holy Spirit with our spirit—1 Cor. 6:17:**
 - A. There is a blending between the Holy Spirit and the human spirit; this is what we call the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:4-6.
 - B. The essence of the New Testament is the two spirits—the divine Spirit and the human spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:4.
 - C. The expression *one spirit* indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; 15:45; 2 Tim. 4:22a.
 - D. The focus of God’s economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus—Eph. 3:9, 5; 1:17; 2:22; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.
 - E. The union of God and man is a union of the two spirits (1 Cor. 2:11-14); the union of these two spirits is the deepest mystery in the Bible.
 - F. Our faith is the mingled spirit; we have the mingled spirit of faith.
 - G. Ultimately, the Bible requires only one thing of us—that we walk according to the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:4:
 1. The key to everything is found in the wonderful Spirit who is in our regenerated spirit and who has become one spirit with our spirit.
 2. The mutual abiding in John 15:4-5 is the practice of being one spirit with the Lord.
 3. All the things that happen to us test us on whether we are living in the spirit or in the self.
 4. The best way to silence Satan is to live in the mingled spirit—Rev. 12:11:

- a. There is only one place that Satan cannot invade—our spirit.
 - b. Whether or not we are under Satan’s authority is not determined by the things we do; rather, it is determined by whether or not we are in the spirit or in the flesh—Gal. 5:16-17.
 - c. As long as we remain in the mingled spirit, we will be kept, and Satan will have no way with us—1 John 5:4, 18-21.
5. The mingled spirit is a spirit that is one spirit with the Lord and that is the same as God in His life and nature but not in His Godhead—v. 11; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- H. This kind of speaking—speaking by the spirit of faith—refreshes, this kind of speaking enlivens, this kind of speaking makes people strong and happy, and this kind of speaking imparts life to others and dispenses the Triune God into the listeners.