

Gen. 1: 2; Ps. 104: 30; Rom. 8: 11; Matt. 12: 28. The personality and divinity of the Spirit are too much overlooked, and should be impressed upon the minds of the scholars.

2. *The Spirit is the Life-giver.* Life in all its forms comes from God through the Spirit. In the lesson he is called "the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus," v. 2. All men are naturally dead, destitute of this spiritual life, they are "carnally minded," which is death, v. 6. They "walk after the flesh" (v. 4); they are at "enmity against God" (v. 7); they do the works of the flesh described in Gal. 5: 19-21. This is the natural state of men; but the Spirit quickens them (Eph. 2: 1), gives them the life which is in Christ. He is the vine and they are the branches, and the same life is in both, Jno. 15: 1.

3. *The Spirit who gives life is the Teacher and Guide of Christ's people,* John 14: 26. In the lesson it is said of Christians that: (a) They are under "the law of the Spirit of life," v. 2. This does not mean coercion or slavery, but freedom. They are made free, gently, lovingly led of the Spirit, 2 Cor. 3: 17. (b) They walk after the Spirit. They conform their conduct, their course of life, to the teaching of the Spirit, as he shows them the things of Christ, v. 4. (c) They mind the things of the Spirit, v. 5. They fix their attention, they concentrate their thought upon them. What are these things? They are sufficiently enumerated in Gal. 5: 23. The virtues here named as "the fruit of the Spirit" should be illustrated and enforced by teachers. (d) They have peace as well as life from the Spirit (v. 6), the peace which comes from a sense of pardon, and of being purified by the application of the blood of Christ through the agency of the Spirit, the peace which Christ promised to his followers, John 14: 27. (e) They have the Spirit indwelling in them. This is their distinctive mark as Christians. Lacking this they are not Christians, v. 9.

4. *The Spirit is represented in the lesson as almighty.* (a) He makes the servants of God superior to the evil forces within and without them. In them, that is their flesh, dwelleth no good thing, ch. 7: 18. But they are "not in the flesh, but in the Spirit," v. 9. He, by His love and almighty power,

makes them superior to the world, the flesh, and the devil. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world," 1 Jno. 4: 4. (b) The indwelling of the Spirit in believers is to them an evidence of the certainty of the stupendous miracle of the resurrection, which omnipotence alone can accomplish, v. 11.

5. The Spirit not only gives life and peace and freedom and victory over sin; *He also qualifies us to rank as sons of God*, v. 14. (See also v. 17.) Surely, in view of what is thus set forth—and the half has not been told—we should unceasingly pray for the gift of the Spirit.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

While there is much in this lesson that is difficult for the boys and girls to understand, the teacher will be able to select some great truths which may be brought home to them in a very practical way. The following line of treatment is suggested:

1. *The two laws.* The first of these is called "the law of sin and death." There was a time when Paul obeyed this law. He was under the power of sin. Give illustrations of what this means. At that time he was under the condemnation of God. Illustrate this from the practice of law courts. Christ came to bear his condemnation for him and so set him free. Then he came under a new law, "the law of the Spirit of life." Make clear at this point that the Spirit of life not only tells us what we ought to do, but also gives us the strength to do it, while the law of Moses merely commands, but can give no power to do.

2. *The two lives.* These are the life that is "after the flesh" and the life that is "after the Spirit." The contrast between the two may be brought out by the help of Gal. 5: 19-23. Here it is taught that the life of the flesh is enmity to God and that its certain end is death. Set over against this dark picture the bright one of the life that is under the control of the Holy Spirit. Point out the things that make this life blessed. These are: Peace with God and conscience, the assurance of a joyful resurrection, the power to please God, and a place among God's children.