

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON JOHN'S FIRST EPISTLE

### THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES YOU TO KNOW GOD ABIDES IN YOU

1 John 4:13 "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."

In so many instances in your life, what happens to you is governed by what you think and do. You are responsible for the outcomes of your life. Even though there are those who tell you must make a decision as to whether you will believe in Jesus Christ and they say you must invite Jesus into your heart as your personal savior, John in today's devotional verse says this is not true.

How is it then that Jesus comes to abide or live in your heart? How is it that you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Is there something you need or can do to become and remain a believer, a Christian?

John's answer to this question is, "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us His Spirit." St. Paul wrote, ". . .no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:3) St. Paul also wrote, "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

God gives you faith through the working of His Spirit. Once the Holy Spirit works faith in your heart, daily He makes you conscious of the fact that God abides in you and you in Him. John says, "Hereby we know . . .because He has given us His Spirit." No effort on your part is needed. There is nothing you need do. God has done all necessary for you to believe in Him and to receive His forgiveness and eternal life. God loved you. . .God sent Jesus. . .The Holy Spirit has given you faith to believe and proclaim "Jesus is Lord." No one can have genuine faith in Jesus as the Savior of the world unless God's Spirit creates and sustains that faith. Faith is never a mere activity of your brain or an act of your own will.

Genuine saving faith in Jesus exists in you because of the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Through His testimony Jesus comes to abide in you and you in Him. This is the key to your assurance of God's forgiveness of your sins and your eternal destiny in heaven. Jesus says to you, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch

cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, draw me to Jesus, keeping me totally trusting Him to abide in me and I in Him that I bear fruit that is pleasing unto my heavenly Father. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.

Let me see my Savior’s face, Let me all His beauties trace;  
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.

Holy Spirit, pow’r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin’s bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;  
Yield a sacred, settled peace, Let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, all divine, dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down ev’ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.  
(LSB 496)