

1 John 3:9 – A Meditative Study

1 John 3:9 [King James] *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*

There are certain things we need to have in mind as we meditate on this statement of the apostle John.

The Greek word translated “*sin*” is “*hamartia*” meaning **to wander away from the path and so not attain the end goal.**

“*His seed*” refers back to God so is the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word translated “*seed*” is “*spërma*” meaning **something planted, with intent of growing into something new.**

Jesus Christ as the physical Son of Man was the result of the Holy Spirit implanted as a seed within the physical body of Mary.

John 14:17 [New King James] *“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

The Holy Spirit enters our “human” spirit [Job 32:8] and a new being is born of God, [John 3:5-8].

This new being is called a Christian, [a little Christ].

Romans 8:9-11 [New King James] *“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*

True Christians are only those who have the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, in them.

Hebrews 9:11-13 [New King James] *“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,”*

Jesus Christ, the physical Son of Man, given human birth through His mother Mary, became our Saviour, High Priest and Mediator of the New Covenant through the shedding of His life blood on the cross, [John 3:16-17].

Jesus Christ’s life on earth as a physical human being had to be a sin-free life, [2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5].

How did Jesus Christ as a physical human being accomplish this sin-free life?

Hebrews 9:14 [New King James] *“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

There is one Greek preposition in this verse which is the key to answering this question and it has wonderful hope for every physical human being, to also live a sin-free life as the apostle John tells us that we should.

The Greek preposition translated “*through*” is “*dia*” which means to denote cause by which an action passes to its accomplishment, or on account of or because of the impulsive cause.

It was the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ that caused Him to live a perfect sin-free life.

Jesus Christ often told His disciples that the works He did were not His but God’s, [**John 5:19, 30; John 8:28**].

Now let us relate this to our own physical lives.

We also can live sin-free lives when we allow the Holy Spirit to actively direct our lives.

Remember that the “*seed*,” that is the Holy Spirit, must remain within all who are born again by the Holy Spirit, [**1 John 3:9**].

There are certain actions on our part for this to happen.

Galatians 5:25 [New King James] “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

Keep in step with the Holy Spirit, following His lead, [Romans 8:14].

Ephesians 4:30-32 [New King James] “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*”

Our new born again life must include these actions if we are **not to grieve the Holy Spirit**.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [New King James] “*Do not quench the Spirit.*”

We must **not** ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit to use us as an instrument in God’s hands, to fulfil His will for all humanity, to come to a state of repentance and eventually be given eternal life in His Kingdom, [**2 Peter 3:9**].

We do this through our example as Christians in our own community, [**Matthew 5:13-16**].

2 Corinthians 4:16 [New King James] “*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*”

This “*inner man*” the new Holy Spirit filled, “*born again*” being must be renewed every day. We do this through our personal contact with God through our study and meditation on His Word, the Christian Bible, and our personal prayers.

This new life within us **cannot** be stagnant, it has to flow through us in acts of love, compassion and kindness, in fact all of the very “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, [**Galatians 5:22-24**].

John 7:37-39 [New King James] “*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*”

The desire to do this must be like a person who is in a desert crying out for water to quench their thirst.

A person who is “*born again*” by the Holy Spirit does **not** make a practice of sinning but because we are still human we in our weakness tend to sin at times.

1 John 1:5-10 [New King James] *“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

The apostle John was realistic in his message to us about sin, our new character will not happen overnight, it will take time in the presence of the One whose character we wish to reflect.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Unless we totally surrender our lives to God, this change will not happen. This we should do out of deep gratitude for what God has done for all humanity through Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This will allow the Holy Spirit to re-educate us so that our minds and human spirit will **only** dwell on those things that are pure and good.

Philippians 4:8 [New King James] *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things.”*

This will bring us nearer to the Holy Almighty God that we worship.

Hebrews 6:9-12 [New King James] *“But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”*

Let this be our life plan.