



WOW: Word Of the Week

Shrine

April 19, 2023

“Don’t know know that you are a shrine of God because the Spirit of God lives in you?” Consider Paul’s words to the Corinthians from a fresh vantage point. A shrine

is a place regarded as holy because of its association with divinity, marked by a building; a place where divinity dwells.

I am, you are, we are God’s shrine, God’s dwelling place through his Spirit. What can we learn? What must we see?

You are responsible to God for the way you rule your body since it is under his ownership. You serve the one to whom you yield your body. You are a steward; you decide which Master you will serve. Choose God! Choose his Spirit dwelling! Your life will be forever and eternally changed.

This truth speaks to our understanding of salvation. We do not jump in and out of salvation. We do not oscillate between saved and lost. Our lives do not oscillate between orderly and messy. God’s grace is sufficient. I am not being saved; I am saved. My part is to work out what God works in me. I am responsible. Paul to the Philippians: “Work out your own salvation.”

You are responsible for controlling your body. Paul again, “I keep my body under subjection.” Listen carefully! This message is infrequently heard. Every Christian is called to have his or her body under absolute control for God. God-control. Let God control. Holy Spirit presence – a kind of *automatic pilot* for daily life! (What a great word for a future WOW!) We are the dwelling of God through the Spirit. Christ dwells in us by faith. God grants us power over our imaginations, desires, affections. Walk in the Spirit and you will not participate in the deeds of the flesh. By Spirit leading, we put to death such deeds! We are responsible.

Paul again, this time to the Romans: “Present your bodies a living sacrifice.” Does the Bible give us impossible commands? Which is it? We can or we cannot present our bodies? Is this doable, or not? Doable! But only with transformation, change, renewed thinking, commitment to God’s perfect will.

The indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit is a powerful idea, motivator, reality, life changer. God changes us, gives us power for life. God is not glorified when the lives of God’s people are “one hot mess.” Quit giving people a reason to fail, falter, fall. Do not encourage my weakness. God calls us to greater things. It is enough for the disciple to be like the Teacher. Imitate Christ. Follow Christ.

Impossible? No, possible! Precisely because of God’s indwelling Holy Spirit, making you a shrine where Deity dwells. Rejoice. Celebrate. Do not tarnish the special shrine God constructed when he made you.