

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District LWML

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Rejoice in our Risen Savior! Christ is Risen Alleluia!

After Christ's resurrection, he visited with his disciples and promised to send a comforter, the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit, part of our Triune God, helps us in the faith. We, who are baptized believers in Christ, are infused with this Spirit.



It's like infused water that has become so popular in today's marketplace. Infuse your water with fruits and vegetables to make it MORE healthy. Our infusion of the Holy Spirit begins at baptism and continues as we as we

study and learn God's word, listen to God's word, and by sharing it with one another.

Paul talks about the Spirit led life in Romans chapter 8 beginning at verse one.

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death... ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace...¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." (The Spirit is in you like fruit infused water!)

Paul does not mince words when he explains that we, as Christians, are to put away the things of the flesh that separate us from God; to focus on the ways of God instead. This is our loving response to the grace God has freely given us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus who fulfilled the law perfectly. What we think about, read, and what we do becomes part of us.

So, we look to Christ for His perfect example. We practice following Him. Paul admonishes us to ***"set our minds on the things of the Spirit."*** (vs 5). As we begin to conduct ourselves in the imitation of Christ, our minds become more focused on the spiritual things, leaving behind the unsavory habits of our past. Romans 8:9 ***"You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you."***

Unlike our infused water which helps us become healthier; now, with the infused Spirit of God, we are completely healthy! "[We have] the ability to live for God through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ which is the only way to be pleasing to God" (Middendorf, *Romans 1-8*, CPH 2013. 623).

Paul continues, in verse 11, to remind us that because Jesus was resurrected by the Spirit, we



too will be resurrected on the last day. What a relief! Through Christ, our sins are covered, we are led by the Spirit, and we have the eternal hope of the Resurrection. Our hope is sure!

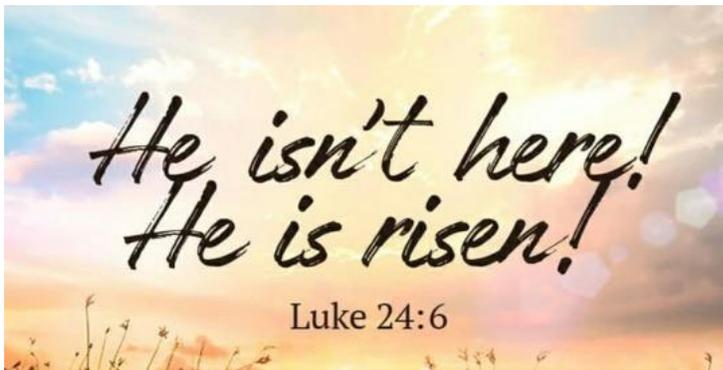
Christ IS RISEN
and we will be too!
Alleluia! Amen!

Holy Spirit, love divine,
cleans this guilty heart of mine;
in your mercy pity me,
from sin's bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine,
cheer this saddened heart of mine;
fill me with your heav'nly peace,
let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
dwell within this heart of mine;
cast down ev'ry idol throne,
reign supreme and reign alone.

Holy Spirit, fill my heart,
cleans my life in ev'ry part;
your own temple I would be
now and for eternity



The Christian Life Committee