

Written On Our Hearts

Six hundred years before Jesus came to fulfill the old way of the Law and establish the new way of the Spirit, God made this promise to the people of Israel:

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

(Jeremiah 31:33-34)

God’s voice was in Jeremiah, speaking about the promise of the LORD’s new covenant that He would make with His people. Empowered and transformed by the Holy Spirit, God’s people won’t need to have instructions engraved on stone tablets or penned on Law scrolls. Rather, the Spirit of the living God will place His will on their hearts. The Holy Spirit will inform them, transform them, and conform God’s people to be like Jesus.

This promise of a new covenant runs throughout the Old Testament, and is brought to life in the New. Nowhere is this emphasized more than in John 14-16 when Jesus promises to send the *Paraclete*—the Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Helper, Friend, or Spirit of Truth. The promises of the Spirit-filled life are also powerfully proclaimed in 2 Corinthians 3, which is probably a spiritual reflection about the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s words from above.

“Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?...

“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away... Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

(2 Corinthians 3:7-18)

Let us rejoice that we live in the blessings of this time of grace and God-presence. If you are a Christian, then the Holy Spirit of God lives in you and is transforming you into the likeness of Christ. The New Law of the Spirit is being written on your heart!

A Prayer

Almighty God, we rejoice in the sacrifice of Jesus and the work of your Holy Spirit to make your promise of a new covenant alive in our day. I ask that this power, this force, this grace, be at work in me. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Scott