Lesson Thirteen (4/17/16)

"...and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

Apology IV, ¹²⁵ Since faith brings the Holy Spirit and produces a new life in our hearts, **it must also produce spiritual impulses in our hearts.** What these impulses are, the prophet shows when he says (Jer. 31:33), "I will put my law upon their hearts." After we have been justified and regenerated by faith, therefore, **we begin to fear and love God, to pray and expect help from him, to thank and praise him, and to submit to him in our afflictions. Then we also begin to love our neighbor because our hearts have spiritual and holy impulses.** ¹²⁶This cannot happen until, being justified and regenerated, we receive the Holy Spirit. First, it is impossible to keep the law without Christ; it is impossible to keep the law without the Holy Spirit. ¹²⁷ But the Spirit is received by faith, according to Paul's word (Gal. 3:14), "That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." ¹²⁸ Then, too, how can the human heart love God while it knows that in his terrible wrath he is overwhelming us with temporal and eternal calamities? The law always accuses us, it always shows that God is wrathful. ¹²⁹ We cannot love God until we have grasped his mercy by faith. Only then does he become an object that can be loved."

¹³⁶ Therefore we also hold that the keeping of the law should begin in us and increase more and more. But we mean to include **both elements**, namely, **the inward spiritual impulses and the outward good works.** Our opponents slanderously claim that we do not require good works, whereas we not only require them but show how they can be done.

The fruits of faith are so much more than good works.

1. Spiritual impulses

Psalm 119:32, I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart. **Ezekiel 36:25-26** Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2. Submitting to God's Will

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

James 4:15, Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

3. Contentment

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:11-13,** "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

4. Love

1 John 4:17-19 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

5. Mortifying the Old Adam

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

Luke 9:23 Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Galatians 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

6. Enduring suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. ¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

2 Corinthians 12:9, "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

7. Facing death

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Daniel 3:16-18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that *is the case,* our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

8. Peace and Hope

Romans 5:1 ...having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 **John 3:2-3** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.