

THE *Spirit of Life*

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Saved by Faith

The scripture says “the soul that sins shall die,” and “all that have sinned must face judgment.” When Adam disobeyed God, he became a sinner, and, just as cats give birth to kittens, and dogs give birth to puppies, so a sinful Adam could only give birth to sinners. It doesn’t matter how hard you try to do good, you will always be a sinner. If a cat tries very hard to become a dog, it will never succeed. It will always be a cat.

God made a way, through Jesus Christ, to be born again, not as a sinner but as a holy son of God, righteous before God. He gives us the opportunity to receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord. This can only be done by faith. By faith, we believe our sins have been forgiven. By faith, we believe we have been crucified with Christ. By faith, we believe we have been buried with Him in baptism. By faith, we believe that the sinner we used to be is dead. By faith, we believe that God made us part of Christ’s body. By faith, we believe we are now a descendant of Christ. By faith, He has given birth to us through the Gospel. Jesus was the Word made flesh; He has sowed the seed of God’s Word in our hearts. His words are spirit and life. When we receive His spiritual words, we are born again of incorruptible seed by the Word of God, a spiritual babe in Christ.

Sinful Adam could only give birth to sinners, so the Holy Spirit of Christ can only give birth to holy people. As we grab hold of His words, we are made holy, we can be nothing else. But you must keep this faith to the end, for it is written, “the just shall live by faith.” We are saved by what we believe, not by what we do, but what we believe will eventually change what we do.