

THE *Spirit of Life*

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The Law of Love

“Whoever shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men to do so shall be called least in the kingdom of Heaven, but whoever shall do and teach them shall be great in the kingdom of Heaven.” As New Testament believers, we know that all of the Law is fulfilled in love toward God and man. If we desire to be great in God’s kingdom, we must walk in love and teach others to do the same.

To keep God’s commandments, we must look inward, because God’s love and kingdom are within us. We no longer serve Him by the letter (Law), but by the Spirit. It’s what is within us that keeps us from loving and fulfilling the commandments. Out of our hearts proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things that defile us, not outward rules and regulations. As those born of the Spirit, we understand that to keep the commandments we must walk in love. We do this by looking inward — watching and capturing bad thoughts.

When we received Christ, He circumcised our hearts by removing our old sinful hearts and giving us new hearts and new spirits. We realize we don’t have to do those bad things anymore; they no longer control us. The devil tries to persuade us that we still have the old sinful heart by trying to get us to think bad thoughts. But we, as spiritual people, reject his fiery darts with the shield of faith, and, as we watch, we can ask God to deliver us from the evil one and we thank Him for our new heart. We reject that old sinful heart and we put on the new heart — humility, kindness, gentleness, self-control, joy, peace, faithfulness, love, brotherly kindness. We set our mind on what the Spirit desires.

Teach reliable people these things.