

Having Not The Spirit

“How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jude 18,19).

Balloons filled with helium were passed out to the children attending the fall festival. Some, which had gotten away from the grip of small hands, were already at the top of the gymnasium. But only those balloons with the force of helium rose above the crowd. Others, which were never blown up, had fallen off the worktable to the floor and were already being stepped on and kicked by the running children.

Forgive me for my preacher-perspective, but the balloons lifted by another power reminded me of true believers in whom the blessed Holy Spirit dwells. On the other hand, the lifeless balloons in the low and dirty place sadly portrayed unbelievers, those whom the Apostle Jude spoke of as “having not the Spirit.” Paul gave a similar word, writing, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Rom. 8:9).

In Jude’s brief summary concerning religious apostates, or lifeless religionists, we learn that those who do not have the Holy Spirit in them often become “mockers . . . who . . . walk after their own ungodly lusts . . . who separate themselves, sensual.” They cannot rise above the low, dirty levels of fleshliness and corruption. Employing several of the Holy Spirit’s titles in this meditation, let’s examine Jude’s depiction of these poor empty souls.

Having not the Spirit of grace, these lifeless religionists become mockers and selfpleasers! The word “mockers” basically means “scoffers, or scorners.” While these darkened hearts make light of Christ’s Lordly rule over men and the authority of His Word, they cannot rise above their “own ungodly lusts.” Pursuing their own selfish interests, they move further and further away from God, truth, and righteousness.

Having not the Spirit of love, these lifeless religionists estrange themselves from Christ and His people! Although they operate in religious circles, they do not seek helpful spiritual fellowship. Rather, they “separate themselves,” or cut themselves off, from genuinely wholesome influences. As John explained, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us” (1 John 2:19).

Having not the Spirit of holiness, these lifeless religionists fall prey to vile practices! Because their fleshly appetites become more prevalent and the objects of those appetites become more appealing, they are thus designated as “sensual, having not the Spirit.” Having no divine enablement, they are governed by their own natural tendencies and carnal inclinations. Dear friend, if the Holy Spirit lives within you, rejoice in His sacred presence and work! If He does not live within you, may the Lord help you to cry out for mercy and salvation.